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STATE OF MINNESOTA

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for the  
Hollydale 115 kV Transmission Line Project in the Cities  
of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County

OAH 8-2500-22806-2  
MPUC E-002/TL-11-152

Wayzata High School  
4955 Peony Lane North  
Plymouth, MN 55446

Met, pursuant to notice at 1:00 in the  
afternoon on June 8, 2012.

BEFORE:

Eric Lipman, ALJ

REPORTER:

Angie D. Threlkeld

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1           So now for the reason that we're here is  
2           to hear public testimony and comment. So our first  
3           commentator this afternoon is Mr. John Sullivan.

4           And Mr. Sullivan. And as he's making his  
5           way down here, Mr. Bob Onken is next.

6           So, Mr. Sullivan, if you wouldn't mind  
7           joining us. Please have a seat. And, Mr. Sullivan,  
8           if you could state and spell your name for our  
9           record.

10           MR. SULLIVAN: My first name is John,  
11           J-O-H-N.

12           JUDGE LIPMAN: Could you pull the mic a  
13           little closer just so that --

14           MR. SULLIVAN: It's not on.

15           JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh maybe -- on the top.  
16           Thank you so much, Mr. Sullivan.

17           MR. SULLIVAN: My name is John, J-O-H-N,  
18           Sullivan, S-U-L-L-I-V-A-N.

19           JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
20           Mr. Sullivan. What should the Department focus on?

21           MR. SULLIVAN: Well, I'll start off with  
22           a little statement, and then I'll say.

23           JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. And mindful that we  
24           can mark the statement if you have it written down,  
25           if you're willing to share it.

1                   MR. SULLIVAN: Thank you. For 21 years  
2 my wife and I have owned a home off Rockford Road  
3 just east of the area of the proposed Hollydale line  
4 and where it goes north toward Schmidt Lake Road.  
5 It's along alternate route A. In addition, I  
6 represent the 78 homeowners of Parkview Ridge  
7 Homeowners' Association.

8                   I listened to many concerns of our  
9 association members and last night to those Plymouth  
10 and Medina residents. The expectations that herald  
11 home ownership when we bought our homes have been  
12 shattered by the prospect of the transmission line  
13 looming over our neighborhood and theirs. The  
14 prospect of transmission lines marching down the  
15 road where none existed is bad news. Whether health  
16 risks from the individual transmission lines exist  
17 is left to the interpretation of the individual as  
18 they look through the area.

19                   One thing is clear to me, the power line  
20 will lower the price we can get for our homes if we  
21 put them up for sale. The fact is a power line  
22 overhead will elicit the same response from  
23 prospective buyers that has dominated the theme at  
24 these meetings. She or he will walk away. In an  
25 already-depressed sellers' market, the degree that

1 many homeowners are currently underwater on their  
2 current mortgages will be exacerbated, making it an  
3 even more desperate time for homeowners.

4 I have one question that refers to  
5 another area that people talked about last evening,  
6 burying transmission lines. My question is whether  
7 burying the lines increases or decreases the  
8 magnetic fields that homeowners will have near those  
9 transmission lines? My understanding indicates that  
10 electric fields are easily blocked by a home; but  
11 magnetic fields travel well through the earth, and  
12 they are of greatest concern. Would burying these  
13 lines, thus decreasing the distance to the home and  
14 a significant consequence of electromagnetic  
15 variation, result in unintended consequences?

16 To the administrative law judge, thank  
17 you for taking the time for the many citizens of  
18 Plymouth and Medina.

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: Indeed.

20 MR. SULLIVAN: I wish you the wisdom of  
21 Solomon while you tackle the daunting job ahead to  
22 come up with a recommended fair and safe path for  
23 the much needed, reliable electrical distribution  
24 demanded by the many businesses and homes in the  
25 Medina/Plymouth area. I saw that 80-inch TVs are

1 now on the market, along with the electric car and  
2 charging stations, and more to come. So it's not  
3 going to get any better.

4 Thank you.

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Inquiries for the  
6 Department of Commerce, or you want them to focus on  
7 impacts and --

8 MR. SULLIVAN: Impacts.

9 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, clearly. And the  
10 benefits, if any, of undergrounding?

11 MR. SULLIVAN: That's correct.

12 JUDGE LIPMAN: Other inquiries that you  
13 have?

14 MR. SULLIVAN: No.

15 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much for your  
16 time, Mr. Sullivan.

17 So Mr. Onken is next. And as he makes  
18 his way to join us, Anil Singh will be following.

19 Great. Mr. Onken, if you could state and  
20 spell your name for our record.

21 MR. ONKEN: My name is Bob Onken,  
22 O-N-K-E-N.

23 JUDGE LIPMAN: And, Mr. Onken, thank you  
24 so much. What should the Department look into?

25 MR. ONKEN: I'm looking at the

1 environmental impact statement drafting scope  
2 document, and I would hope that you would  
3 consider -- of the items under the affected  
4 potential impacts, mitigation measures, if you would  
5 consider with highest regard the human settlement  
6 impacts that we have, proximity to homes, home  
7 values, safety, and health.

8 I saw a section that I see in the -- and  
9 I know there's a lot of different routes that have a  
10 lot of different measures. Some are just pushing  
11 from them to us situation. I wish you'd consider  
12 the routes that legitimately decrease the impact on  
13 homes, you know, that people make an effort to  
14 consider that and not just pass one to another.

15 Thank you.

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
17 Mr. Onken. Very grateful.

18 Anil Singh. And as Mr. Singh makes his  
19 way down, Judith Wold will be following him.

20 Mr. Singh, if you wouldn't mind stating  
21 and spelling your name for our record.

22 MR. SINGH: Sure. Thank you. My first  
23 name is Anil, A-N-I-L. Last name Singh, S-I-N-G-H.

24 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
25 Mr. Singh. What should the Department focus on?

1           Okay. We'll mark this -- we're going to  
2 mark this as Exhibit D.

3           (Exhibit D marked.)

4           JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Singh.

5           MR. SINGH: So my specific or primary  
6 concern is related to the Medina Road alternative  
7 route I.

8           JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay.

9           MR. SINGH: My house is just south of  
10 Medina Road between Brockton Lane and Troy Lane.  
11 And just to give you a little bit more context, my  
12 wife and I have three kids all under the ages of  
13 ten. And what I would recommend or request of the  
14 state is to take serious consideration of all the  
15 homes in the Bridlewood Farms community, especially  
16 the areas, the ones that are near the Medina Road  
17 segment and understand the impact. Because if you  
18 look at the alternate I, effectively it is -- it  
19 puts the Bridlewood Farms neighborhood in the bull's  
20 eye of this particular storm. Either the  
21 proposed -- the current route is on the south side  
22 of the community or this alternate route I would be  
23 impacting us from the north side. And so I  
24 definitely would like to make that strong request.  
25 And definitely for the record I would like to

1 suggest that I'm very strongly opposed to the  
2 alternate route I option.

3 Point number two, also request and  
4 recommend the state to look at options, especially  
5 ones that might run the line, if we still need a  
6 line, much farther west of Brockton Lane, because  
7 hopefully as we go farther west, we are the outward  
8 fringes of the Twin Cities, the greater Minneapolis  
9 area, and hopefully we'll run into less and less  
10 population. And I'm hoping that you pick a route  
11 that actually inconveniencies not even a single new  
12 homeowner. And if it's an option where it's  
13 considered to run north much farther west of  
14 Brockton Lane and can shoot up north and then butt  
15 up against Highway 55 and jog in east and meet up  
16 with the alternate route E, that is on the table for  
17 consideration.

18 So, in effect, I'm requesting for another  
19 alternative to be considered; and I would look to  
20 the wisdom of the Applicants and the State to  
21 consider the parameters I just laid out.

22 The second point I want to make is not  
23 really routing but rather the need for  
24 infrastructure. What is a little bit puzzling for  
25 me is it almost seems like the picture we have right

1           now is like only partially complete. Unless we  
2           understand what kind of infrastructure we need, what  
3           kind of class we're looking at amperage, we are  
4           going to type it as 115 kilovolts. You know, it  
5           almost seems like the default solution right now is  
6           an overlying route. I think as part of the EIS, the  
7           State should take a very thorough look at  
8           underground cable and different types of underground  
9           cable. I'm sure with modern technology you can  
10          provide all kinds of insulation around it to  
11          minimize the EMF impacts. So that's something that  
12          I would also like to recommend.

13                     One of the -- and I'm not sure if this  
14                     is, you know, okay or permissible or not, is to ask  
15                     a question of the Applicants.

16                     JUDGE LIPMAN: Yes.

17                     MR. SINGH: To me it seems like what  
18                     you're trying to address here is distribution  
19                     capacity shortfall. What are your current programs  
20                     for alternative energy? For example, in modern  
21                     technology with micro windmills, solar panels you  
22                     can load local generation at my house. What, if  
23                     any, programs -- and, indeed, you know, you talk  
24                     about reduction of capacity. Depending on what  
25                     percentage of the power consumption is through

1 innovation, what -- as an Xcel customer, what  
2 options have you given me to make any option  
3 attractive? And, ultimately, the current  
4 infrastructure and current transmission capacity,  
5 you could probably extend the needs even farther and  
6 go a whole lot more, instead of going to such an  
7 intensive initiative like you have right now.

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah, is that answer  
9 one of yours or is that phoning a friend? Ms. Asah.

10 MS. ASAH: I think I hear two questions  
11 in there. One is what customer -- what programs  
12 does Xcel Energy have for customers in terms of  
13 rebate or supplements for windmills, solar panel,  
14 and LED lighting, that kind of thing?

15 MR. SINGH: Correct. And how have they  
16 been factored into the business case for this  
17 particular issue?

18 MS. ASAH: Okay. So in -- we do have  
19 programs out there. So if you're interested, if any  
20 of you are interested, you can go to our website and  
21 type on residential -- hit on residential, and then  
22 a whole bunch of our programs come up. There are  
23 rebate programs. There are assistance programs. I  
24 don't have all the details on it, but I can get you  
25 information if you're interested.

1           The other piece of the puzzle is what has  
2           been weighed into our need for this project.  
3           There's some information in our permit application,  
4           and there will be additional information in the  
5           application to be submitted at the end of this  
6           month.

7           As you heard from Mr. Kaluzniak, because  
8           alternatives move to over ten miles, a certificate  
9           is now required, which we're happy to provide, and  
10          in that we'll get you the information how it impacts  
11          it. I can tell you they have been factored in and  
12          we do look at all those options as part of the  
13          solution. Many are far too expensive and still  
14          wouldn't provide capacity and reliability of the  
15          needs of this area.

16          And Mr. Kotz would like to add.

17          JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Kotz.

18          MR. KOTZ: Thank you for your question,  
19          Mr. Singh. One issue we have is this is a local  
20          load serving issue. Okay? We are operating in a  
21          deficit in the area to where the local station,  
22          Hollydale, is running at capacity. And in order to  
23          deal with that capacity issue, we've been working  
24          with other substations throughout the area, all of  
25          our networks, to provide extra source to that

1           substation. But being that the 69 kV system is at  
2           capacity and our substation and transformers within  
3           the Hollydale sub are at capacity, it's time really  
4           to improve that infrastructure. And so we do need a  
5           voltage of this size at Hollydale to take care of  
6           the local load serving need, because customers'  
7           reliability is at risk, and we need to take care of  
8           that. And so we have to perform a proactive  
9           approach of getting these substations upgraded  
10          before they become a bigger deficit to the network  
11          and reliability and safety to the customer base.

12                   MR. SINGH: Absolutely. Thank you very  
13                   much. The only thing I would suggest is that, you  
14                   know, while this is a more traditional way of going  
15                   about to address your capacity needs, I think if  
16                   there was a more targeted campaign from Xcel, for  
17                   instance, with people like myself to lower my  
18                   consumption, I would imagine -- and, again, I know  
19                   folks don't have all the answers -- but I would  
20                   imagine that it is definitely going to lower or  
21                   provide alternative infrastructure the ability to go  
22                   farther. Whether that is to push this need five  
23                   years down the road, ten years down the road, who  
24                   knows. But I definitely have not seen any evidence  
25                   of any targeted campaigns from Xcel what it is in

1 terms of my demand management or in terms of  
2 additional generation of power to supplant the needs  
3 at all. So if I'm in the bull's eye -- and  
4 obviously you have the wherewithal, given your panel  
5 over here, to resources and submit an application,  
6 with some kind of rigor, allowing us to help either  
7 lower our consumption or do some localized  
8 generation and hopefully not impact all of us here.

9 You know, another example, I'm in a  
10 situation where if route I became the reality, I  
11 face, you know, not only the monetary impacts, but,  
12 you know, the bigger of health impacts for my kids  
13 and myself at all times. My kids are living at home  
14 where they are going to have EMF issues to deal with  
15 in their home. If the proposed route I comes into  
16 play, there are issues there as well. And as a  
17 parent, I find it absolutely unacceptable to  
18 knowingly subject my kids to any risks, especially  
19 anything of this manner. And I feel helpless as a  
20 dad because, you know, what do I do?

21 Thank you.

22 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
23 Mr. Singh.

24 As Ms. Wold makes her way up, the next  
25 one to join us after Ms. Wold is Barry Altman.

1           Ms. Wold, if you would state and spell  
2 your name for our record.

3           MS. WOLD: Yes. My name is Judith Wold.  
4 J-U-D-I-T-H, W-O-L-D.

5           JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Wold, what should the  
6 focus of the Department be?

7           MS. WOLD: Our property is at the  
8 intersection of Medina Road and Holy Name Drive,  
9 west of County Road 101 and would be affected by  
10 alternate route F. Last night we heard a lot from  
11 of the residents of Plymouth but not much from  
12 Medina, so I'm here to speak --

13          JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you.

14          MS. WOLD: -- for Medina. The number of  
15 housing units adjacent to alternate route F may be  
16 smaller than the number of properties in the  
17 Bridlewood and Saddlebrook developments adjacent to  
18 the proposed route; however, these properties were  
19 developed during or after 1992, long after the 69 kV  
20 power line was commissioned along the proposed route  
21 in 1969. Developers planned those developments to  
22 the maximum density allowed per zoning allowances  
23 and in the closest proximity to the power line that  
24 was allowed per code. Homeowners bought these  
25 properties with full knowledge and sight of those

1 power lines.

2 Speakers at last night's meeting  
3 suggested that the 115 Kv line should be routed in  
4 open land away from existing development. This will  
5 only repeat the same phenomenon that occurred at  
6 Bridlewood and Saddlebrook. New homeowners will  
7 rationalize living next to the power line at a lower  
8 cost because of reduced property values but will be  
9 concerned by future maintenance and line upgrades.

10 Development is coming to our part of  
11 Medina. Lennar is developing the Enclave south of  
12 Hamel along Hunter Drive and an extension of the  
13 Enclave along Brockton Lane. Toll Brothers, a major  
14 national residential developer, has also been  
15 attempting to buy properties along Medina Road,  
16 between Hunter Drive and Brockton Lane. If  
17 developed, alternative route F will adversely affect  
18 current property values and those of the developers'  
19 properties.

20 One of the speakers raised a sound point  
21 last night about expectations when buying a  
22 property. When we purchased our home in 1992,  
23 Medina Road was a gravel road between Brockton Lane and  
24 Holy Name Drive. We were seeking country living and  
25 were willing to pay a premium for it, along with the

1 assessments for the paved section fronting our  
2 property. When Medina Road was paved, all the  
3 property owners paid for this paving, rather than  
4 seeking county funds and making an extension of  
5 County Road 16. This road does not constitute a  
6 major thoroughfare, the desired route per several of  
7 last night's speakers, nor was it ever intended to  
8 be. A Medina city official once told us that Medina  
9 Road had been laid out to be a winding country road  
10 to keep driving speeds in check.

11 With that said, there is a curve in front  
12 of our house that has resulted in a number of cars  
13 leaving the roadway and coming onto our property  
14 over the years, taking out trees. And had there  
15 been a metal pole, there could have been fatal  
16 accidents. If the power poles had been there, yeah,  
17 it would have resulted in serious injury or death.

18 We oppose alternates F1, F2, and F3 and  
19 would recommend that the proposed route be used from  
20 the Medina substation to the Xcel Hollydale  
21 substation. The portion of that route that is  
22 adjacent to the Bridlewood and Saddlebrook  
23 developments could be buried for the concerns of  
24 those property owners. The higher cost of buried  
25 lines would be offset by savings in a shorter route

1 as well as eliminate costs for new easements. I'm  
2 not an engineer to understand the feasibility of  
3 this recommendation, but my husband is and a family  
4 member is an electrical engineer who worked his  
5 entire successful career in a large company in  
6 another state. This engineer said that the  
7 recommendation is completely feasible with the 115  
8 kV line. The transformation from upper lines to the  
9 underground does not require any additional  
10 infrastructure or technology. There would be a  
11 change of conductors on the last pole to transition  
12 to underground. It is a simple, straightforward  
13 transition.

14 So our request is that we do not consider  
15 F1, F2 or F3, the reasons that I exhibited.

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much for your  
17 help. Exhibit E.

18 (Exhibit E marked.)

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Altman. And as  
20 Mr. Altman is making his way down, Mr. Andzelevich,  
21 you're next.

22 Thank you kindly.

23 Mr. Altman's remarks are Exhibit F.

24 (Exhibit F marked.)

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: And since we've marked it

1 as an exhibit, you can just feel free to hit the  
2 highlights. Mr. Altman.

3 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you. I will.

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Altman, if you would  
5 state and spell your name for our record.

6 MR. ALTMAN: Yes. My name is Barry  
7 Altman. B-A-R-R-Y, A-L-T-M-A-N.

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you, Mr. Altman.  
9 What should the Department focus on?

10 MR. ALTMAN: I'd like to include my  
11 address so we'll be able to --

12 JUDGE LIPMAN: Please.

13 MR. ALTMAN: -- verify my documentation.

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: Great.

15 MR. ALTMAN: It's 18120 39th Avenue  
16 North.

17 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you.

18 MR. ALTMAN: My comments. In a mailing  
19 dated May 29th from Xcel Energy, I read a paragraph  
20 that states, The existing easements along the  
21 proposed route range from 70 to 100 feet wide. Xcel  
22 Energy typically requires a right-of-way of 75 feet,  
23 which is 36 -- excuse me, 37-and-a-half feet from  
24 centerline of this structure for the new 115 kV  
25 transmission line construction.

1           The current easement between our  
2           properties is 33 feet, not 75, as stated by Xcel.  
3           The distance from my house in Walnut Grove Pond to  
4           the property immediately to the north in the  
5           Orchards is approximately 60 feet. A 75-foot  
6           easement will overlap at least two twin homes and  
7           possibly six additional twin homes.

8           If the project is allowed to be completed  
9           as Xcel originally proposes, we will lose our home,  
10          as will at least three of our neighbors. It is  
11          obvious that this proposed route is not in our best  
12          interest.

13          It is my opinion and recommendation that  
14          alternative route G be selected. This alternative  
15          asks for the minimum deviation from Xcel's original  
16          proposed route. The alternative does not utilize  
17          the existing transmission line between the Orchards  
18          and Walnut Grove Pond and would save the buyout and  
19          relocation of at least eight families.

20          Our alternative recommendation is to  
21          activate the existing 69 kV line between GRE and  
22          Hollydale substations and then build another 69 kV  
23          line using alternate route G or other routing that  
24          does not affect the easement between Walnut Grove  
25          Pond and the Orchards. The alternative

1 recommendation would require less disruption along  
2 some routes, provide redundant power routing, reduce  
3 installation costs, produce lower EMF fields, and  
4 provide a solution that is more amenable to the  
5 community. I realize that two 69 kV lines have more  
6 transmission loss than a single 115 kV line, but  
7 other advantages to this alternative should be  
8 sufficient to be acceptable.

9 And I do have two questions.

10 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, please, Mr. Altman.

11 MR. ALTMAN: If I may, I'd like to ask  
12 you to elaborate on a comment you made at the  
13 beginning of your opening remarks.

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: I'll try.

15 MR. ALTMAN: When you mentioned that  
16 there is a legal challenge to routing as part of  
17 some other process?

18 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, contemporaneous we  
19 have a contested case proceeding where folks have  
20 intervened as parties. So that is both -- they will  
21 be entitled to call witnesses and also have the duty  
22 to respond to discovery from the other parties and  
23 to offer testimony and attend the hearings and  
24 cross-examine folks.

25 There are broad rights given to members

1 of the public under Minnesota law so that members of  
2 the public can participate meaningfully in those  
3 processes, short of party status, okay, short of  
4 being a litigant or, you know, appearing formally  
5 either on your own behalf or hiring a lawyer. So  
6 there's a broad process.

7 And what we're doing this afternoon and  
8 last evening are part, although certainly not  
9 limited to that, of the public input into this  
10 decision-making process. And so there is formal  
11 litigation, which is part of this, and a series of  
12 public hearings and public comment period as well.

13 So it is -- they are -- they're a blended  
14 overall process so that it's not necessarily  
15 designed in a way that ordinary members of the  
16 public or taxpayers, ratepayers and homeowners don't  
17 necessarily have to become embroiled in the  
18 litigation in order to be part of the decision  
19 making and to influence the decision making. But  
20 for those folks who have a specific interest and  
21 want to participate in that more formal way -- and  
22 there are both duties and responsibilities to do  
23 so -- there is that opportunity as well.

24 And while I do have a scheduling order  
25 that will be coming out, I think, if my memory is

1 correct, people can intervene in that litigation, I  
2 think by October 4, 2012. But, again, that's a --  
3 that's more than just a public participant, public  
4 commentator; you're actually involved in the  
5 litigation. And that's, you know, a very -- the  
6 Commission is mindful, the legislature is mindful  
7 that those are different orders of things. And,  
8 again, for those folks who can demonstrate their  
9 particular rights and interests, they can file a  
10 motion to be heard on that to say I have something  
11 that I would be bringing to this litigation that I  
12 want resolved in terms of the litigation, but  
13 realize that there is a whole auditorium and perhaps  
14 more who, no, no, I'm eager to play a role but not  
15 necessarily to be involved in a court fight.

16 So there's a range of opportunities. And  
17 I hope that that's helpful Mr. Altman.

18 MR. ALTMAN: It is.

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Great.

20 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you very much. And  
21 may I ask Xcel a question?

22 JUDGE LIPMAN: Please.

23 MR. ALTMAN: Since I'm proposing  
24 hopefully a different technological solution to the  
25 power line situation, I would like to know how I can

1 get additional information that would technically  
2 compare two 69 kV lines against energy with a single  
3 115 kV line?

4 MS. ASAH: Can I respond to your home  
5 issue first, and then I will address the technical  
6 issue?

7 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you. Yes.

8 MS. ASAH: Okay. You mentioned that  
9 you're currently -- the distances in your property  
10 is somewhere I believe around -- between  
11 33-and-a-half feet and there's a 60-foot space  
12 between yourself and your neighbor to the north. I  
13 just wanted to make clear on the record that we are  
14 not proposing to take or eliminate any homes in this  
15 process on our proposed route and alternative route  
16 requests from the Commission, that we are -- that an  
17 alternative does not involve taking of the homes. I  
18 don't know your specific situation, but we can talk  
19 about easements with and safe operation of the line  
20 within the state is allowed. So that's one thing.

21 The technical issue --

22 MR. ALTMAN: I would just like to respond  
23 to the existing 69 kV line is approximately 25 feet  
24 from my home. And increasing that to 115 kV will  
25 not only probably eliminate the resale value of the

1 house, I consider that an extreme health risk being  
2 that close, which is so much closer than your own  
3 recommendation of having 37 feet.

4 MS. ASAH: I appreciate your concern.  
5 With your technical question, I'm going to turn it  
6 over to Justin Michlig.

7 JUDGE LIPMAN: So, Mr. Michlig, if you  
8 wouldn't mind stating and spelling your name for our  
9 record and spell it for the court reporter.

10 MR. MICHLIG: It's Justin Michlig.  
11 J-U-S-T-I-N, M-I-C-H-L-I-G. And, Mr. Altman, to  
12 respond to your question, the 69 kV option would be  
13 a good option to study during the certificate of  
14 need process. If you would like to draw out what  
15 your option is and submit it, we can take a look at  
16 it during the certificate of need process. Though I  
17 have a lot of knowledge on it, unfortunately I can't  
18 do the calculations in my head, and I need to go  
19 back and take a look at it.

20 MS. ASAH: You can give that information  
21 to me, and I will get it to Mr. Michlig. He will be  
22 working with me.

23 MR. ALTMAN: Thank you very much, Your  
24 Honor.

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you kindly,

1 Mr. Altman.

2 So, Mr. Andzelevich. And then,  
3 Mr. Mohrman, you're next after Mr. Andzelevich.

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: So, Mr. Andzelevich, if  
5 you wouldn't mind stating and spelling your name for  
6 our record.

7 MR. ANDZELEVICH: It's Aleksandr,  
8 A-L-E-K-S-A-N-D-R, Andzelevich,  
9 A-N-D-Z-E-L-E-V-I-C-H.

10 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Andzelevich, what  
11 should the Department look into?

12 MR. ANDZELEVICH: I want to comment a  
13 little bit and address the request of burying the  
14 power line, which was supported yesterday and today.  
15 Let me comment on that a little.

16 As a former electrical engineer, I know  
17 that buried power line costs six, seven times more  
18 than overhead line, but it's usually cheaper to  
19 maintain, especially in pretty much completely  
20 developed urban areas. So in time perspective, the  
21 overall costs of these two approaches could be not  
22 that much different. From other side, to Plymouth  
23 community, proposed overhead power line going to be  
24 a serious financial destruction.

25 Immediate impact for us Plymouth citizens

1 is a loss in property value. Let me assume that, in  
2 addition to those 400 households in the easement --  
3 easement corridors, there are in matter of magnitude  
4 of households will be impacted through lower  
5 appraisal, which as we know based on comparable  
6 sales in the area.

7 Buried power line, however, can become  
8 pretty, can become a property value buster, if on  
9 top of that power line we put public trail. All the  
10 households will not only preserve their value, but  
11 we will be -- will get new feature, access to the  
12 trail. We should probably ask -- present it to  
13 realtors to estimate on how switching property view  
14 from ugly power poles to my nice public trail would  
15 add to property price.

16 Even the health issue, the second in the  
17 list of arguments against the proposed route, will  
18 not be only addressed, but we would yet have an  
19 option to improve our health, walking, running and  
20 bicycling on this trail.

21 So perhaps instead of fighting against  
22 this power line, we need to consolidate our effort  
23 and fight for it. Form an initiative group and ask  
24 private citizens, City of Plymouth, Hennepin County,  
25 the State and probably even federal government for

1           some grant that would allow public trail on top of  
2           the power line. Please e-mail me to  
3           X-P\_trail@live.com.

4                     Thank you.

5                     JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Andzelevich, would you  
6           mind if we mark your remarks as an exhibit?

7                     MR. ANDZELEVICH: Oh, yes, please.

8                     JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. That would be  
9           great. Thank you kindly. Very grateful for your  
10          time and testimony.

11                    Mr. Mohrman, you're next. And as you  
12          make your way to the podium here, Janet Clarke is  
13          next.

14                    And, Mr. Mohrman, like with the others,  
15          feel free to hit the highlights. What should the  
16          Department know?

17                    Oh, I'm sorry. Can you state and spell  
18          your name for our record?

19                    MR. MOHRMAN: Yes. My name is William  
20          Mohrman. And the last name is spelled  
21          M-O-H-R-M-A-N.

22                    JUDGE LIPMAN: What should the Department  
23          know?

24                    MR. MOHRMAN: There are a couple of  
25          concerns I just want to raise with you folks, and I

1 have some questions I'd like to ask. My wife and my  
2 home is in the Windemere Farms development, which is  
3 across the street from Kimberly Lane. I think it's  
4 proposed route D1 that would be a disaster for my  
5 house. The backyard of our home has old growth  
6 woods virtually in the back of the house all way to  
7 Rockford Road. One of the reasons we bought the  
8 home is because the woods for the kids to play, and  
9 also it's pretty in back.

10 My wife is a real estate lawyer; and  
11 before we bought the home, one of the things she  
12 investigated was the possibility that the department  
13 highways come in and widen Rockford Road, and we  
14 found out there was no proposal to do so. And we  
15 made the educated guess that there would never be a  
16 widening of Rockford Road because at that point  
17 where our home is, it's just a stone's throw to  
18 Highway 55. So it was never on our radar screen  
19 that there would be anybody in government or with  
20 any authority to come in and wipe out those trees in  
21 the backyard.

22 And so, you know, our position is  
23 obviously -- both my wife and I have taken a look at  
24 the proposed route that you are proposing in the  
25 existing line, and from our perspective, that makes

1 sense. I hate coming in here and kind of feel like  
2 I'm pitting against neighbor, but we feel that stay  
3 on the line. The individuals bought their homes  
4 along the lines. And in a lot of ways it's a matter  
5 of -- you know, it's always kind of a matter of  
6 whose ox is getting gored in this proceeding; but  
7 that goring has already been done. In fact, from  
8 what I can tell, I highly suspect that that line  
9 that you're proposing was there before the homes  
10 were even built, which means that the financial  
11 impact on these individuals has already impacted the  
12 price they paid for their homes. On the other hand,  
13 taking out trees on my property and the neighbors'  
14 property, properties along Rockford Road/Hollydale,  
15 would significantly decrease the value of our homes,  
16 coupled with the fact obviously the real estate  
17 market has dropped significantly recently.

18 So those are my selfish concerns.

19 I had a couple of questions I want to  
20 ask. One was -- my wife really -- is would it be  
21 possible with the homes that would be impacted along  
22 the Old Rockford Road/Hollydale corridor to bury the  
23 line at that point so that you wouldn't have to take  
24 out all of these trees? I should remember that my  
25 wife asked me to remind all of you that we're

1 dealing with farmland out here, so there's no amount  
2 of trees to begin with. And these trees are very  
3 old. As I thought in the last couple of years as I  
4 go out in my backyard, my son and I had used a  
5 chainsaw and cut. But could the line, you know, be  
6 aboveground and then run it buried up to the  
7 railroad line? Question one.

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah.

9 MS. ASAH: I'll turn it over to Gene  
10 Kotz, the project manager. He can talk about the  
11 project.

12 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Kotz.

13 MR. KOTZ: I appreciate your questions,  
14 Mr. Mohrman. They're great questions. Your  
15 question with regards to if an underground line  
16 would proceed in the taking of trees. If an  
17 underground process would continue, that would  
18 involve an excavation effort, which would actually  
19 take out trees in the vicinity of the excavation  
20 effort. So a loss of trees and vegetation along the  
21 corridor that would be created would happen. So I  
22 hope that answers that question.

23 MR. MOHRMAN: Secondly, if you know the  
24 area I'm talking about, on that alternative route,  
25 would you build on our side of the road or on the

1 school side of the road?

2 MS. ASAH: I'll handle that. At this  
3 point it's an alternative route. All routes are  
4 still undetermined where they would be placed  
5 exactly.

6 MR. MOHRMAN: Is there anything you're  
7 aware of that would forbid you from doing it on the  
8 side of the road of the school?

9 MS. ASAH: That would be one of the  
10 factors that would be considered by the Public  
11 Utilities when they issue a permit for the route.

12 MR. MOHRMAN: Okay.

13 MR. EK: Your Honor.

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, Mr. Ek.

15 MS. ASAH: I'm sorry.

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: No, no.

17 MR. EK: I just want to add too that this  
18 was brought up last night. For any of the alternate  
19 routes or even the proposed route, that's a comment  
20 or a very good suggestion that the Department of  
21 Commerce looks for in detail. You could provide  
22 that comment and say, well, that alternative route B  
23 that follows along Old Rockford Road, if it does  
24 come to fruition and that route is permitted, please  
25 place it on the south side of Rockford Road or the

1 north side, whatever your comment is; and we  
2 consider that, what's called an alignment  
3 alternative, and it would be studied in the  
4 environmental impact statement. So details like  
5 that and comments, that exactly what we're looking  
6 for today and through the comment period. So it's a  
7 valued comment.

8 MR. MOHRMAN: And, well, I wondered, Your  
9 Honor, if I could address a couple of questions to  
10 you?

11 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. I'll certainly try.

12 MR. MOHRMAN: I am completely unfamiliar  
13 with the contested case proceeding that is going on  
14 right now. And I'm assuming, as a result of that  
15 contested case proceeding, you are going to make  
16 some kind of decision on that?

17 JUDGE LIPMAN: I'm going to make a  
18 recommendation to the Public Utilities Commission,  
19 will take my report and series of recommendations as  
20 to the routing and then hear argument and  
21 exceptions. There are people who disagree with that  
22 recommendation or think I left something out or  
23 incomplete with some respect, and then back to the  
24 Public Utilities Commission, which make the final  
25 decision in this matter. But I'll take a first cut

1 at it with a fairly detailed report, which under the  
2 scheduling order now would be sometime in the  
3 February time frame of next year.

4 MR. MOHRMAN: Is when would you issue  
5 your report or when the trial would go?

6 JUDGE LIPMAN: No, no, the contested case  
7 proceedings are the Thursday and Friday following  
8 election day under the current scheduling order.

9 MR. MOHRMAN: Okay. So --

10 JUDGE LIPMAN: And intervention, if folks  
11 who are interested in joining the litigation, is by  
12 October 4th. That would be the last day. But if  
13 you thought that you would be participating in the  
14 litigation, I guess I would strongly encourage you  
15 to get in early and to make those motions because,  
16 well, earlier is better and you won't miss out on an  
17 event. But, more importantly, it will give us an  
18 opportunity well before the prefiling of testimony  
19 and the other pieces in the litigation to have you  
20 earlier.

21 So since you have a pencil in your --  
22 handy, the OAH docket number is the same. But if  
23 you wanted -- and for any member of the public who  
24 wanted to see some of the documents which precede  
25 today, you can go to the Department of Commerce's

1 e-docket system, which is available both from the  
2 Department of Commerce's website and the Public  
3 Utilities' website. The key item that you put into  
4 the e-docket system is the following number:  
5 11-152. So the e-docket system runs off the PUC  
6 docket number, even though for OAH's purposes, we  
7 put everything on -- or both numbers on every  
8 document we do. The OAH docket number is the one  
9 that I read to you and that we also have assigned.  
10 And there are for public comments so that I can keep  
11 track of it as well.

12 But if you're interested in any documents  
13 regarding this matter that have been included in the  
14 public record -- and, indeed, the comments that  
15 we're receiving will be uploaded to the Internet, so  
16 you can see the complete universe of items from the  
17 e-docket system. We'll be batching them as we  
18 receive them and posting them throughout the comment  
19 period. And after the close of the June 22nd  
20 comment period, we'll have all of them up so that  
21 you can read all the comments that have been --  
22 advice and suggestions that have been submitted to  
23 the Department of Commerce, again by accessing the  
24 e-docket system and putting in from the drop-down  
25 menu 11 for the year, and then 152 would be the

1 other piece that you would put in.

2 Mr. Ek.

3 MR. EK: Your Honor, just a suggestion  
4 for folks. On the notices that you received -- and  
5 there's also the same notice out on the front  
6 table -- that includes the URL --

7 JUDGE LIPMAN: Excellent. Okay.

8 MR. EK: -- to get to the e-docket  
9 website. So if you're on your way out, grab one of  
10 those. And as the Judge said, there's a drop-down  
11 and you put in 11-152. But the whole complete URL  
12 that you type in to get to that e-docket website is  
13 on the notice for your convenience.

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: And just an advertisement  
15 for the wonderful resource that the e-docket system  
16 is, not only can you get any matter that's before  
17 the PUC, but also the e-docket system holds the  
18 official record of these proceedings. And so all of  
19 the documents would be available to you from  
20 wherever there might be an Internet connection 24/7.  
21 And so you don't have to be a St. Paul insider to  
22 have all of these items. You can participate  
23 meaningfully from desktop in your pajamas, you know,  
24 from your cabin. If you have an Internet  
25 connection, you can be as knowledgeable as anyone

1 else.

2 Mr. Mohrman.

3 MR. MOHRMAN: Your Honor, who currently  
4 are the parties to the contested proceeding?

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: There is a -- currently  
6 it's the Applicants only. There is a motion pending  
7 from the -- I'll butcher Ms. McBride's group name,  
8 but the Western Plymouth Neighborhood Association --  
9 I hope I've got that right -- have a motion for  
10 intervention. The Department of Commerce is still  
11 deciding whether it wants to intervene formally as a  
12 party or whether as an agency it wishes only  
13 participant status to make comments much like other  
14 members of the public. So the Department of  
15 Commerce is weighing whether it wants to become an  
16 official party. Again, the calculus here is that  
17 there are duties as well as responsibilities. As a  
18 member of the public, you can comment and  
19 participate and offer advice and suggestions coming  
20 to us, please.

21 As you well know, Mr. Mohrman, being an  
22 esteemed member of the bar, there are duties as  
23 well, if you join the litigation, there are  
24 responsibilities of party status. And that's  
25 something for folks to think of.

1 MR. MOHRMAN: Are the responsibilities  
2 primarily limited to responding to discovery  
3 requests and showing up at the hearing?

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, and offering  
5 testimony I think is another -- another key piece of  
6 it. I'm getting close to giving legal advice. I  
7 don't want to. And I can certainly point you to the  
8 rule.

9 MR. MOHRMAN: Yeah.

10 JUDGE LIPMAN: But there are -- I guess I  
11 would just leave it at there are different sets and  
12 more rigorous sets of expectation for formal  
13 parties. And so that's something that people should  
14 think about. But I'm delighted to keep an open mind  
15 to anybody who would like to join the litigation.  
16 They can -- they can put it in by motion, and the  
17 others will have a chance to chime in.

18 MR. MOHRMAN: That's all I have. The  
19 only other thing I have to say is my wife and I  
20 support the proposed route as has been put forward  
21 by the Applicant that's already along the existing  
22 easement.

23 Oh, actually, I did have one other  
24 question.

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Mr. Mohrman.

1 MR. MOHRMAN: If there are additional --  
2 my wife came last night and said that the lines  
3 along Highway 55, that would add, I think it was  
4 \$800,000 to the project. Is that --

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah.

6 MR. MOHRMAN: -- right?

7 MS. ASAH: That is -- \$800,000 was  
8 floating around last night. However, that is not a  
9 number that we have put forth. The costs are still  
10 pending on that route.

11 MR. MOHRMAN: Assuming it is a cost  
12 estimate, who would that cost be passed on to and in  
13 what way would it get passed on? I'm assuming there  
14 would be some kind of assessment or raising of rates  
15 for people in this area.

16 MS. ASAH: Mr. Lehman is here. He can  
17 answer your question.

18 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Lehman, if you  
19 wouldn't mind stating and spelling your name for our  
20 record.

21 MR. LEHMAN: Yes. My name is Paul  
22 Lehman, spelled L-E-H-M-A-N.

23 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Lehman.

24 MR. LEHMAN: I'm the manager of the  
25 regulatory department, so my responsibilities

1 include dealing with the cost recovery of our  
2 projects. So I'll back up and give you just an  
3 overall answer first and then try to get to a more  
4 specific answer as to the potential additional costs  
5 of a particular route.

6 The general answer is that when we build  
7 a transmission facility, we are responsible for  
8 making the investments in that project based on the  
9 approved project that is given to us by the  
10 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Assuming we  
11 go forward and do exactly what they approved of us  
12 to do and take all the steps and go through all the  
13 actions that are necessary to build that project,  
14 then we're allowed the opportunity to ask the Public  
15 Utilities Commission to put those costs into our  
16 rates to our customers. So if a project cost a  
17 million, \$2 million, we will then determine how much  
18 money we have to collect from our customers as we go  
19 forward over time to pay off that investment in  
20 that.

21 So that's sort of the general approach.  
22 So regardless of which of these routes gets  
23 selected, they'll have costs, the Commission will  
24 have to approve that cost, and that will give us the  
25 opportunity to place those costs into our rates for

1 charges to our customers.

2 MR. MOHRMAN: Is that all your customers  
3 or just the customers in the area that's going to  
4 get better electrical transmission that's being  
5 proposed here?

6 MR. LEHMAN: Excellent question. And the  
7 general answer to that is that whatever the  
8 Commission authorizes us to build for the purposes  
9 of meeting needs that we've identified, those costs  
10 are charged to all of our customers throughout  
11 the -- basically a five-state Upper Midwest area; so  
12 Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin,  
13 and Michigan, because the transmission system  
14 operates that system. So it's a shared benefit to  
15 all of our customers in all of our state that are in  
16 those. Some projects have more local benefits; and  
17 so, therefore, they tend to have more of the costs  
18 go to more localized treatment. But some of the  
19 costs have a more regional benefit, and then they  
20 get more regional treatment. So the general answer  
21 is all of our customers contribute to the cost.

22 MR. MOHRMAN: How many customers do you  
23 currently have, approximately?

24 MR. LEHMAN: I think the number has gone  
25 down a little bit. It used to be about 1.3 million.

1 I think it's now closer to 1.1 million. So there's  
2 a lot in the upper Midwest area.

3 MR. MOHRMAN: I know this is a rough  
4 analysis; but if the \$800,000 number is correct and  
5 you have 1.3 million customers you're going to pass  
6 that cost to, I am more than willing to pay an  
7 additional 50 cents on my monthly utility bill for  
8 one month to lower the impact on everybody. I say  
9 that to everybody here that if -- you know, that  
10 cost can get spread -- I'm willing to pay an  
11 additional, you know, 50 cents on my bill to limit  
12 an impact to a residential customer in Michigan, you  
13 know, that they're not going to have their trees  
14 torn down and stuff. So I would ask that you take  
15 that into consideration.

16 I -- I don't -- it's my sense that the  
17 businesses along Highway 55, that the value of their  
18 property to them is not impacted by the fact that  
19 there's going to be a utility line running, you  
20 know, along this ugly trunk highway with heavy  
21 traffic on it. On the contrary, all of the people  
22 here today in this -- if this thing gets moved  
23 behind their home, that has a pretty significant  
24 impact on them. As I said, from my perspective, if  
25 the additional cost, that's all it is, I'm more than

1 willing to pay it. I'm even willing to pay double,  
2 maybe a dollar.

3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you kindly,  
5 Mr. Mohrman. Appreciate your contribution.

6 So Janet Clarke. And as she makes her  
7 way, and then Guangrong Dai, I believe is the next  
8 one.

9 So, Ms. Clarke, if you wouldn't mind  
10 stating and spelling your name for our record.

11 MS. CLARKE: Yes, thank you, Judge  
12 Lipman. My name is Janet Clarke. J-A-N-E-T,  
13 C-L-A-R-K-E.

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
15 Ms. Clarke. What should the Department focus on?

16 MS. CLARKE: I have two aspects. I  
17 actually have these written out today.

18 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, wonderful.

19 MS. CLARKE: I will summarize, and then I  
20 have an exhibit, some photographs.

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Excellent. We'll mark  
22 those as Exhibit H, if you wouldn't mind. Do you  
23 have a copy?

24 MS. CLARKE: After I speak.

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Great. Sure.

1 MS. CLARKE: Two aspects are accessing  
2 the existing line and proximity and health issues.

3 I was selected as one of the advisory  
4 task force members in the fall of 2011. While I'm  
5 concerned about the entire Hollydale route, I will  
6 focus my comments on the area that I'm most familiar  
7 with, and that is route C. And route C crosses  
8 Highway 55 and goes through neighborhoods to  
9 Rockford Road.

10 While the line was constructed in 1971,  
11 the homes along the section were not built until  
12 late 1990s. It's notable that several plat maps of  
13 homes on the City of Plymouth website do not include  
14 the electrical power line easement, and it's  
15 numbered 485618. Only one of the two plat maps that  
16 include Hollycreek Townhome Association includes  
17 this easement. And it's interesting that both were  
18 signed by the same inspector.

19 It appears that the owner of the easement  
20 is not doing due diligence to have the easement  
21 acknowledged. It also appears that the current  
22 owner's easement has not done due diligence to  
23 maintain access to the poles. I have two pages of  
24 photographs that I will submit; that there are  
25 mature trees and, with the building of homes, the

1 slope of the land was changed, and there have been  
2 fences built along the easement. So I question  
3 whether the current owner of the easements has  
4 compromised the rights to transfer ownership of the  
5 easement to Xcel.

6 JUDGE LIPMAN: Did you want the Applicant  
7 panel or Mr. Rogers or some other --

8 MS. CLARKE: And I know that's probably  
9 not a legal issue, but it's one of those borderline  
10 issues.

11 JUDGE LIPMAN: Anyone have insight to  
12 that? Mr. Rogers.

13 MR. ROGERS: I guess -- this is Chris  
14 Rogers with Xcel Energy. To address your first  
15 question, the easements were not shown on the plat  
16 maps, that's a common thing you see these days.  
17 Plat maps are not required. The important document  
18 is the easement of record with that docket number I  
19 believe you referred to, that is on file and of  
20 record of the county.

21 We currently -- we commonly see plat  
22 maps -- current plat maps where easements and other  
23 things and other encumbrances are not on there. So,  
24 again, easement of record as reported in the county  
25 courthouse is the easement of record which gives

1 proof of the easement on the property.

2 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Clarke.

3 MS. CLARKE: Second item was of magnetic  
4 radiation. Xcel was kind enough per my request to  
5 provide a document of what the magnetic radiation  
6 was at the levels above the ground. The document  
7 they provided was at a maximum electromagnetic  
8 radiation. I compared it with the -- let's see. I  
9 compared it with the average amperage chart from  
10 their initial proposal, and I compared the chart to  
11 average amps and converted to 20 feet, 30 feet,  
12 40 feet off ground.

13 I also have in my comments an  
14 illustration of the average electromagnetic  
15 radiation of townhomes in our association. We have  
16 at least eight townhomes in our association that are  
17 within 30 feet of the current centerline. Most of  
18 these have bedrooms in the upper story, and they are  
19 three level. So they have a walkout basement, a  
20 first floor, and bedrooms on the third -- on the  
21 upper story. Using the average amperage, those  
22 bedrooms would be exposed on average to 11.3  
23 milligauss of electromagnetic radiation.

24 As an illustration and after reading --  
25 after reading information on electromagnetic

1 radiation, I found household appliances as well. So  
2 I moved a clock that was near my head, a foot from  
3 my head, three feet away from my head; and there was  
4 a dramatic change in my sleep pattern. I thought,  
5 oh, maybe this is a just placebo effect; but this  
6 dramatic change has lasted for eight months. I  
7 borrowed a milligauss meter from a friend, and I  
8 measured what electromagnetic radiation the clock  
9 was exhibiting a foot from my head and compared it  
10 to what it was three feet away. A foot from my head  
11 is four milligauss. Average for people in bedrooms  
12 would be 11 milligauss. Obviously it's only at  
13 night, but on hot nights there's a lot of  
14 electricity. Three feet away it was less than half  
15 a milligauss.

16 I know that's anecdotal information, but  
17 it's been very frustrating to look for information  
18 on sleep disturbance and electromagnetic radiation.

19 I also have a study that was done on  
20 Stoke-on-Trent that I will submit.

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Excellent.

22 MS. CLARKE: And while it was higher  
23 amperage, it was also a study further from the  
24 lines. But there is concerns about both sleep  
25 disturbance and also miscarriage close to

1 electromagnetic radiation.

2 I would advocate for a route that is at  
3 least 50 feet from house structures. I would  
4 advocate for alternative E; and if that is not  
5 available, I advocate for alternative C; and if not  
6 that, place mitigation on the lines to reduce the  
7 electromagnetic field within 50 feet from homes.

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
9 Ms. Clarke. Grateful for your contributions to our  
10 record.

11 Guangrong Dai. And as he make his way,  
12 it's either Tere or Terry (phonetic) Wright would be  
13 next.

14 Mr. Dai, if you wouldn't mind stating and  
15 spelling your name for our record.

16 MR. DAI: Okay. My name is Guangrong  
17 Dai. G-U-A-N-G-R-O-N-G, D-A-I.

18 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, Dai. Forgive me.  
19 Mr. Dai. So what should the Department look into?

20 MR. DAI: Okay. I have one comment and  
21 recommendation. And I was here last night, and I  
22 was surprised to find that the interest of the  
23 Greenwood Elementary School is not represented. So  
24 I feel obligated to come here on their behalf to  
25 make a few comments.

1           Many of the students attend the school  
2           also live in the neighborhood that is impacted.  
3           Consequently they are in a 24/7 situation, unlike  
4           many of us who go to work at daytime.

5           I heard people from Xcel citing the  
6           literature arguing that the impact on people's  
7           health is inconsistent. So as a scientist I want to  
8           get to the truth. So what does it mean? Well,  
9           inconclusive results means some studies found health  
10          impact, some other ones didn't. So what does it  
11          mean? Only that impact on people's health is  
12          contingent on some other factors.

13          Now, one of the conclusions could be some  
14          people have better immune systems than others --  
15          some are healthier than others, so it can be  
16          tolerated, the EMF -- somebody that's younger,  
17          older; middle age people can defend themselves against  
18          EMF better than the young and elder generations;  
19          somebody exposed to EMF longer than others, like for  
20          students in the elementary school; somebody has a  
21          house close to the power line than others. So all  
22          in all, there are different situations. So age  
23          difference will cause it, and the health difference.

24          I would love to get a study in comparison  
25          among the population. So finding is inconsistent,

1 but the impact is real. It may not impact all  
2 population, but certainly it will impact some of the  
3 population.

4 I also want to point out that the  
5 research only focused on physical health. How about  
6 the mental health? The speaker ahead of me  
7 mentioned that. So you see all that, the power line  
8 will affect us and the life quality of your spouse,  
9 your children days after days, month after month,  
10 years after year. That feeling, that emotion,  
11 seriously think about that before you build the  
12 power line.

13 In sum, the impact on people's health is  
14 real, if not everybody, but a specific portion of  
15 the population. Perhaps people already have health  
16 issue, certain age groups, people living with it  
17 24/7, such as housewives and school children. The  
18 impact could be both physically and mentally.

19 So on behalf of the children of Greenwood  
20 Elementary School, residents in Bridlewood,  
21 Churchill Farms, Walnut Grove Pond, and Orchards of  
22 Plymouth, I strongly oppose the proposed line on the  
23 west side of 101. And I believe alternate routes --  
24 I know that people in other community may have  
25 different opinion, but I represent the interests of

1 my neighborhood and Greenwood Elementary School, and  
2 I would propose route F and G will minimize impact.

3 Thank you.

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
5 Mr. Dai. We'll mark that as I.

6 (Exhibit I marked.)

7 JUDGE LIPMAN: Given that fact that we  
8 are at 2:24 and just about at our scheduled Angie  
9 break, what I'm going to do is have a recess of  
10 precisely ten minutes; and ten minutes from now  
11 we're going to resume. And we've got other  
12 witnesses that you'll want to hear, so please be  
13 sure to come back at exactly ten minutes.

14 With that, we're in recess.

15 (Break from 2:24 to 2:36.)

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: We're back on the record  
17 after a short recess. Thanks so much for returning.

18 Is it Tere or Terry Wright? Tere or  
19 Terry? T-E-R-E, I think, W-R-I-G-H-T. Is there a  
20 Mr. or Ms. Wright who wants to speak?

21 Okay. Vicki Swisher. And as Ms. Swisher  
22 makes her way down, Chris Stoner will be following  
23 Ms. Swisher.

24 Thank you, Ms. Swisher. If you wouldn't  
25 mind stating and spelling your name for our record.

1 MS. SWISHER: Certainly. Vicki,  
2 V-I-C-K-I, and Swisher is S-W-I-S-H-E-R.

3 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
4 Ms. Swisher. What should the Department focus on?

5 MS. SWISHER: Thank you. It's great to  
6 be here again today with all you other people. I  
7 can tell you that I have been part of this process,  
8 I think amongst a few, from the very beginning. I  
9 was with some neighbors at the Kelly Inn, I know, a  
10 couple years back now when Xcel sent notification  
11 about this project. And it's great to see that the  
12 interest from the community has accelerated the way  
13 that it has.

14 So I have a question and then just a  
15 couple of comments. And the question that I have to  
16 be addressed first is I've been following the docket  
17 quite closely and -- or doc I should say, and the  
18 last couple of weeks there were a couple of Utility  
19 Commission correspondences that detailed -- not  
20 detailed, but raised in quotes a higher voltage  
21 solution as an alternative for both -- for not only  
22 this docket but also for several other dockets in  
23 the western suburbs. And I just wanted to get a  
24 little bit of detail or little bit of understanding  
25 exactly what that means by higher voltage solution.

1 That was within quotes within that correspondence.

2 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Ek, is that you or ist  
3 that Ms. Asah or -- Mr. Kaluzniak.

4 MR. KALUZNIAK: Thank you, Your Honor.  
5 Ms. Swisher, I'm sorry, I'm trying to gather my  
6 thoughts. The PUC is -- will be evaluating the  
7 application for the certificate of need as it comes  
8 in. As a matter of policy, we are asked not to  
9 speak directly to the merits of a particular aspect  
10 of one route versus the other. So it's not fair for  
11 me to tell a member of the public, a party or  
12 anybody else in the proceedings, about what I feel  
13 is the best route on some of these things. But I  
14 can try to answer questions as best I can.

15 During the evaluation of the application  
16 as it came in, we asked for comments on the merits  
17 of the application for completeness purposes. This  
18 is not an evaluation of whether an application is  
19 worth pursuing but, rather, whether the information  
20 provided within the application meets the  
21 requirements in order to evaluate the merits of the  
22 process.

23 Part of those evaluations are done by a  
24 group within the Department of Commerce, the Energy  
25 Resource Management. And in their comments refer to

1 the possibility of there being a, quote, single,  
2 more efficient, higher voltage solution, the issues  
3 in the west metro area, and that they would be  
4 filing comments on that later during the proceeding.

5 So at this point it's somewhat premature.  
6 I can't speak to it. There's no application for us  
7 to respond to. There's no certificate of need  
8 request. As I mentioned, typically these processes  
9 are contemplated to proceed in two parts. The first  
10 thing is the certificate of need where we look at  
11 size, type, and timing of a particular project; and  
12 if it is deemed to be an appropriate project to  
13 proceed, we then would go to a routing proceeding  
14 where we try to find the best place for the project  
15 to proceed and as well as finding the conditions for  
16 the permit to minimize impacts.

17 So I really can't respond directly to  
18 that. I can tell you that there are several other  
19 projects going on in the southwest Twin Cities area,  
20 in particular. One is referred to as the Southwest  
21 Twin Cities West Gate -- excuse me, Bluff Gate to  
22 West Gate project. There's also a Southwest Twin  
23 Cities Chaska project that is also identified. I  
24 think the Applicants can speak to the need of their  
25 design on those particular processes -- or projects.

1 They each have a respective certificate of need as  
2 well as a route proceeding.

3 I can't put words in the mouth of the  
4 Department of what they're anticipating, what they  
5 feel a more efficient, higher voltage solution is  
6 because, frankly, I don't know. But that's  
7 something that would be dealt with during the  
8 proceeding. So I hope --

9 MS. SWISHER: So higher voltage solution  
10 in this regard would potentially offset the need for  
11 a 115 kV in these related projects or could be  
12 something completely different or --

13 MR. KALUZNIAK: Exactly. And I would  
14 refer to some of the engineering staff on a better  
15 explanation of that because I'm more of a planner  
16 and really don't deal with those directly.

17 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah, I know it's not  
18 your proposal and it wasn't your comment --

19 MS. ASAH: Right.

20 JUDGE LIPMAN: -- but maybe is there  
21 somebody who can speak to the science of it or maybe  
22 the regulatory or...

23 MS. ASAH: I'm going to refer to  
24 Mr. Lehman.

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Mr. Lehman, do you

1 want -- mindful it isn't your idea, tell us what you  
2 can tell us.

3 MR. LEHMAN: Because it's not my idea,  
4 let's try to not put -- or interrupt what the -- the  
5 meaning behind that. But as I looked at that  
6 comment as it was made, I sort of stepped back and  
7 tried to understand why that comment was made by the  
8 public part of the Department of Commerce. And it  
9 relates to -- we do have a number of projects that  
10 have been under consideration for this western side  
11 of the Twin Cities area. And we started out in the  
12 Glencoe/Waconia area. We did a large -- the  
13 planners did a large study that said what are all  
14 the possible transmission needs in the western side  
15 of the Twin Cities metro area. And as part of that  
16 analysis, they came up with a variety of local  
17 problems; a local problem in the Glencoe/Waconia  
18 area, a local problem in the Chaska area, a local  
19 problem in the Deep Haven/Excelsior area, and a  
20 local problem in Hollydale/Medina area. So it's a  
21 series of local problems.

22 In designing a solution to those, they  
23 looked at what's the best way to accomplish -- the  
24 solution to get the needs of those areas, load areas  
25 accommodated. They came up with a series of local

1           problem solutions -- local solutions to the problem.  
2           My view is that the Department of Commerce stepped  
3           back and said, well, was there a possibility of  
4           coming up with some other higher voltage solution  
5           that connected all of these local problems. And  
6           that's something that our planners are charged with  
7           thinking about when they look at the large area that  
8           they did and identifying all these local problems.

9                        So from our perspective we have already  
10           assessed what's the best way to solve these series  
11           of local problems, and geographically set the  
12           isolated local problems in the Glencoe/Waconia area,  
13           the Chaska area, the Deep Haven/Excelsior area, the  
14           Medina/Hollydale area. Each of them are very  
15           localized problems. So I'm not sure if there was a  
16           solution that the Department of Commerce had in mind  
17           when they made that comment, but I think they just  
18           sort of stepped back and said maybe it would be  
19           interesting to step back and look at that more.

20                       And as part of the process that we will  
21           be undergoing, demonstrating that we've got a  
22           problem and we've got a solution for that problem,  
23           it will be a question that gets asked. And that's  
24           why I think the comments that as it progresses  
25           through the process of demonstrating and proving a

1           need for this, we're going to keep that in the back  
2           of our mind, as did they, in fact, cover that  
3           possibility; is there some larger solution for these  
4           four different local problems that we're looking at  
5           solutions for.

6                       MS. SWISHER: Thank you. Mr. Lehman?

7                       MR. LEHMAN: That is correct.

8                       MS. SWISHER: Thank you. I would just  
9           like to go on record, Your Honor, as being in favor  
10          of vigorously encouraging any effort on Xcel's part  
11          in conjunction and in cooperation with the planning  
12          commission to explore any innovative and the big  
13          picture, stepping back, methods to solve these  
14          problems in a way that obviously would be the least  
15          damage or negative impact to residents or to the  
16          environment. So I applaud -- I know Mr. Ek's --  
17          well, perhaps maybe that person would -- that made  
18          those comments might have been a little ahead of the  
19          game. But we as citizens don't have -- we're not  
20          privy to those types of thought processes the way  
21          that you talk about them on a daily basis. And I  
22          can only say that we look to you as representatives  
23          and protect our best interest to be able to deal  
24          with things like that. So thank you.

25                               Definitely go on record to explore the

1 high voltage solution, with the huge caveat that it  
2 doesn't mean going with any of the routes in the  
3 Hollydale project, having said that.

4 So just a couple of comments that I  
5 mentioned in another context, and unfortunately I  
6 can't put this in because I just handwrote them  
7 based on synopses of other comments that have been  
8 put in the past.

9 But when we think of the proposed route,  
10 any of the alternative routes, this project in terms  
11 of the particular geographic area of Plymouth,  
12 western Plymouth we're talking about, there's a  
13 common theme that I see about being unprecedented.  
14 And there's several things about this that are  
15 unprecedented. One of the portion -- of the  
16 components that's unprecedented is the relative  
17 newness or age of the homes, the residences, that  
18 would be impacted compared to other 115 kV lines  
19 within the metro area that have been constructed up  
20 to now.

21 Xcel has been very cooperative and  
22 forthcoming in providing, in the months leading up  
23 to this, information on other 115 kV lines that have  
24 run through residences and neighborhoods invariably  
25 all over. I've actually driven personally through

1 two of them. And the oldest home development was in  
2 the early '70s, but mostly from the '50s and '60s,  
3 is where these lines are. From the map that I  
4 received of the metro area, there were no  
5 neighborhoods that were built in the '80s, '90s,  
6 et cetera. So that's unprecedented.

7 Another piece that's unprecedented is the  
8 ratio of residential impacts to commercial impact  
9 that the proposed route or really any of the routes,  
10 alternative routes, with the exception of E, which  
11 is the 55/494 option, the ratio of 115 kV line in  
12 Minnesota, the typical -- or I should say -- again,  
13 I don't have my exact figures with me, so I will  
14 request on the docket when I get my exact figures  
15 that have been previously submitted, but it's  
16 somewhere around 6 to 7 to 1 of miles of line that  
17 are commercial to residential or highway to  
18 residential. If the proposed route is approved and  
19 recommended to the Commission, it would be a 1 to 1  
20 ratio where there is as much miles of line to  
21 residences as there is to nonresidences. So that is  
22 unprecedented.

23 Thirdly, and this is a little bit more  
24 nebulous, but when you think about the city of  
25 Plymouth and Medina here, this is going to be an

1           unprecedented infringement on the quality of life of  
2           this community. And this is a community that prides  
3           itself on being premier, on being a national  
4           spotlight, on receiving awards from Money Magazine  
5           for being the best city in the United States to  
6           live. This will be a huge black mark if the  
7           proposed route or any of the alternative routes  
8           is -- ends up being recommended on the image of  
9           Plymouth and Medina.

10                         One point I would like to actually  
11           clarify. I am, as Mr. Mohrman pointed out, one of  
12           the bullfighters that maybe goring has already been  
13           done to him. And I would say I did buy my home in  
14           1999. I'm 90 feet from the -- from a pole actually  
15           in my backyard. I currently back up to a wetland.  
16           And I bought my home in 1999. The easement was  
17           secured I believe in either 1969 or 1971 for a 69 kV  
18           line. Nowhere in that was there information about  
19           potential upgrades to a more high voltage line,  
20           et cetera. And I can also say that my home and my  
21           neighbor's homes, which I've had several  
22           conversations, we did not pay a discounted price for  
23           our homes at the time we purchased them at that  
24           time. So I completely and fully respect other  
25           residences' opinions that, hey, you knew what you

1           were getting into; but, actually, with exception, we  
2           did not sign up for a 115, a high voltage line, when  
3           we purchased our properties.

4                     And in closing I would just like to say  
5           that expedience and efficiency in this matter are  
6           not prophecy for what is really in the best interest  
7           of the most people who are going to be impacted by  
8           this.

9                     And so I thank you for your participation  
10          in this process, and I look forward to what I hope  
11          is going to be a win-win for everyone involved.  
12          Thank you.

13                    JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
14          Ms. Swisher.

15                    Ms. Stoner, you're next.

16                    And as Ms. Stoner makes her way, Joanie  
17          Meehan will follow Ms. Stoner.

18                    So, Ms. Stoner, if you wouldn't mind  
19          stating and spelling your name for our record.

20                    MS. STONER: Christine Stoner,  
21          S-T-O-N-E-R.

22                    JUDGE LIPMAN: And Christine with a C;  
23          correct?

24                    MS. STONER: That's correct, C-H.

25                    JUDGE LIPMAN: So, Ms. Stoner, what

1 should the Department focus on?

2 MS. STONER: Mostly the reason I'm here  
3 today is I would like to comment specifically on  
4 alternative route A. And just to let Your Honor  
5 know that with me are four of my five children that  
6 live in my house with me -- they're back there -- as  
7 well as my mom and dad who are my next-door  
8 neighbors --

9 JUDGE LIPMAN: Good.

10 MS. STONER: -- are here, and Mr. Tucker,  
11 who is also a neighbor. We live at 14555 41st  
12 Avenue North. And it is a cul-de-sac right off of  
13 Juneau Lane. And if you look at alternative route A  
14 within the proposed route width of the 200 feet,  
15 that's most of our backyard. That encompasses  
16 pretty much our entire property.

17 I have five kids that live in that house  
18 with me and my husband, and that -- that south side  
19 of our property is our backyard. That is where my  
20 children play. That is where my children's bedrooms  
21 face that. And from everything that I've read on  
22 the Internet, there should be a minimum of 400 feet  
23 from 115 cable transmission line; and that's not  
24 going to be there for my children.

25 We moved here from Texas six years ago

1           because Plymouth was a high quality of life for my  
2           kids. I grew up here. I grew up at 14540, which is  
3           next door to the house I live in now. We moved here  
4           when Plymouth was -- everything in that area was  
5           still farmland. There were no 69 cable transmission  
6           lines there. There was never any question of lines  
7           being put there. And putting lines there now, I  
8           have extreme fear for the safety of my children. I  
9           am not an engineer. I'm not an electrician. But I  
10          am a mom of five kids and a neighborhood full of  
11          children that are very close to County Road 9 along  
12          that route.

13                         We have -- that whole yard is full of  
14          trees. That's where my kids do all the make believe  
15          playing. That is where -- that's where they play.  
16          That's where we live. And to give them that quality  
17          of life that we moved back here for, I would just  
18          really, really put on the record to please not  
19          choose that alternative route A. Everybody in our  
20          little tiny cul-de-sac -- needless to say all houses  
21          along that alternative route A, from Niagara Lane to  
22          494, all those houses are very, very close to County  
23          Road 9. Taking out those trees to put in a  
24          transmission line will ruin the buffer of noise that  
25          we have from County Road 9. And there's -- there's

1 so many other -- you know, looking at the  
2 alternative route E going by 55 will far less likely  
3 impact a resident than -- a residential area that is  
4 complete houses all the way along County Road 9.  
5 That has been there since before Plymouth really  
6 started being.

7 So I'd just like to put that on record.  
8 And I really appreciate your time. Thank you.

9 JUDGE LIPMAN: Oh, of course.

10 MS. STONER: And I appreciate the fact  
11 that my children get to sit here and watch the  
12 process.

13 JUDGE LIPMAN: As with last night, I  
14 would encourage them to write in.

15 MS. STONER: I will. I brought extra  
16 copies for each and every one of them.

17 JUDGE LIPMAN: Excellent.

18 So, with that, Ms. Meehan.

19 And Mr. Zeroni, you'll follow Ms. Meehan.

20 So, Ms. Meehan, welcome back. If you  
21 wouldn't mind stating and spelling your name for our  
22 record.

23 MS. MEEHAN: My name is Joanie Meehan.  
24 J-O-A-N-I-E. Meehan is M as in Mary, double E, H,  
25 A, apple, N, Nancy.

1 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
2 Ms. Meehan. What should the Department focus on?

3 MS. MEEHAN: Well, I was here last night,  
4 and it was real apparent to me that there's been  
5 some kind of consensus when you start looking at 55  
6 and 494. And I'm happy that that's out there. My  
7 concern lies west of Hollydale --

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay.

9 MS. MEEHAN: -- because that's where my  
10 property is. It's in the Bridlewood, which was  
11 brought up today. Just a second. If you don't  
12 mind, I want to get --

13 JUDGE LIPMAN: Sure.

14 MS. MEEHAN: -- to the page. Would it be  
15 possible for you to put up the slide that we have  
16 for the proposed -- through the Bridlewood/Churchill  
17 Farm -- let's see. Figure 2. Okay. Let me see. I  
18 think that might be it. 24, is that the same?

19 MS. ASAH: I understand the handout that  
20 you have was made by the Department of Commerce.  
21 This is just my --

22 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. That's fine.

23 JUDGE LIPMAN: If you --

24 MS. MEEHAN: That's fine.

25 JUDGE LIPMAN: Figure 2, Ms. Meehan, many

1 of us have it to follow along.

2 MS. MEEHAN: Right. So look at the  
3 proposed route there, towards the end where it right  
4 angles up in that area --

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay.

6 MS. MEEHAN: -- there's a lot of homes.  
7 Okay. That, if I should be so bold as to say, is  
8 going to be a huge issue. So west of 101, this is a  
9 really highly-dense neighborhood, congested area.  
10 And I spent some time today looking at all the  
11 routes and all the alternative routes. Excuse me  
12 for a minute.

13 You have to realize when I'm talking  
14 today that I'm somewhat handicapped because I was  
15 just notified of this last Tuesday. I am acutely  
16 aware that there's public notices out there, and I  
17 could have found those. Xcel Energy notified me.  
18 The Department of Commerce did. I talked to Paul  
19 Larson and Mr. Ek, who have it settled. I will be  
20 receiving notices.

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Great.

22 MS. MEEHAN: But I'm trying to get caught  
23 up to speed in a very short period of time and be an  
24 advocate for our neighborhood.

25 So if you look at this area, what you may

1 not know, being from the lovely city of St. Paul  
2 which I lived in for six years, this was a  
3 highly-sought-out-after neighborhood, wonderful  
4 schools, incredible walking paths, biking paths, you  
5 know, water areas where there's wetlands. And there  
6 are five trumpeter swans that are at my house every  
7 morning, there's great blue herons, rabbits and, you  
8 know, just all kinds of wonderful things.

9 My family and I purchased there last  
10 August. We moved from Minnetrista. I've been in  
11 Minnesota all my life, but we moved from Minnetrista  
12 somewhere late July, early August. Okay? So had I  
13 known this, we probably wouldn't have purchased the  
14 house. We have plans to improve on it. And we're  
15 members of Holy Name church. We volunteer there. I  
16 switched my children from private school to the  
17 Wayzata schools, which have just been phenomenal.  
18 And we're very, very happy there.

19 I looked at this today and looked at all  
20 the routes and -- the proposed route and the  
21 alternate routes; and through last night's meeting  
22 and today's meeting, I just hear a lot of put it  
23 over there, put it over here. It's going to affect  
24 someone. And I want to honestly tell you, in  
25 looking at these routes, I couldn't decide. I

1           couldn't say Medina Road because it's not going to  
2           affect me. I couldn't -- I can't say 24, because  
3           whatever happens, it's going to affect our  
4           community. I'm sorry.

5                         JUDGE LIPMAN: That's okay.

6                         MS. MEEHAN: So I'm going to take the  
7           time and I would like to propose a route to you. It  
8           will be based on quite a few hours of evaluating and  
9           of driving these roads again. I know them. But  
10          these maps, although they're good, they don't give  
11          details. Like is this the top of the high school?  
12          These are aerial maps with some roads in there. Is  
13          this the high school? Is this Holy Name church  
14          right there or is it over there? There is a  
15          graveyard right there. There is an adoration  
16          chapel. These are community neighborhoods full of  
17          people.

18                        JUDGE LIPMAN: Along Route 24?

19                        MS. MEEHAN: Yes, and along the proposed  
20          route. Medina Road is an absolute exquisite road.  
21          It's rolling acres of trees and large estates.  
22          Let's say we say, oh, minimum impact of people or  
23          houses. I don't know that it's fair to put that on  
24          a road just because there's fewer homes because they  
25          can afford larger lots. It's absolutely incredible

1 if you drive down that road.

2 So, with that, I will be putting in  
3 writing for you before the 22nd my proposal for the  
4 route. That was number one. Okay? Thank you. I  
5 hope you will accept it, and I hope you will look at  
6 it in great detail, because I will put some time  
7 into it.

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: That's great. If the  
9 Department can look at it before -- you know,  
10 receive it before the June 22nd deadline so it can  
11 be part of their scoping plans.

12 MS. MEEHAN: I'll do my best to get it  
13 out as soon as possible. And also I was going to  
14 ask -- it may not be one of these routes. I never  
15 had the opportunity to ask for an alternate route.  
16 I see that this proposed one is the most direct. I  
17 look at this one, and I understand from a company  
18 point of view that routes going all the way up here  
19 and hooking up to 55, I don't -- I wouldn't want  
20 that if I was Xcel. I can see the big picture --

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Excellent.

22 MS. MEEHAN: -- for everyone. So I'm  
23 going to spend some time on that. But having said  
24 that and understanding my handicap, I have some  
25 questions, just so I know where I'm at and what I

1 can get from this process.

2 Some of them you may be able to answer  
3 real quickly, and some you may not. But I just have  
4 to ask some questions so I can move forward in  
5 evaluating how I can help this process. Okay?

6 So one is this right now is question --  
7 any question is fair game; correct?

8 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, pretty much open.

9 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. And then, if I  
10 understand correctly, I know Xcel is -- Xcel is a  
11 company, and I know your need and your certificate  
12 of need and you need to get electricity transmitted.  
13 And, unfortunately, it does a lot of damage.

14 You, Your Honor, are from the state of  
15 Minnesota; am I correct?

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: Yes.

17 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. You're an advocate  
18 for anyone that wants to appear here and --

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, not an advocate. A  
20 neutral. I'm in the nature of referee. And so,  
21 much like the umpire at the local little league  
22 game, I'm going to make sure that everybody plays by  
23 the same rules. I'm here to call balls and strikes,  
24 to make sure that people have access, make sure  
25 hopefully that the game starts and stops on time.

1 So part traffic cop, part referee.

2 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. I get that. Thank  
3 you so much. I appreciate that. Now, where is the  
4 City of Plymouth in this picture?

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, they haven't yet  
6 intervened. They can certainly comment. We had  
7 Council Member Johnson -- is it Johnson, was it --  
8 Council Member Johnson.

9 MS. MEEHAN: I saw her yesterday.

10 JUDGE LIPMAN: Yes, was a commentator.  
11 We're delighted -- if other city officials have  
12 contributions to make to the process, we're all  
13 ears.

14 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. But they're not  
15 required to?

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: Not required to. I think  
17 people may well dialogue with the city. I know that  
18 there's some discussions, comments with the city  
19 about the impact because of the substation location.  
20 So I think there's a series of dialogues between the  
21 Applicants and perhaps the Department with city  
22 officials. But they haven't joined the litigation  
23 or -- the only council member or public official  
24 that I'm aware of so far is Ms. Johnson as a  
25 commentator, much like you.

1 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you. That  
2 clarifies it very well. Would it be out of the  
3 ordinary for me to request them to become involved?  
4 I will find out how to do it. I don't have a  
5 problem with that. But I get all my services  
6 through that. My taxes are paid to the county. I  
7 understand state, county, municipality, you know,  
8 when you get down all the way down to communities  
9 and neighborhoods and how it's divided up, and  
10 sometimes it's convenient to be divided like that  
11 because there's no accountability. So would it be  
12 unusual for me to request -- talk to the City of  
13 Plymouth?

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, you're a citizen and  
15 taxpayer, and you can urge your public officials.

16 MS. MEEHAN: All right. Thank you.

17 JUDGE LIPMAN: Again, as umpire I'm not  
18 going to say who comes to the plate in what order.

19 MS. MEEHAN: No, I don't need you to do  
20 that. I just want to ask if I'm out of line. Thank  
21 you.

22 So then I have some other questions, and  
23 some of these may be directed towards Xcel Energy.  
24 Here's one question I really have and I'm really  
25 stuck on. This easement, do you know -- does anyone

1 know the date of the easement for this particular --  
2 in this state from the Medina substation to the  
3 Hollydale -- Hollydale substation? The date I  
4 understand is 1969. Is that correct?

5 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Rogers.

6 MR. ROGERS: Chris Rogers.

7 MS. MEEHAN: And I have your card. Thank  
8 you.

9 MR. ROGERS: In general, easements were  
10 acquired anywhere from 1968 up until about 1971,  
11 1970. If I remember correctly, GRE constructed the  
12 line in 1971. So the earliest acquisitions would be  
13 in the '68-'69 time period.

14 MS. MEEHAN: This is what I'm confused  
15 about -- and I understand that these area documents  
16 in the county courthouse, anyone has access to them  
17 and they are accurate from what took place in 1968  
18 when they were written up.

19 MR. ROGERS: Correct.

20 MS. MEEHAN: Is that correct?

21 MR. ROGERS: That's correct. Easements  
22 are on record in the county.

23 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. And I understand I  
24 can get access through them or through you, and  
25 thank you very much. The thing I don't understand

1 is, if in 1968 -- okay. Let me back up. If Xcel  
2 Energy can only project 10 to 15 years -- I know  
3 that might be -- last night we talked about that,  
4 that might be -- a little bit -- maybe four years,  
5 and you maybe want to clarify that. But let's say  
6 you can only project 10 to 15 years, and the  
7 technology wasn't there in 1968 and 1969 as to what  
8 is going down these corridors, down these easements  
9 in 2013, then how can an easement be written  
10 properly enough to withhold it in court to put in  
11 equipment that isn't even designed yet?

12 There are rights to landowners. And if a  
13 landowner, being anyone that owns property adjacent  
14 to these easements, have not been given all the  
15 information, that's unlawful, I would say. If you  
16 have information today in these easements -- and I  
17 will look at these and I will get into them. In  
18 1968 someone was acute enough to say in 2013 we're  
19 going to be putting high voltage power lines in  
20 there and they're going to have...

21 Now, I'm going to tell you something  
22 else. I know that Xcel Energy has on staff, or you  
23 should, and all the people that are here, highly  
24 qualified, highly educated people, and I respect  
25 that, and I'm not going to try to compete with you,

1           because I shouldn't have to. If I know my rights  
2           and you provide a service, electric service to me, I  
3           know when you're not providing service, you're  
4           destroying my life, my home. And that is a problem  
5           for Xcel Energy. And if you know what a paradigm  
6           shift is, if you go west of 101 in this map that  
7           you've given me, there's going to be a paradigm  
8           shift, because everything I look at, you're going to  
9           be destroying someone's life and a lot of lives and  
10          nature and all of these things. So I need more  
11          information regarding how in 1968 an easement can be  
12          written that would project into the future.

13                       MR. ROGERS: Ms. Meehan, thank you for  
14          your comment. Very much appreciate it. And as we  
15          discussed last night, your location, I'll be  
16          happy to pull the easements. We can do that  
17          together. Obviously in 1968 any electrical provider  
18          could not project that far in the future. However,  
19          if you read the verbiage of the easement, I think it  
20          will clarify the rights that are there. An easement  
21          is a perpetual right to be there. And so it doesn't  
22          extinguish over time. So, once again, if you  
23          provide your property address, I'll be happy to pull  
24          that easement and describe that to you.

25                       MS. MEEHAN: Okay. One other question.

1 Thank you. And we'll get into that. Are you  
2 increasing from a 70-foot to 75-foot easement? No?  
3 I thought I heard that last night.

4 MS. ASAH: No, the existing easement  
5 along most of the 69 line is 70 feet. We will stay  
6 in that. For the new part of the line we're  
7 proposing, where there's not an existing 69 line --  
8 there's a small portion to the Pomerleau Lake  
9 substation that we have proposed -- there will be a  
10 new right-of-way, new acquisition, that would be  
11 75 feet. But the existing line, the existing route  
12 is 70 feet, and the new --

13 MS. MEEHAN: -- or do you need to acquire  
14 more? That's what I wonder.

15 MS. ASAH: No. GRE actually owns it  
16 right now.

17 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you.

18 MR. ROGERS: If I made add, we have  
19 consistently referred to an existing right-of-way of  
20 70 feet along the line. There are area that exceed  
21 70 feet. There are areas that are even as wide as  
22 100 feet, 50 feet on either side. The majority is  
23 70 feet.

24 I believe that Mr. Altman is still here.  
25 There are many areas where the easement may be not

1           35 feet on either side. It might be, for example,  
2           45 feet on one side, 25 feet on the other to offset.  
3           And we can take a look at each individual area to  
4           tell you exactly what the easement is there. It may  
5           be less than 35 feet.

6                       MS. MEEHAN: Well, I do need to kind of  
7           back up first. I'm not on a line.

8                       MR. ROGERS: Understood.

9                       MS. MEEHAN: I'm looking at overall what  
10          this is going to do to our neighborhood, which  
11          brings me into my next series of questions. Thanks  
12          for your patience.

13                      One quick final thing on the easement.  
14          Is this easement going to -- all the information for  
15          or a good portion of it or explanation of it today  
16          going to be included in the EIS, an environmental  
17          study?

18                      JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Ek.

19                      MS. MEEHAN: For everyone's review.

20                      MR. EK: Yes, that is part of the EIS.  
21          We will describe the right-of-way, or easements as  
22          they're called, for each of these routes, what's  
23          needed, what can be done in an easement, how the  
24          utilities maintain them, what the citizens are  
25          allowed to use these for and so on and forth. And,

1           you know, we may get into greater detail on what --  
2           how -- and make maps, create maps that show these  
3           easements and where they are and so forth. But,  
4           yes, that's already in the draft scoping document  
5           that's out front as we look at that, we look at  
6           right-of-way, describing that.

7                       MS. MEEHAN: Okay. And you'll also  
8           include the right-of-way, I think 494/55, all those  
9           things, that's in there too to explain?

10                      MR. EK: It will be discussed in general.  
11           I guess not on a feasibility basis. A lot of those  
12           alternative routes follow roads, so we will have to  
13           discuss those easements as they apply to existing  
14           Minnesota Department of Transportation easements.

15                      And so, yes, all those different  
16           easements are utility easements that are in place  
17           and then can be shared, that will all be talked  
18           about.

19                      MS. MEEHAN: And if you don't mind, the  
20           next question is -- part of this might be for you,  
21           Mr. Ek -- is it's my understanding that when you're  
22           close to wetlands and natural places like this that  
23           you have to compensate for it. It kind of surprises  
24           me that this can go through all these wetlands.  
25           Now, who do you actually have to speak to? Is it

1 the watershed district or anybody like that? Can  
2 you explain that too? And can that be included in  
3 the EIS?

4 MR. EK: That will be.

5 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

6 MR. EK: That's always included in any of  
7 these transmission line dockets. Typically  
8 you're -- we will discuss that with the Minnesota  
9 Department of Natural Resources or, depending where  
10 you are, the Board of Soil & Water Resources. If  
11 it's a large amount of wetlands, which is typically  
12 not the case in a transmission line construction, it  
13 would be Army Corps of Engineers perhaps. But in  
14 the case of this project, it would likely be the  
15 DNR, and they would have to -- they will be  
16 commenting, as they always do, on, you know, the  
17 placement of poles within wetlands and the crossing  
18 of wetlands, the crossing of just waterways and  
19 public waters in general.

20 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

21 MR. EK: And all of those are included  
22 under the same heading.

23 MS. MEEHAN: Do the same rules apply for  
24 you as the developer? If you can't answer that, I  
25 don't know. You're not considered a developer?

1                   MR. EK: No, I'm similar to the judge.  
2                   We're neutral. We prepare the environmental impact  
3                   statement and provide all of the facts to the  
4                   citizens, the local government units or any  
5                   stakeholder so, you know, they are informed. They  
6                   can see what's in front of them with regard to the  
7                   proposed route and any alternative. And so they  
8                   can -- as this process moves forward, they can  
9                   comment on those facts and supplement those facts  
10                  and help us with this decision that's finally made  
11                  by the Public Utilities Commission.

12                  JUDGE LIPMAN: And the DNR is a  
13                  significant commentator in many of these dockets,  
14                  not only about impacts to wetlands, but particular  
15                  species of wildlife that might be impacted and  
16                  suggestions with respect to how to mitigate those  
17                  impacts and condition for a permit that might well  
18                  be done, which protect for raptors or -- in the  
19                  crossing or placement -- crossing a wetland -- a  
20                  water body, placement of poles, they will say we  
21                  think the Commission should condition any right to  
22                  go through these areas by doing these types of  
23                  things. So if you have any ideas along those lines  
24                  on ways to mitigate potential impact, like I say,  
25                  that would be a great comment to forward June 22.

1 Ms. Meehan.

2 MS. MEEHAN: A lot of this goes right to  
3 wetlands.

4 JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah, did you want  
5 to reply?

6 MS. ASAH: I just wanted to add that as a  
7 utility, once we get an order from the Public  
8 Utilities Commission ordering a certain route for us  
9 to go along, we then obtain a Department of Natural  
10 Resources permit for water crossings, wetlands.

11 MS. MEEHAN: So you follow regulations  
12 and guidelines as well?

13 MS. ASAH: We do.

14 MS. MEEHAN: Thank you. And thank you,  
15 Mr. Ek.

16 So, finally, after today and you develop  
17 this EIS, is there another question period for the  
18 public?

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: You'll get to comment on  
20 their --

21 MS. MEEHAN: Okay.

22 JUDGE LIPMAN: -- their -- they're going  
23 to develop the EIS, and they'll be coming to the  
24 public to comment on the completeness of that.

25 MS. MEEHAN: Again?

1 JUDGE LIPMAN: Again.

2 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you. Just so I  
3 know the timetable.

4 Lastly, as I narrow down into what a big  
5 problem for me is, in -- what do you call that --  
6 city meetings usually it's televised just to the  
7 local community. Is that not required in this  
8 situation or is it possible for the next round.

9 JUDGE LIPMAN: Well, I think it's not  
10 something we typically do. I don't mind being on  
11 TV, if you thought it might be helpful.

12 MS. MEEHAN: Well, I'm wondering if we  
13 can add this in there as a question for Xcel and --

14 JUDGE LIPMAN: Sure.

15 MS. MEEHAN: -- and, I guess, Your Honor.  
16 Because here is the issue. If it doesn't -- people  
17 are busy. Everyone's so busy. I can't even tell  
18 you what I've been through this week in trying to do  
19 this as well with graduations and -- and so if it  
20 isn't cutting back through their backyard, they're  
21 not looking at it, and they don't -- it's not going  
22 our way. I said, you mean you're not reading,  
23 you're not listening to it? Nope, I'm not. I'm  
24 trying -- it's just so hard because everyone's in  
25 their own little -- as great as our neighborhoods

1 are, it's still difficult to communicate to  
2 everyone.

3 And, in addition, I wonder if what could  
4 be included in the EIS is the size of this high  
5 voltage power line going through this proposed  
6 neighborhood at least, the dimensions of it, is that  
7 going to be in there?

8 MR. EK: Actually, yep. Right now, if  
9 you go on one of the two websites, Energy Facility  
10 Permitting website, Department of Commerce, or the  
11 e-docket website, the Applicant has submitted their  
12 application. And they have all the specifications  
13 on what the transmission towers would look like,  
14 what the --

15 MS. MEEHAN: The height?

16 MR. EK: The height, the diameter, the  
17 conductors, how far they're going to extend the  
18 substations or what they're going to do to the  
19 substations. Yes, so all those specifications are  
20 there, and that will be included in the  
21 environmental impact statement as well.

22 MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Ek.

23 Could I add something that you could  
24 consider? Would you also in that area put in a  
25 paragraph on comparing and, for example, give

1           specifics? Highway -- okay. Rockford Road -- from  
2           Bass Lake to Rockford on the west side, 494, you  
3           know, give -- they're going to look just like those,  
4           whatever they are? Because there's confusion as to  
5           how big these are going to be. There's confusion as  
6           to what kind of impact they're going to have in our  
7           neighborhood. Is that possible to do or is that  
8           asking too much?

9                       MR. EK: No, no, no. That is a good  
10           question, and it's typically in the environmental  
11           document. We do -- in the case of this document, it  
12           will -- I can tell you it already will be part. And  
13           we will actually show photos, and there will be  
14           photos of examples of what the existing 69 looks  
15           like, what a wooden -- because people have already  
16           brought up can the transmission poles be made of  
17           wood versus steel and so on and so forth.

18                      So we will provide examples of the  
19           different types of transmission lines that are being  
20           proposed or could be proposed as well as a table  
21           that, you know, provides the specifications, the  
22           height of each of these, the diameter at ground  
23           base, all of that information, the specifications,  
24           we do, and the samplings in between poles, if there  
25           are going to be different pole structures, and so

1           forth. So yes.

2                   MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you.

3                   JUDGE LIPMAN: Ms. Asah.

4                   MS. ASAH: I just wanted to point out for  
5 you and the rest of the public, certainly our  
6 document as well as the Department of Commerce, you  
7 know, our application will have pictures and some  
8 dimensions about the pole structures in it right  
9 now. Those picture and structure diagrams begin on  
10 page 46 of our application, which can be found on  
11 three websites, the Department of Commerce's  
12 website, the Public Utilities website, as well as  
13 our website.

14                   MS. MEEHAN: Okay. Thank you so much.

15                   So, lastly, let's see, some of the people  
16 wrote letters and then they banded together and it's  
17 difficult, and I think it's a little bit unfair not  
18 to be able to present to all the neighbors this is  
19 what's going on. And lots of people aren't  
20 interested in getting into it if it isn't going to  
21 hit them over the head with that. So those things  
22 would be helpful, and I appreciate you spending the  
23 time on that.

24                   One more thing. May I approach the  
25 bench, Your Honor?

1 JUDGE LIPMAN: Sure.

2 MS. MEEHAN: I'd like to submit this.

3 JUDGE LIPMAN: Can we mark it?

4 MS. MEEHAN: Yes, you may. That's my  
5 family.

6 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay.

7 (Exhibit J marked.)

8 MS. MEEHAN: When we purchased our  
9 house -- I'm sorry. The reason -- I understand Xcel  
10 Energy is a highly-qualified company that should be  
11 able to find solutions. The Department of Commerce,  
12 the State, together they should be able to find  
13 solutions. It's unfortunate that somebody didn't  
14 have the foresight in the cities and state  
15 government to have a vision for development. I see  
16 things like this all over the city, in different  
17 cities, how they weren't designed properly; and it's  
18 a personal irritation to me.

19 I work full time. I have three children.  
20 My husband works full time. Around the housing  
21 crash time, I don't know if -- we put our house on  
22 the market that was in Minnetrista; and then they  
23 had to take it off, reduce the price, stage it, put  
24 it back on. And this was a lot of stress for our  
25 family. Then we sold in 21 days. No negotiating.

1 We had to be out. We had no place to live. We  
2 ended up living in a condo, a two-bedroom condo with  
3 a family of five and a dog for, you know, 13 months,  
4 only to find when we started looking for a house  
5 there wasn't anything. And we looked in several  
6 different locations in the city and finally  
7 determined Plymouth would be the place because there  
8 were four or five houses to look at there, compared  
9 to two or three, all in bad need of repair. And I  
10 don't want to really make this public, but I will  
11 say that it wasn't because we couldn't get a  
12 mortgage. We were offering cash. That was the only  
13 reason that I was so surprised. We -- because we  
14 own our own business, we couldn't get a mortgage, so  
15 we took cash.

16 We made five different offers, five  
17 purchase agreements, five earnest checks, five  
18 negotiations, five get your hopes up, get your hopes  
19 down, 'til we finally bought this house. And we  
20 walked through this five times, and my husband said  
21 no.

22 So what I want to ask you, why I  
23 presented my photo of my family, is I don't know  
24 what -- what families are supposed to do today if  
25 this is what's going to happen. After everything

1 that we have gone through. There's 25 plants  
2 sitting in our backyard waiting to be planted.  
3 Those will go in the ditch. If this goes through  
4 our neighborhood, like I said, I won't put another  
5 penny in that. In five years we will abandon the  
6 house for whatever price we can get. And I will not  
7 buy in another neighborhood in the Twin Cities  
8 because I'm now going to be past the age. When we  
9 moved in our house, my son said, people live longer  
10 if you don't move, if you don't move. I said, you  
11 know what, we can stay here forever. That isn't  
12 going to happen now.

13 What are families supposed to do when  
14 things like this can come in their backyard where  
15 the kids can play, where we walk the dog? I know  
16 that for a fact that every spring in every  
17 municipality weight limits go up and the signs go up  
18 saying that you cannot travel this road if you  
19 exceed a certain weight. That stops developers at a  
20 great cost. That stops delivery trucks with  
21 concrete. It stops a lot of things, until the water  
22 tables recede after the spring and the roads are  
23 safe to travel on. That one law is in place to  
24 protect asphalt and the road system underneath the  
25 asphalt, to minimize the damage on the asphalt.

1 That is a law in place that everyone has to abide  
2 by, whether it cost them money or not. And I'm  
3 looking at this and seeing there is no law to  
4 protect the family and investments that we are all  
5 making in our neighborhoods and our communities. We  
6 work full time, we volunteer at our school, our  
7 church. I did not get -- two or three nights ago I  
8 was painting signs to make neighbors aware that they  
9 should be at this meeting and putting up signs in  
10 mosquito-infested neighborhood at 11:30 last night,  
11 4 by 8 signs.

12 If this goes through, and I don't think  
13 I'm alone -- I think there's plenty of families that  
14 would come up and say that they just aren't aware  
15 yet. If this goes through neighborhoods, I for one  
16 will be not in a neighborhood again. I will pass  
17 over that opportunity in my lifetime. You have to  
18 give families, communities a chance. That's what  
19 builds your cities. That's what builds your states.

20 I thank you.

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you, Ms. Meehan.

22 Mr. Zeroni. Welcome back, Mr. Zeroni.

23 Did you need a plug or...

24 Mr. Zeroni, before we begin, if you  
25 wouldn't mind stating your name and spelling it for

1           our record again.

2                       MR. ZERONI: Absolutely. Thank you for  
3 the opportunity to speak. Ilan, I-L-A-N. Last name  
4 Zeroni, Z-E-R-O-N-I.

5                       JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
6 Mr. Zeroni.

7                       MR. ZERONI: For the record, I'm  
8 presenting a PowerPoint presentation. I'm using the  
9 projector at this time.

10                      What I'm showing are magnetic fields in  
11 milligauss. We can see that the vertical axis is a  
12 logarithmic. We can see that the major grid lines  
13 are 1, 10, and 100. So this is not a linear plot.  
14 It's a semilogarithmic plot, again with the vertical  
15 as being 1, 10, 100. And that is in milligauss for  
16 measure of magnetic field.

17                      The horizontal axis is distance from  
18 centerline in feet. We see two curves, a blue curve  
19 and a red curve. The blue one being the magnetic  
20 field curve for a horizontal post 115 kilovolt  
21 single circuit. The red curve representing the  
22 magnetic field of a davit arm 115 kilovolt steel  
23 pole double circuit.

24                      These curves have been calculated for 180  
25 megavolt, which is exactly half of the rating of the

1 proposed line, as was stated in a letter by Xcel, I  
2 believe a couple of days ago -- or was it yesterday?  
3 It was yesterday, I believe. It is 360 megavolt.  
4 So what I've done here is taken half of that rating,  
5 and that gives 905 A average current for the line.

6 To state for the record, I am not an  
7 electrical engineer; however, I do have a PhD in  
8 chemical engineering, so this calculation is not too  
9 difficult.

10 What I've done here is I've taken the  
11 affidavit of Bruce McKay from the PUC docket that is  
12 stated as follows: E002/CN-10-694. And it is  
13 well-known that magnetic field or whatever pole  
14 configuration is exactly proportional to current.  
15 So all I had to do was adjust the current from  
16 Mr. McKay's calculations, and I can reproduce these  
17 curves again in half the rating.

18 What I'm showing you now --

19 JUDGE LIPMAN: Actually, if I could just  
20 stop you there, Mr. Zeroni.

21 MR. ZERONI: Yes.

22 JUDGE LIPMAN: Do you have a paper copy  
23 of this, in addition to this slide?

24 MR. ZERONI: I do not. I will be happy  
25 to submit it, Your Honor.

1                   JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. What I'm going to  
2 do, if you wouldn't mind making a note, I'm going to  
3 reserve Exhibit K for you. And just so that the  
4 record is clear, when you're referring to -- because  
5 we can't mark it as an exhibit, you're going to send  
6 it to me and I'm going to denominate that as Exhibit  
7 K, just so everybody is clear. And if members rely  
8 either -- well, on the transcription, that they  
9 should look for Exhibit K and so that they could  
10 follow along with the calculations. So whether it's  
11 one page or several pages, we're going to mark that  
12 as K when you send it.

13                   MR. ZERONI: I will be happy to.

14                   JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you so much,  
15 Mr. Zeroni.

16                   MR. ZERONI: The next slide I'm  
17 presenting an additional vertical red line at the  
18 60 feet mark, and I did that on the good side. So  
19 where the lines -- where the blue line is actually  
20 lower at 60 feet. Because if you look on the right  
21 line on the right-hand side, the 60 feet is  
22 actually -- the blue curve is actually higher. So I  
23 was kind of taking a best-case scenario here. Why  
24 60 feet? That is the distance to current line to my  
25 children's bedroom windows, which means when they go

1 to sleep, I make sure that my  
2 six-and-a-half-year-old twins sleep for at least ten  
3 hours a night, being six and a half. So for at  
4 least ten hours a night, they will be exposed. And  
5 I do believe the steel pole that was shown at the  
6 beginning of last night's meeting showed a  
7 horizontal post-type steel structure for the pole --  
8 for this pole design. So that would correspond to  
9 the blue curve here.

10 So looking at this plot and reading it,  
11 it seems to me that my children will be exposed to  
12 20 milligauss for ten hours a day. Well, what does  
13 20 milligauss mean? I know that there's no standard  
14 anywhere to say is that high, is that low,  
15 et cetera. So what I did do -- by the way, and the  
16 rating for this line is 360 megavolt down here. So,  
17 in fact, it doubles all the values along this curve.  
18 So, in fact, instead of 20, at maximum capacity they  
19 will be close to 40 milligauss.

20 So just keeping that 20 number on hand,  
21 here's something that I just mentioned that I found  
22 on the Internet. You can see that it's not  
23 statistically significant. What is shown here is a  
24 man, is a male, a male adult wearing a gauss meter  
25 for one day in his life on his wrist. And

1 the source of it is found at the bottom. You can  
2 see the URL at the bottom left where I found this  
3 from. Again, along the horizontal line, it's  
4 time/hours. And the vertical access again shows the  
5 magnetic field, this time in microtesla. So I will  
6 convert it -- in the next slide I will convert it  
7 back to milligauss. So I know that there may be a  
8 little bit of converting from microtesla to  
9 milligauss. I assure you that next slide I will  
10 clear that up.

11 I will also note again that the vertical  
12 access is again a logarithmic, so we see that it  
13 goes from 0.1, to .1 to 1. So it is not a linear  
14 axis. And so if we follow from the left to the  
15 right, we see that, as the person is sleeping,  
16 somewhere around 6:00 a.m. he awakes up. And then  
17 he has breakfast, and then he shaves, which for a  
18 brief period of time raises the magnetic field to 10  
19 microtesla; the train. He walks from the station.  
20 By the way, when he walks from the station, you see  
21 that there's a significant dip in the magnetic field  
22 exposure. That is because the person is in ambient  
23 conditions. He's probably walking along the street  
24 somewhere, so there's not exactly a field. Still  
25 you can see the significant drop in the magnetic

1 field. Then he's in his office where he's probably  
2 exposed to some fluorescent light where you see that  
3 it rises around to .2, maybe .3 microtesla. At home  
4 we can see around hour 19 and a half that he uses an  
5 electric drill for a moment, which probably raises  
6 his exposure level to somewhere around, oh, I would  
7 say, 200 microtesla.

8 Why am I showing all this? The next  
9 slide, I translated the previous slide to a linear  
10 scale with milligauss. And so the blue curve on  
11 this slide is exactly the same as the red slide in  
12 the previous, only this time the vertical axis is  
13 linear and the units are milligauss.

14 And now what I'm going to do is I'm going  
15 to put on that, to add to that slide that 20  
16 milligauss that my children will be exposed to for  
17 10 hours every day; and we can see that it's about  
18 50 times exposure from what a normal person would  
19 typically have along the day at 60 feet, which is  
20 the distance again from the current position of the  
21 line to my children's bedroom window. 60 feet of  
22 magnetic -- three times the magnetic field exposure.  
23 Is that dangerous? Is it not? I do believe that  
24 the Applicants will contest that nothing has been  
25 proven. I can tell you at this point that magnetic

1 field at low frequency, around 60 Hertz, is a  
2 possible carcinogen. Not a probable carcinogen, but  
3 it's a probable carcinogen. And I will also submit  
4 that to the record with my written comments.

5 Well, possible versus probable. Do we  
6 want to expose via the proposed route the hundreds,  
7 hundreds of residents, people who bought their  
8 houses -- and we've heard the very, very emotional  
9 testimony of the previous speaker. I think it's  
10 just one account of hundreds that you can hear if  
11 you just go door to door and talk. My children, my  
12 twin children at six and a half, if I decide to stay  
13 at my house, which I assure you I will not -- I will  
14 simply have to cut my significant losses and move.  
15 But, otherwise, I have to go to sleep at night  
16 knowing that now I'm exposing them to 50 times what  
17 a normal person would usually be exposed to.

18 The next slide that I'm showing you has  
19 to do with the pole design EMF mitigation. The  
20 horizontal axis is feet in distance from centerline.  
21 And you can see that on the left it's zero, and it  
22 runs all the way to 300 feet on the right. And,  
23 again, the vertical axis is magnetic field in  
24 milligauss. And you see the significant reduction  
25 along the curve of magnetic field just due to pole

1 design.

2           So on the top we see the davit arm -- on  
3 the top right you see a picture of a davit arm pole,  
4 and on the bottom line you see a picture of a  
5 V-string. And from the plot you see that the  
6 V-string, which corresponds to the lighter blue  
7 bars, the curve extinguishes much, much faster, and  
8 it goes to -- while it doesn't go to zero probably,  
9 but it extinguishes much, much faster the distance  
10 from centerline. And the question is why is that?  
11 The answer is very clear. Again, I am not a power  
12 engineer or an electrical engineer. However, these  
13 physical principles are quite simple, and even a  
14 chemical engineer such as myself can easily  
15 understand them. The closer the conductors are to  
16 each other, the more they cancel the magnetic field;  
17 the closer the conductors are. And you see that the  
18 V-string, the configuration is such that the  
19 conductors are closer to each other, and we see the  
20 results in the plot whereby the magnetic field  
21 dissipates much faster.

22           We've heard a lot about undergrounding.  
23 Why do we wish to underground? A, of course, the  
24 aesthetic, the noise elements, and all that. But in  
25 terms of magnetic field, well, it's quite simple.

1           Because there is no wind, because there is nothing  
2           affecting the conductors, you can simply put them  
3           right one next to the other. There is almost  
4           zero -- well, practically zero distance from the end  
5           of the insulator of one connector to the beginning  
6           of the insulator of the other conductor.

7                         What does that mean in terms of magnetic  
8           field and distance? I'm showing a plot here -- I  
9           just show the plot. Again, the vertical axis is  
10          magnetic field, this time in microtesla. The units  
11          don't really matter at this point. And the  
12          horizontal axis is distance from centerline, this  
13          time in meters. We have two curves on this slide, a  
14          red curve and a blue curve. The red curve  
15          corresponds to magnetic field of an underlined  
16          buried system. We can see that at centerline  
17          magnetic field is very, very high, from when we  
18          compare that to the blue curve, which is an overhead  
19          line. However, we ask ourselves, where does the red  
20          line cross the blue line? And we see that that  
21          happens around 12 feet. So around 12 feet from  
22          centerline, that is where the magnetic field become  
23          equal. And if you follow the red line to the left  
24          of that 12-foot marker that I just added to the  
25          plot, you see that it became so much faster, so much

1 faster. Again, if my children live 60 feet away,  
2 their bedroom windows are 60 feet away from the  
3 centerline, if this line is undergrounded, we can  
4 see that practically there is zero magnetic field at  
5 their bedroom windows, as opposed to the 20  
6 milligauss overhead line for the horizontal post  
7 pole, as I've shown before.

8 I do recognize the cost of  
9 undergrounding. I've heard quite a bit about that.  
10 However, I think that this plot is quite compelling.  
11 Again, the reason is that the conductors are just  
12 exactly close to each other. If you ask yourself,  
13 why is it that at centerline exposure is so much  
14 higher, my understanding is that the conductors are  
15 typically buried 20 feet underground, whereas the  
16 overhead lines they are around 90 feet, which is the  
17 reason for that high peak in the red group.  
18 However, again, I'd like to reiterate that it  
19 diminishes so very quickly. So 12 feet away from  
20 centerline you have that crossover where they're  
21 exactly the same; but then the red curve,  
22 corresponding to underground cable, diminishes so  
23 much faster, whereas around 60 feet, 20 meters away  
24 from centerline is practically zero.

25 That is the end of the slides that I had.

1 My understanding is that they should all -- Your  
2 Honor, they will all be presented as Exhibit K?

3 JUDGE LIPMAN: As Exhibit K. As soon as  
4 you send them, we'll mark it that way.

5 MR. ZERONI: Okay. So all of that will  
6 be Exhibit K. Thank you for that.

7 Having said all that, when I drive down  
8 around on 101, our neighborhood, I see a  
9 115-kilovolt transmission line that is installed on  
10 wooden poles. The wooden pole design that is there  
11 is what we call the scarecrow design, whereby the  
12 conductors are very, very far from each other. I  
13 don't know if you're familiar with it.

14 First question for you, Xcel  
15 representatives, at this point the easement that's  
16 in our neck of the woods, east of Bridlewood and  
17 south of Bridlewood, it limits you to single pole  
18 wooden structures. What would be the pole design in  
19 that case? The pole design for wooden -- for single  
20 pole wooden structures 115 kilovolts?

21 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Rogers or -- if you  
22 wouldn't mind introducing yourself again for our  
23 record.

24 MR. GUTTMAN: Yes. My name is Jeff  
25 Guttman, G-U-T-T-M-A-N.

1 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Guttman.

2 MR. GUTTMAN: So your question really is  
3 an easement question, if I understand correctly.  
4 The easement states wooden poles -- I guess I need  
5 you to repeat your question.

6 MR. ZERONI: This is the easement  
7 presented right now. You can read kind of a third  
8 of the way down, if you see, To construct, operate,  
9 and maintain streets, roads, et cetera, and the  
10 electric transmission line or system, system of  
11 single pole wood structures.

12 My question is what would those look  
13 like? What would the design be?

14 MR. GUTTMAN: For a single pole wooden  
15 structure. A single pole wooden structure would be  
16 very similar to the metal poles we're proposing.  
17 It's basically a mono-pole with horizontal poles in  
18 front of it.

19 MR. ZERONI: So it would not be -- sorry  
20 if I'm not articulating this very clearly -- but the  
21 scarecrow kind whereby you have a single pole and  
22 the arms, long arms that extend to the side and  
23 place the conductor very, very far apart?

24 MR. GUTTMAN: Yeah, that design we  
25 term -- is what we would term a wishbone structure.

1 And that is an older style of wood construction.  
2 That's not typically used. We do put that up as  
3 replacement for existing poles that's been damaged  
4 in storms. But in general we do not put those up as  
5 new construction.

6 MR. ZERONI: So just so that I  
7 understand -- and thank you for your comments -- a  
8 single post -- a single pole wooden structure with  
9 just horizontal poles, my understanding it was -- in  
10 the slide that was shown, it was essentially showing  
11 steel poles, the horizontal arms are the insulators?

12 MR. GUTTMAN: That is correct. They are  
13 fiberglass insulators.

14 MR. ZERONI: So there would be a vertical  
15 pole, and from that would be insulators that would  
16 hold the conductors?

17 MR. GUTTMAN: That is correct.

18 MR. ZERONI: Good. Thank you. Thank you  
19 very much.

20 Another comment that I would like to make  
21 is, you've seen my initial slide here showing --  
22 showing the curves for magnetic field, and you see  
23 that we've already learned that power rating is 360  
24 megavolt, which translates to about 1,810 amperes.  
25 We asked the question regarding -- we requested

1           these types of magnetic field profiles before. The  
2           answer that was given to us was 250, not 1,810.  
3           This is about a seven time difference, if I  
4           understand correctly.

5                       So my question to Xcel people is if the  
6           rating for the line is 1,800 amperes, 1,800 amperes,  
7           why is 250 ampere given out to the public for the  
8           operating -- the operating curve to the line?

9                       JUDGE LIPMAN: Sir, if you wouldn't mind  
10          stating and spelling your name for our record.

11                      MR. MICHLIG: Yes, Your Honor, Justin  
12          Michlig again.

13                      JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Sorry. I thought  
14          you were a different person. Thank you for coming  
15          back. Mr. Michlig.

16                      MR. MICHLIG: So, Mr. Zeroni, the  
17          amperages for the line are projected loadings based  
18          off of the initial construction. The lines of  
19          construction will last a number of years. The  
20          initial load on the line is not expected to be above  
21          250 amperes, and the projections out from the house  
22          are not shown over 250 amperes. So the average load  
23          on the line would be the lower amperage that we  
24          provided.

25                      MR. ZERONI: I understand. Thank you.

1           And is it not true that the current lines -- we just  
2           heard that currently the substation was looking at  
3           capacity; is that correct?

4                   MR. MICHLIG: I'd have to refer to our  
5           distribution engineer on that question. But that is  
6           my understanding.

7                   MR. ZERONI: So it is not -- I understand  
8           250. What I still want to check and establish is I  
9           know that two -- I understand that 250 is maybe some  
10          sort of an initial estimate. However, it is my  
11          understanding that -- I don't know if very soon  
12          thereafter or a certain time thereafter we may very  
13          well hit capacity at 1,800 amperes. Is that a  
14          possibility?

15                   MR. MICHLIG: As we put all the lines  
16          together, it has to be able to survive various  
17          outages on the transmission system. So the way we  
18          design the power line is there's extra capacity for  
19          times that a disturbance may happen on the power  
20          system. And we need that capacity at that point.  
21          For average loading, for normal load on the line,  
22          it's going to be that load level that you see.

23                   MR. ZERONI: Okay. So you're saying 250  
24          initially when it's in use?

25                   MR. MICHLIG: Yes, that is going to be on

1 a hot day or a peak loading on line during normal  
2 conditions.

3 MR. ZERONI: It's fair to say that as  
4 population grows, as the load grows with the time,  
5 which is the reason for this whole project, that 250  
6 number will grow?

7 MR. MICHLIG: It is possible that that  
8 will grow, depending on growth in the area. I  
9 believe we did provide some numbers for a  
10 couple-year projection. It does not grow  
11 significantly by that amount of time.

12 MR. ZERONI: Okay. I don't know if  
13 you're familiar with MTEP 11. Are you familiar with  
14 that?

15 MR. MICHLIG: The MISO transmission  
16 expansion plan?

17 MR. ZERONI: That's correct. For 2011.

18 MR. MICHLIG: I am not intimately  
19 familiar with that.

20 MR. ZERONI: I'm not trying to question  
21 you. Just you're holding the microphone. So anyone  
22 else is --

23 MR. MICHLIG: I have general knowledge of  
24 it, but I'm not quite sure what this table is in  
25 reference to.

1           MR. ZERONI: You can see the file name at  
2           the top. This is MTEP 11, Appendix E-4. Now, I can  
3           tell you that I may not understand very well what  
4           this is showing; but when I look at column C and I  
5           look at the maximum loading for these various lines,  
6           I see the model between 90 and 100 percent. And  
7           this thing goes on for about 360 lines. Now I may  
8           be misreading this -- and sorry if I'm doing  
9           something that's wrong here. Again, I tried to find  
10          out what these numbers mean, and it was a little  
11          difficult, so I'm trying to get some help from the  
12          Xcel people in understanding. Are there ever any  
13          times when a transmission line runs full, as usual,  
14          for business as usual, not a system load event?

15          MR. MICHLIG: Just to take a step back,  
16          if we look a little further over at column D, what  
17          this is is a NERC category, this represent what's  
18          happening on the system, what continues to happen.  
19          The category that you see there means that something  
20          has happened to on-system and the flow on line  
21          observed on the left has increased due to that  
22          contingency. So this is not going to be an average  
23          load that you're looking at at this point. Just to  
24          bring that back in context.

25          MR. ZERONI: So this is some sort of

1 failure in the system that brought on a loading of  
2 9,204 percent of rating; is that -- am I  
3 understanding correctly?

4 MR. MICHLIG: Subject to check. I'd have  
5 to go back and review the appendix E file. These  
6 privates are going to be specified under our message  
7 process for appendix E. I need to refresh myself on  
8 the appendix E processes, which is slightly more of  
9 a regional transmission planning or the local load  
10 serving aspect of the transmission system.

11 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Zeroni, we're almost  
12 at time. I'm just wondering if you may have some  
13 time for concluding thoughts, because we have one  
14 other commentator behind you.

15 MR. ZERONI: I'm sorry. Thank you.

16 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Zeroni.

17 MR. ZERONI: I think I may -- okay. So  
18 all I've shown so far regarding capacity -- and it's  
19 my feeling and I'm trying to establish that that  
20 load will increase. It will not be 250. It will  
21 probably, as time moves on, more crowding, more  
22 towards rating.

23 Two things in concluding. We've heard  
24 some very, very compelling cases from people here  
25 regarding their -- just personal involvement, they

1           bought a house, et cetera, and I feel the same way.  
2           I bought my own house back in September. I was  
3           never aware of this whole thing. I never would have  
4           bought the house had I known. But I was not made  
5           aware. All the sudden my neighbor comes, knocks on  
6           the door two days after the last year's public  
7           meeting, oh, by the way, that thing is a  
8           transmission line, and, oh, by the way, they're  
9           going to -- excuse me. What I'm trying to establish  
10          here is, Your Honor, you will hear many, many  
11          compelling cases such as mine, such as the speaker  
12          before me, which again was very emotional. And I'm  
13          sitting here thinking also when I go to submit  
14          alternate routes of my own, how can I go to sleep at  
15          night just thinking, no, I don't just want to throw  
16          this out of my backyard into yours. I want -- I'm  
17          reiterating what I said before. There have to be  
18          overriding principles or guiding principles that  
19          guide -- I believe, that would guide you in making  
20          your decision. And those, as far as I see, have to  
21          be minimal impact, along major thoroughfares.

22                        As I stated yesterday, I totally realize  
23          that whatever -- whichever route the proposed -- any  
24          of the alternates chosen, people will be unhappy.  
25          We will never pick one that impacts zero people.

1           How would you approach this? Because the stories  
2           are all very, very compelling. For me I would urge  
3           you, beseech you to seek guiding principles that  
4           would be throughout the route, not just east of  
5           Hollydale. But if you apply them east of Hollydale,  
6           for example, along the route that runs along 494/55,  
7           those exact same principles have to be applied  
8           throughout, those have to be applied overall.

9                        When I bought my house I was not aware of  
10           this. Even if I had been, why the does easement  
11           state single pole wooden structures? If anyone had  
12           known or thought at the time that there was an  
13           upgrade coming, they would not have submitted to  
14           wood structures. I think no one had envisioned at  
15           the time that this was coming. So there is an  
16           expectation here of what you see is what you get,  
17           and you realize that there is perpetual rights to  
18           the land. And when you look at the proposed route,  
19           which was shown previously coming through  
20           densely-populated areas in straight lines and right  
21           angles, you see that the guiding principles for the  
22           Applicant -- they do not state that; it is my  
23           thoughts and my perspective -- where we have the  
24           perpetual right to that land, it will cost us -- it  
25           will be at minimal cost to us.

1                   And so, again, I beg you to show  
2                   compassion, to be the voice of reason, show common  
3                   sense because, otherwise, we have a -- I urge Xcel's  
4                   cooperation and paying attention to people. I only  
5                   have good things to say about the way they've  
6                   corresponded with me so far. However, we have a  
7                   for-profit corporation trying to minimize costs; and  
8                   the people who carry that burden are us, are the  
9                   residents who put our life's work into our  
10                  residences, which is the largest investment we will  
11                  ever make in our lives. So --

12                 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you, Mr. Zeroni.

13                 MR. ZERONI: -- thank you very much.

14                 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay. Mr. Schmit. We're  
15                 just about out of time. The hook is coming for me  
16                 from off stage. So if you could state and spell  
17                 your name for our record and be precise as  
18                 reasonable, I'd appreciate it.

19                 MR. SCHMIT: Steve Schmit, S-C-H-M-I-T.

20                 JUDGE LIPMAN: Mr. Schmit, what should  
21                 the Department know?

22                 MR. SCHMIT: I think the -- I'm talking  
23                 about the western portion of the line in Medina.

24                 JUDGE LIPMAN: Okay.

25                 MR. SCHMIT: And I think that original

1 location is the best going through Medina. And I  
2 was minorly involved in this same process 41 years  
3 ago when the original line was put in, and I think  
4 that the design of that line was well thought out.  
5 And it's been there for 40 years; it's not a  
6 surprise to anybody. Most of the older residents  
7 have passed on, and any new people to the  
8 neighborhood can see what's there.

9 And I think times have changed. At that  
10 time the world was more for the good of the common  
11 and everybody than what the world has turned into  
12 now. So good luck with your choice.

13 JUDGE LIPMAN: Thank you kindly,  
14 Mr. Schmit. Appreciate your contributions to our  
15 record.

16 With that, as I note where we are on  
17 time, I want to make first a thank you to all of the  
18 folks, the 30 that we spoke to last night, and we  
19 got to 15 today. So very substantive and rich  
20 contributions to our record. I think the Department  
21 has obtained some excellent, excellent advice.

22 I will leave with you an advertisement --  
23 (Cell phone ringing.)

24 JUDGE LIPMAN: I'm not here. I will  
25 leave you with an advertisement that I'm eager to

1 continue to make admissions to our record, not only  
2 from the folks who are here today and who were here  
3 last night, but also if there are folks in the  
4 community who have not yet contributed or not  
5 provided some additional detail. Friends,  
6 neighbors, folks on the Christmas card list,  
7 whomever you think would have something useful and  
8 helpful to say, we're eager to hear from you, again  
9 by way of e-mail, by way of fax, by way of  
10 first-class mail, overnight delivery to my office on  
11 Robert Street in St. Paul. We have comment forms  
12 available with my contact information. But in any  
13 way that you to see fit to continue to communicate  
14 with me, I'm glad to -- glad to do that, provided  
15 it's in writing, of course.

16 The key piece is by 4:30 p.m. on Friday,  
17 June 22nd, 2012. By 4:30 p.m. Friday, June 22nd,  
18 2012. Submissions received after 4:30 go into a  
19 different envelope and are marked not included. So  
20 you don't want to be in that envelope. So if you  
21 think you're going to send it by e-mail, make sure  
22 by 4:29 you hit send. And then you don't want to  
23 risk being late. I encourage you to send as early  
24 as practical and reasonable. The Internet's open  
25 24/7. The fax machine runs 24/7. So whatever time

1 is convenient to you or your neighbors, please write  
2 in. We're eager, very eager, and you came here to  
3 solicit your input and your best thinking. But it's  
4 got to be timely. By 4:30 p.m., Friday, the 22nd of  
5 June.

6 Again, please accept my very grateful  
7 thanks for your thoughtful contributions to the  
8 record and participation over the last two days. I  
9 think we built a much, much better record because of  
10 what you've done and what you've said.

11 With that, we are adjourned.

12 (Proceedings concluded at 4:05 p.m.)  
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