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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY PERMITTING UNIT
PUBLIC INFORMATION AND SCOPING MEETING

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

PUC Docket No: E002/TL-11-152

Best Western Kelly Inn
2705 North Annapolis Lane
Plymouth, Minnesota 55441

Met, pursuant to notice, at 6:00 in the evening
on October 26, 2011.

* * *

1 MR. EK: All right. Good evening, folks.
2 I think I'm going to get started here. Again, folks
3 in the back and folks on your way in, there are some
4 seats in the front. There's quite a few. It looks
5 like eight to ten, and not too many seats left in
6 the middle. It looks like there's a few on the
7 edges.

8 Can everybody hear me, by the way?

9 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

10 MR. EK: All right. So, as I said
11 before, it's always hard to gauge how many people
12 are going to show up at a meeting. This one seems
13 to be one where people are very interested and have
14 come out. And typically this is a very big hall for
15 a public meeting that we usually have, and never do
16 they get filled up like this. So I'd like to
17 apologize. If I would have known the crowd was
18 going to be this large, we would have gotten a
19 bigger venue. But -- so my apologies.

20 A little housekeeping. There is coffee,
21 water, cookies in the back, along the back row there
22 for you. If you go out the back door, around the
23 corner to your left there's the Green Mill, and
24 there's bathrooms right as you walk into -- or, I
25 should say, on the side of the front door to the

1 Green Mill here in the hotel. And feel free to get
2 up any time to get cookies or whatnot.

3 Anyhow, so good evening. My name is
4 Scott Ek. I'm with the Department of Commerce,
5 Energy Facility Permitting Unit. I'm the state
6 permit manager for this proposed Hollydale 115 kV
7 project.

8 Ray Kirsch in the back, you may have met
9 at the table, who's been helping hand out flyers and
10 sign folks up for the mailing list and to speak
11 tonight, is also with the Department of Commerce.
12 And he is the public advisor for this project.

13 You can come to either myself or Ray with
14 questions any time throughout this whole process.
15 All our information is on a lot of the documents
16 that are back there.

17 So you're here tonight for the public
18 information scoping meeting on the proposed Xcel
19 Energy and Great River Energy Hollydale 115 kV
20 transmission line project.

21 And so, introductions. Like I said, I
22 already introduced myself. I'm Scott Ek. Next to
23 me is Angie Threlkeld, and she is a court reporter
24 tonight, and she will be taking down -- when we get
25 to the questions and comment period, folks will be

1 able to come up to this podium here, we have a
2 microphone, and you can verbally provide comments,
3 and she'll be taking -- or taking them down, and
4 we'll have a record of all those verbal comments
5 from tonight.

6 Just to explain a little bit about what I
7 do at the Department of Commerce. My job's to carry
8 out the portion of the environmental review process
9 for transmission lines in this case, pipelines,
10 power plants, wind farms in Minnesota. Of course,
11 in the case of a high-voltage transmission
12 alternative route permitting process, which this
13 project falls under, and I'll get to later, I
14 conduct the public meetings. I collect your
15 comments that you've been sending in. I do -- I
16 have all the comments that have been coming in and
17 have been saving them. If you don't get a reply,
18 that just means I've been bombarded by comments.
19 But I do have them all and there's quite a few.

20 I also prepare the scoping decision
21 document. And that's the -- that's the main reason
22 we're here, is to get your comments on what should
23 be included in the scoping decision document.

24 I also prepare the environmental
25 assessment. The scoping decision document is

1 essentially the, I guess, table of contents or the
2 items that we're going to study in the environmental
3 assessment, the issues, the concerns, the impacts,
4 the mitigation, alternative routes, you name it.
5 And there's a sheet in the back that kind of
6 outlines issues typically covered in an EA, you
7 know, human settlement, natural environment, and so
8 forth, that we always cover. But for every project
9 it's different, and there's going to be different
10 items that people would like us to look at, and so
11 that's why we look for your comments.

12 And, finally, once the environmental
13 assessment is complete, there is a public hearing,
14 and it will be in a larger facility than this. And
15 that's going to be down the road probably four or
16 five months, and that will be convened by an
17 administrative law judge.

18 And at the end, what I do is I take all
19 that information, all your comments, the EA, the
20 route permit, everything that I've gained -- we've
21 gained through the process, and that's called the
22 record. And I give that to the Public Utilities
23 Commission, and they are the body that make the
24 decision on a route permit, should the Company get a
25 route permit, where the transmission line would be

1 routed if they do, any standards, limitations, and
2 so forth. So the Public Utilities Commission would
3 be the entity that does make that decision.

4 So I'm going to go over the state
5 permitting process and just briefly over the
6 proposed project, because after my presentation I'll
7 have Xcel Energy and Great River Energy
8 representatives come up and explain the project in a
9 little more detail. And from there, we'll open it
10 up to questions and comments.

11 If you have haven't signed up in the
12 back -- we'll go through the list of folks that
13 signed up to speak. And then after we're done with
14 that list, I'll just, you know, call for hands of
15 those who would like to come up and speak. So
16 that's how it will go tonight.

17 And thank you for coming.

18 And I do -- another thing I have to
19 apologize about is the screen. We got here and it
20 turns out either the bulb or the VGA cord is --
21 something's wrong with it, so the colors aren't
22 coming up as bright and as sharp as they should
23 have. But all the information that you see here
24 tonight on the PowerPoint is in a package in the
25 front, and I will also post it to our website so you

1 can take a look at that.

2 So the purpose tonight is to explain the
3 State of Minnesota's high-voltage transmission line
4 permitting process, present the description of the
5 Hollydale 155 -- or 115 kV transmission line project
6 proposed by Great River Energy and Xcel Energy. And
7 most important is to provide the public an
8 opportunity to ask questions, offer comments, both
9 written and oral, propose issues -- you know, with
10 those comments propose issues, impacts, alternatives
11 to be considered for the scoping decision document.

12 Now, high-voltage transmission line
13 permitting in Minnesota. As I explained, the Public
14 Utilities Commission is the government unit that
15 issues route permits in Minnesota, and it's a body
16 of five commissioners that make the decision. At
17 the end of this process, they'll make the decision
18 once they have the record -- record in place. In
19 Minnesota no person may construct a high-voltage
20 transmission line without a route permit from the
21 Commission.

22 And I guess, most important, is what a
23 high-voltage transmission line is defined as. And
24 it's a line that's capable of a voltage of
25 100 kilovolts or more and is greater than 1,500 feet

1 in length. And in the case of this transmission
2 line -- this proposed transmission line, it's
3 115 kilovolts and it is greater than 1,500 feet in
4 length, so it qualifies for a -- as a high-voltage
5 transmission line per Minnesota statute.

6 Now, also, as I was getting to, this
7 project falls under the alternate -- alternative
8 permitting process, which falls under Minnesota Rule
9 7850.2900 and 3900. And this is, I guess, a more
10 condensed process than the full process. The reason
11 that it is being looked at under the alternative
12 process is it's a high-voltage transmission line;
13 however, it's between 100 kilovolts and
14 200 kilovolts. So it falls in that category, which
15 means that it is eligible for the alternative
16 permitting process. And because it falls under this
17 category, it means that a certificate of need is not
18 required for this. And so this is -- this is the --
19 a shorter process.

20 There's a full process -- if the line's,
21 you know, above 200 kilovolts, there's a longer
22 process which requires an environmental impact
23 statement and so forth. But this falls under the
24 alternate process because it's between 1- and
25 200 kilovolts. And the process typically takes six

1 months to complete.

2 So -- I wish I had a pointer. At the
3 top -- at the top here (indicating), this is where
4 everything starts. The application -- the
5 Applicants submit the application, and that was on
6 June 30th, 2011. And then what happens is we take a
7 look at the application, make sure it has -- it has
8 all the information that rules and statute require
9 it to have, you know, that we like to see an
10 application have, maps, the correct information
11 about wetlands and whatnot, as it's outlined in
12 rule.

13 So what happened was the application was
14 accepted by the PUC, and that was August 25th. And
15 that date, the 25th, starts the six-month process,
16 the alternative process, the review process.

17 So we're at the very beginning here,
18 August 25th. And now we're at the public meeting
19 here. We did have a state shutdown, so that's why
20 there's a little delay in between there. But so now
21 tonight we're at the public meeting. And this is
22 one of the public's first opportunities to provide
23 written and oral comments, as I said, on the scoping
24 decision document. And so tonight's an important
25 night. We'll explain about the project.

1 And there's a public comment period
2 that's open. It's a minimum of ten days -- or what
3 is it -- seven days, but we usually keep it open for
4 two weeks, and that date ends up being November 9th.
5 What happens then, we put together the scope of the
6 environmental assessment and -- the scoping decision
7 document, it's another word for it, and because we
8 haven't -- oh, I should also mention, I forgot about
9 this.

10 In the case of this project, we
11 recommended that there be an advisory task force for
12 this project. So there is at the same -- they
13 met -- they met on October 18th, was the first
14 meeting, and they will meet next Tuesday,
15 November 1st, I believe or -- or November 1st, not
16 next Tuesday.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: November 1st,
18 whenever.

19 MR. EK: Yeah, November 1st. But what
20 the task force is, it's a member -- members of the
21 governments, we need to have county members, we need
22 to have members from each city the project's in, we
23 need to have members from the regional development
24 commissions, from townships -- in this case there
25 are no townships. In addition, we added to this the

1 homeowners groups, as we were trying to get one
2 person that could represent a larger majority of
3 people along the whole route. So that was the
4 intent, instead of to just get a group of people in
5 one place or another. So we tried to spread it out
6 across the whole route.

7 And so they're doing -- what they're
8 doing is discussing the project, and they'll put
9 together a summary report of the advisory task
10 force. And they're also looking at the issues,
11 alternatives, concerns, mitigation. And that
12 information, as well as your comments from tonight
13 and the comments you send in, will be considered and
14 looked at to be included in the scoping decision
15 document.

16 The environmental assessment is prepared
17 by using the scoping decision document. As I said,
18 the environmental assessment takes a look at many,
19 many different issues as outlined there. And that's
20 typically -- depending on the project, there's a
21 two-month process right there to get that EA
22 finished.

23 And now once the environmental
24 assessment's finished, the public's second
25 opportunity to comment on this project comes along,

1 and this is a public hearing. And like I said,
2 we'll hold the public hearing somewhere in the city
3 here, in a bigger -- a bigger venue than this,
4 obviously. And the public hearing will be convened
5 by an administrative law judge. And so it wouldn't
6 be myself. It's a law judge. And you would be
7 supplying comments to an administrative law judge,
8 who will then write a report and, in this case,
9 findings of fact, conclusions, and a recommendation.
10 And that will also go to the Commission, and they
11 will consider that information.

12 So you will have another opportunity to
13 comment on alternative routes that you hadn't seen
14 or items that were maybe missing or incorrect in the
15 EA or items that you thought should be discussed a
16 little better or just the project in general. And
17 so that would be the public hearing.

18 And there's a comment period after that
19 which is open ten days, but we usually go a couple
20 weeks for that as well.

21 Finally, we schedule the PUC permit
22 decision on the application and the environmental
23 assessment. And that's when the PUC would actually
24 make a decision on the permit.

25 And this is just -- that was the

1 flowchart. These are -- these are the dates.
2 June 30th, application was accepted. This is when
3 the process starts, August 25th. Because of the
4 task force, I think this is going to go over the six
5 months, because the task force always adds a little
6 in there. The state shutdown added a little time in
7 there for this project because, as you can see, it
8 was submitted before the state shut down. So right
9 now I'm looking at February -- well, I should say,
10 the scoping decision document will be available
11 November 23rd and the environmental assessment in
12 February 2012. And I imagine -- to be determined,
13 but probably March and then May. I would -- I would
14 look at May as an estimate on when it would make its
15 way to the Commission, April or May. So...

16 And this is all in the packet. And I
17 apologize for the crummy map. But we're -- this is
18 a long, extended project, and there are maps set up
19 along the room if you'd like to see. There's also
20 very nice maps on our website if you go to that.
21 You can pull up maps from the route permit
22 application that are very detailed, that zoom in and
23 get you some really good detail. So you can take a
24 look at that.

25 But as you can see, the project, as

1 proposed by the Applicants, would start at the
2 Medina substation, the existing substation, run to
3 the existing Hollydale substation. And this is all
4 a replacement of an existing 69-kilovolt
5 transmission line. And it would run -- follow that
6 transmission line all the way up to here
7 (indicating), and it would be replaced and upgraded
8 to 115 kV. And then a new segment of line, 0.8
9 miles, would run down to a new proposed substation,
10 that orange spot right there (indicating). And
11 that's what the Applicants have proposed in their
12 route permit application.

13 And so my job tonight and throughout this
14 process is to get information from the community
15 about alternatives, issues with the route, issues we
16 should look at that we might not know about. It's
17 always important to get your comments because there
18 are things that on the ground we don't know about,
19 and so we can look at those and include those in the
20 environmental assessment.

21 So the proposed Hollydale project, as you
22 know, is in the cities of Plymouth and Medina. It's
23 to replace and rebuild approximately 8 miles of
24 existing 69-kilovolt transmission line to 115,
25 construct 0.8 miles of new 115 kV transmission line,

1 and construct a new 115 kV substation. There's also
2 going to be modifications to the Hollydale and the
3 Medina substations as well.

4 The Applicants are requesting a 200- to
5 400-foot route width in which the 75-foot
6 right-of-way would be located. I'd just like to
7 explain this a little better. Folks sometimes get
8 this confused. Applicants ask for a route width.
9 And, per statute, Applicants can ask for a route
10 width of 1.25 miles in width. And in this case
11 it's -- you know, depending where you are along the
12 route, it's between 200 and 400 feet. Now, that's
13 not what the Applicant is going to be taking and
14 using for the transmission line itself. That's just
15 the Applicant asked for a little extra room,
16 typically, to put within that 200 feet that
17 70-foot -- 75-foot right-of-way that's needed for
18 the transmission line. And they asked for a little
19 more so, just in case, they have wiggle room to, you
20 know, go back and forth to avoid things or place
21 them in better positions or avoid, you know, trees,
22 what -- large trees. It gives them flexibility. So
23 all the applicant will need is 75 feet, is what the
24 easement would be. So there's a right-of-way and
25 there's a route. It gets a little confusing. Some

1 people see that big line on there and think, well,
2 they're going to take all that, but all they get is
3 75 feet.

4 And also as part of the Applicants' plan
5 to construct the rebuild portion of the 115 kV
6 transmission line, they plan to utilize the existing
7 69 kV right-of-way, which is between 70 to 100 feet,
8 where feasible. So, you know, they would pull out
9 the 69 kV line and put the new line exact -- you
10 know, pretty much exactly where it is, depending on
11 topography, engineering, and so forth. But that's
12 my understanding of what the Applicants have
13 proposed, and it's in the route permit application
14 as well.

15 So, project information. In the back you
16 can grab one of these handouts, as I said. It's the
17 Hollydale 115 kV project. The docket number -- the
18 docket number is E002/TL-11-152. This is our site,
19 the Energy Facility Permitting website. We just put
20 the main documents up on this site and it's a little
21 more user-friendly, if you want to go to the Energy
22 Facility Permitting website.

23 There's also an eDockets website, and
24 this is where pretty much all the information is
25 posted for the record, you know, correspondence

1 between the Applicant and the PUC, the environmental
2 assessment that will go on the same thing, all the
3 notices, all the -- just the entire record is
4 typically posted on the eDockets, and it's just a
5 list of items by date.

6 So this one's a little more
7 user-friendly. This has all the information on the
8 project as it's, you know, posted throughout this
9 whole process.

10 And you can find that on both -- the
11 notice for tonight's meeting, you can find those two
12 websites. You can grab my card, give me a call, I
13 can direct you to the website. There's also -- I
14 think the packet that I handed out tonight, I
15 believe, also has this information.

16 And I really encourage you to sign up
17 tonight for the mailing list. Sometimes it gets
18 confusing with these projects because the Applicants
19 will go out and early, much earlier, before they
20 submit a route permit application and they have
21 their own mailing list, and people will sign up for
22 that thinking, well, I'm on a mailing list. The
23 State, once the application is submitted to the
24 State, we start our own mailing list, too. We also
25 ask the Applicants to help us, you know, grab those

1 folks. But it's always nice to have you sign up so
2 we can start compiling a list, which I have. Many
3 people have already signed up. I believe 180 so
4 far.

5 You could go online, sign yourself up to
6 this link right here (indicating), or contact me by
7 phone, e-mail, fax, or mail your information to me.
8 I'd be happy to sign you up. I've signed plenty of
9 folks up already through e-mail or on the phone. So
10 I really encourage you to do that, because you'll
11 receive notices of when the scoping decision
12 document's out, when the EA's available, when the
13 public hearing's going to happen, when the
14 Commission's going to make a decision, information
15 on what the ATF -- their report may have come out
16 with. So I really urge you to -- if you're
17 interested in the project, to sign up for those
18 mailing lists.

19 And, again, the most important reason
20 we're here tonight is to receive comments. Either
21 tonight or by November 9th is the deadline. And you
22 can direct your comments to either myself, Scott Ek,
23 or Raymond Kirsch, and you can send it via e-mail,
24 mail -- I thought I had my fax number. My fax
25 number's on the other -- we have one fax number, so

1 it's on the last slide. You can also fax it in.
2 And we also have an online comment page where you
3 can go to this link and you fill in -- fill form
4 boxes that direct you what to fill in, your
5 information, and we can get those comments.

6 So that's the -- that's the most
7 important thing tonight, is to get your comments,
8 and that's the reason we're here. I think it's the
9 most important reason we're here, is so I can get
10 that information and put together a good
11 environmental assessment for this project.

12 So for folks -- after I'm all finished
13 here, Xcel is going to come up and explain the
14 project, and then we'll have -- we'll open it up to
15 questions and comments. Again, there are comment
16 forms, blank ones, in the back. If you don't feel
17 comfortable coming up to the podium and verbally
18 speaking, that's fine. A comment form is fine or an
19 e-mail. And also, once you come up here, can you
20 please -- I'll remind you again, but if you could
21 please state your name and spell it for Angie so we
22 can have it on the record. And another thing that
23 sometimes happens, and I'm not going to discourage
24 it, but folks will have a letter of what they'd like
25 to read, and I'm not going to discourage you from

1 doing that. However, if you don't feel like reading
2 it, you can simply hand that to either Ray or
3 myself. And if you want a copy back, let us know
4 and we'd be happy to send you a copy back in the
5 mail. But it is not necessary to sit up and read
6 and have Angie record your whole letter. You can
7 just simply give us your letter. But I won't
8 discourage that at all. Just want to let you know
9 about that.

10 And I thank you for coming.

11 So we'll let Xcel explain a little bit
12 about the project.

13 (Applause.)

14 MR. SEDARSKI: There's a couple more
15 chairs up here. Okay.

16 My name is Joe Sedarski. I'm with Xcel
17 Energy. I'm a senior permitting analyst and
18 responsible for the route permit application that
19 many of you have probably already seen. With me is
20 Marsha Parlow with Great River Energy. She's my
21 equivalent at Great River Energy. So we're
22 responsible for compiling the route permit
23 application.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you speak up,
25 please?

1 MR. SEDARSKI: Sorry. Is that better?

2 MEMBERS OF THE AUDIENCE: Yes.

3 MR. SEDARSKI: I've got a cold. I'm
4 sorry.

5 We wanted to, first off, thank you for
6 coming and coming up, giving us your comments. We
7 wanted to go through a few more details about the
8 project to add just a little bit more to what Scott
9 had to say, and we appreciate his words. We're also
10 here to answer any questions that may come up, if we
11 can do that. And as to that, we've got our Xcel
12 team here, Gene Kotz is here. He's our project
13 manager. He's in the back. Our line designer,
14 Ed -- sorry, Jeff Gutzmann is here, again in the
15 back. Ed Smith, our substation engineer, is here as
16 well. And Chris Rogers, our land agent, and some
17 other Xcel folks as well.

18 MS. PARLOW: For Great River Energy, we
19 have our project manager, Steve Lawler is here
20 tonight. And also for our right-of-way we have
21 Peter Schaub.

22 MR. SEDARSKI: So thanks again for coming
23 and providing comments. We're going to be pretty
24 brief and -- I'm not going to speed through this,
25 but we want to give you a little bit more

1 information about what Scott already introduced for
2 the project that we're proposing. But really we're
3 here to have you speak and give us your comments and
4 questions. So, without further ado, okay.

5 So, as Scott mentioned, we filed our
6 joint route -- joint route permit application, Xcel
7 Energy and GRE, on June 30th. It was accepted as
8 complete August 25th. An ATF was formed, which met,
9 as Scott mentioned, on October 18th. They'll meet
10 again on November 1st.

11 So the project includes this 8 miles of
12 existing 69 kV line that would be rebuilt to 115.
13 So it's an existing Great River Energy line that
14 extends from the Medina substation to Xcel Energy's
15 Hollydale substation, and then up to a new proposed
16 Pomerleau Lake substation that hasn't been built
17 yet, but it's -- we're proposing to build it along
18 494 and Schmidt Lake Road. We have posters up
19 around the room. They're all the same. It's just
20 basically a copy of the route with route segment
21 alternatives A through D.

22 Okay. We are proposing two different
23 substation sites. One is located north across the
24 tracks from Providence Academy, roughly, and the
25 other, again, as I mentioned, is along 494 and

1 Schmidt Lake Road. For this particular transmission
2 substation, we need a fairly large footprint. And
3 in Plymouth it's rather hard to find land. So those
4 two sites relative to the proposed rebuild line made
5 sense to us, and particularly along 494 where
6 there's already a utility corridor and some open
7 land.

8 Just another picture of the route permit,
9 or proposed routes.

10 Okay. This slide just provides a little
11 bit more detail as to sort of what we're proposing
12 to do. I can make this available as well. We'll
13 probably post it on our website, probably GRE's
14 website as well. So if you like, I can provide
15 this. But, again, it's rebuilding the existing line
16 to 115. And, essentially, as Scott has mentioned,
17 we propose to do this in a pole for pole -- roughly
18 a pole-for-pole location. So the structures that
19 are there now would be roughly in the same location
20 as the new poles would be. We may use the existing
21 poles and conductors to help build the new line.

22 Another thing I should add, we do not
23 have a design detail prepared yet. We don't do
24 final engineering on this project -- on this type of
25 project until we get a little bit further into the

1 permitting process, when we kind of know where the
2 route's going to be and we can actually spend some
3 resources to do that.

4 Let's see. So we're going to construct
5 the 115 on new right-of-way, and that would be to
6 the portions that connect up to the substation, what
7 we're calling preferred site A. GRE's existing line
8 now comes along the tracks, and it ends at WH-PB.
9 WH-PB, there's -- it's not even a connection point.
10 I guess it's disconnected. But that's where it
11 ends. And from that point we would need to get our
12 new line into this new substation.

13 With this, then, there would be
14 modifications at the Hollydale substation to
15 accommodate the new voltage and then the Medina
16 substation, as well as building this new substation,
17 the 115 substation. So the new Pomerleau Lake
18 substation would be connected as well to GRE's 115
19 line.

20 Okay. I'm not going to read all this,
21 but again, more details just on the proposed
22 substation. This would be the Pomerleau Lake, and
23 essentially it's a transmission substation. It
24 initially won't have any distribution capabilities.
25 The project, though, is really related to the

1 Hollydale substation, which is in the center of the
2 project, and it's a distribution need. And the line
3 would help serve distribution capacity of that line.

4 Yes, ma'am.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you please
6 repeat the locations of where these would be? You
7 mentioned Schmidt Lake Road and something else.

8 MR. SEDARSKI: Pomerleau Lake is --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you repeat the
10 question so we can all know what she said, please?

11 MR. SEDARSKI: The question was can I
12 repeat where the proposed locations are for the
13 substation site and the existing substations; is
14 that --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And where the
16 lines would go.

17 MR. SEDARSKI: And where the lines would
18 go. So we're proposing to build this new Pomerleau
19 Lake substation on the west side of Interstate 494
20 and south of Schmidt Lake Road. So that's this pink
21 box in this corner (indicating). Right now it's
22 currently vacant land. Plymouth owns it and they're
23 using it for, I think, some utility materials. So
24 that's what we propose is the new Pomerleau Lake
25 substation.

1 It also abuts along some existing
2 transmission -- transmission facilities, which would
3 work nicely for that particular substation and what
4 we need to do. So we could connect to GRE's
5 existing line, we could in the future connect to
6 345-kilovolt line that's there as well, as well as
7 position us for other projects, transmission
8 projects in the future. So the location, for us,
9 makes a lot of sense for this project but then also
10 looking forward.

11 The Hollydale substation is located off
12 of 101, and I guess it's just west, then, of 55. Do
13 you know where the water tower is? It's right next
14 to that. And then the Medina substation is out here
15 off of 24 and Medina Road -- is that --

16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Willow.

17 MR. SEDARSKI: Willow? Thank you.

18 Willow. Yes, ma'am.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you just
20 give everybody an idea of how big a substation is?
21 Are we talking the size of a house? Are we talking
22 the size of a small garage? Are we talking about
23 nothing visible? I think that's what people want to
24 know, is what is it that we're going to be looking
25 at? I mean, one of the first things.

1 MR. SEDARSKI: Okay. The question is
2 what is this new Pomerleau Lake substation going to
3 look like, size-wise. The footprint of this
4 particular substation is eight to ten acres. In our
5 route permit application we have a schematic that
6 just shows the footprint relative to the property
7 that we're looking at. It doesn't give a lot of
8 other detail besides that, but it's basically a
9 linear substation site because of where it's located
10 along the freeway. And in that particular location,
11 this is -- there is wetland on the north end and
12 then there's a wetland further south, but there's
13 also sort of an upland area that's not wet, that is
14 at this elevation. So potentially -- sorry about
15 that. Potentially you would see it from 494, you
16 might see it from Schmidt Lake Road, and there may
17 be some visual impacts from the other, west side as
18 well.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it a building?

20 MR. EK: Folks -- sorry to interrupt,
21 Joe. If we could keep questions until the question
22 and comment period -- the question and comment
23 period.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could we get a new
25 microphone?

1 MR. EK: Okay. Here we go -- for the
2 question and comment period at the end so we can get
3 that all into -- could we -- is this one working
4 now? Yes. All right.

5 If we could have the question and
6 comments just till the end so we can have them all,
7 and we'll answer -- we'll try to answer every
8 question you have. If you could just let Joe get
9 through the presentation, we'll answer any question
10 that comes up and any comment you have, so Angie can
11 get that and it's laid out more in the final
12 transcript of people's questions and answers and
13 questions and answers. And it's a little easier to
14 look through. And it's also easier for Angie, too,
15 instead of people shouting out from the crowd, she
16 cannot always hear exactly what you're saying, plus
17 she doesn't get your name for that. So, thank you.

18 MR. SEDARSKI: Thanks for the question,
19 and we're available to answer other questions as
20 well. But just to finish this idea up, the Medina
21 substation modifications would include one
22 additional new transformer within the footprint of
23 their property. We would bump up their fence line a
24 little bit. And if you were to drive by there, it
25 wouldn't really look much different except there

1 would be another transformer there, even though you
2 don't know what it looks like. But the Hollydale
3 substation would be adding another transformer as
4 well, so -- but within the same footprint.

5 So those two substations aren't going to
6 drastically -- won't look different, except for
7 another substation, and we can talk more about that.

8 Okay. So the need for the project is
9 really to address the electric distribution concerns
10 we have to provide increased distribution capacity
11 and avoid feeder circuit overloads, mainly out of
12 this Hollydale substation.

13 But there's also some other benefits with
14 the transmission system. It would help provide for
15 more reliable electric transmission, again, through
16 connecting with GRE's line in this project and also
17 some future projects. But for this project it's
18 both electric distribution need and transmission,
19 mainly distribution.

20 So the routing criteria that we use is
21 laid out here (indicating). We want to maximize use
22 of existing transmission line alignments and
23 rights-of-way. That's why we are proposing to
24 re-use GRE's existing line. That, by the way, is
25 under rule and statute as well as --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Talk louder.

2 MR. SEDARSKI: I'm sorry. Is that
3 better?

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Please.

5 MR. SEDARSKI: Okay. So minimize land
6 use impacts by routing along existing utility routes
7 and roads to reduce the amount of new right-of-way
8 required, minimize new right-of-way by locating
9 proposed transmission facilities near existing
10 transmission and transportation alignments, minimize
11 impacts to residences, and minimize impacts to
12 environmental and sensitive resources.

13 All that's in our route permit
14 application that we're required to look at when we
15 assess our proposed route as well as the route --
16 the second alternative that we assessed and then
17 projected in our application.

18 Structure design summary. These are
19 just -- it's a listing of the structures that we're
20 proposing to use. I'm just going to show you some
21 figures of this. This is in our application as
22 well. But basically the structures we propose to
23 use are 70 to 90 feet high, we're proposing
24 galvanized steel or weathering steel poles. The
25 galvanized steel is a lighter metal. The idea is

1 that it would meld into a blue sky. And the
2 weathering steel looks like a rusty pole. It's
3 supposed to meld right into more of a forested area.

4 The reason why we're proposing steel is
5 that -- mainly for reliability and duration.
6 There's been comments about using wood poles. We
7 could use that, but with steel poles we would be out
8 there, the poles would last 30, 40 years and we
9 wouldn't have to be back there to fix them. Also,
10 with wood poles we may have to add guy wires.

11 Okay. So the structures look like this
12 (indicating). Again, this is in our route permit
13 application. This is a typical single-circuit 115
14 single-pole braced steel structure. Again, 70 to
15 90 feet high. The typical right-of-way for that is
16 36 and a half feet -- sorry, 37 and a half feet, so
17 that's 75 foot wide normally.

18 There's a 70- to 100-foot right-of-way
19 easement now that exists for the GRE line. We can
20 build our 115 lines within the 70-foot right-of-way,
21 so we can still do that. Our typical is 75 feet,
22 but we can still build it within 70 feet.

23 Here's another rendition of a 115
24 single-circuit, single pole, horizontal posts, so
25 all the posts and conductors are hung on one side.

1 We might do that on a corner area. We might do that
2 in an area where we want to put the conductors or
3 the wires away from a certain feature like a
4 residence or a --

5 And here's a single-circuit 115
6 horizontal pole structure. So instead of hanging on
7 one side, they're hanging two on one side and one on
8 another side.

9 Lastly is -- well, not lastly. Next to
10 last is a 115 single-circuit, single-pole, cross-arm
11 Y frame. We might use this for when we span across
12 longer areas with wetland or if we need to
13 essentially turn the conductors, the wires
14 horizontally as opposed to vertically. Right now
15 those wires are all in one plane.

16 Then, lastly, there's a 115
17 double-circuit. So this is a -- there's two
18 circuits on here, so you can see conductor arms on
19 both sides. That double-circuit would likely be up
20 near where we would need to tie into the new
21 substation. The double-circuit would pick up GRE's
22 line with ours, so we would utilize basically one
23 corridor for that and then bring it into the new
24 substation. So it would not extend for the whole
25 route. It would be just that section connecting to

1 the new substation.

2 Okay. Scott talked about the route width
3 and did a nice job of that. We're proposing a
4 200-foot-wide route width that would be in areas
5 where there's existing easements. So we're saying
6 we don't need to go beyond that, but there might be
7 areas where we need to tweak things to get the
8 70-foot -- 75-foot easement to fit. For this .8
9 mile of new transmission, we typically like a little
10 bit more so we have more room to be able to site
11 that pole, so we're asking for 400 feet of route
12 width. At the end of the day for the new line, it
13 would be a 75-foot right-of-way, but for the
14 existing it would be whatever exists. So if it's
15 70-foot easement, that's what we would use.

16 Okay. Project costs. \$8 million for the
17 115 line, \$8 million for -- these are estimates;
18 \$8 million for the new Pomerleau Lake substation;
19 modifications to Medina substation, 2.6;
20 modifications to the Hollydale substation, 4.5; for
21 a total estimate of 23.1 million.

22 Project schedule, Scott went through. We
23 filed June 30th. Let's see. Route permit process
24 complete, we put fourth quarter 2011 -- that's not
25 going to happen -- first quarter 2012. Probably

1 more like end of first or the early part of the
2 second, as Scott mentioned. Begin line and
3 substation construction, 2012, second quarter 2012.
4 That would be after the route permit. We can't do
5 any work until we get the permit and land rights.
6 And then we would complete it third quarter 2013.

7 The contacts are Marsha and myself. I'll
8 have this posted on our website. And if anybody has
9 any questions today or afterwards, you can contact
10 any one of us.

11 Thanks again for coming.

12 MR. EK: All right. So why don't we --
13 we'll open it up now to questions and comments. And
14 let me grab the sheet here. I don't know how well
15 these got in order. Quite a few folks here. That's
16 great.

17 Forgive me if I get the names wrong. I
18 believe John Peters; is that correct? If you could
19 please come up to the front here and state and spell
20 your name and provide your comment or question.

21 MR. PETERS: My name's John Peters,
22 J-O-H-N. Peters, P-E-T-E-R-S.

23 Just a question. Is the \$23 million
24 estimate, is that based on the proposed route or
25 does that include cost estimates for the alternative

1 route?

2 MR. SEDARSKI: That's the proposed route
3 estimated cost. And it's at a point in time, so
4 it's an early estimate.

5 MR. EK: Thank you, Mr. Peters.

6 Either Paul or Diane Warnee (phonetic),
7 Warner (phonetic). Paul or Diane, W-A-A --

8 MR. WAARANIEMI: I'm here.

9 MR. EK: Okay. Sorry.

10 MR. WAARANIEMI: Paul Waaraniemi,
11 W-A-A-R-A-N-I-E-M-I. 4820 Orchid Lane.

12 We live where the walking trail is behind
13 our house, and behind that is another row of houses
14 that face Minnesota Lane. And that is a very tight
15 corridor where the current power line runs. Some of
16 the houses and decks are very, very close to the
17 path where it runs. And of course north of us is
18 Providence Academy, and you're running right over
19 their soccer and recess field there. And of course
20 south of us, I don't know all the routes, but I know
21 it goes right through a townhouse development there.

22 And I also noticed in your slides the
23 pictures of the power line's proposed different
24 designs are shown in most favorable light. And I'd
25 like you to tell us where we can see examples of

1 those power lines in urban settings, not out in the
2 country where you don't have any reference points
3 like in the pictures.

4 And I also wonder if people outside of
5 the exact corridor have received mailings, because
6 with those higher power lines, people who are a
7 block away are going to see them and potentially be
8 in the electromagnetic field's drift line. And
9 maybe you could give us some examples of where we
10 can see exactly what we're going to see in our back
11 yards should this go through.

12 MR. SEDARSKI: Thanks for your question
13 and comment. We had provided some responses early
14 on, and I believe both of them were filed on the
15 docket as the other examples of 115-kilovolt lines
16 in residential areas. So I would refer you to that.

17 Off the top of my head, Champlin -- I can
18 just tell you areas, but Champlin, St. Louis Park,
19 there's any number of different neighborhoods within
20 the Twin Cities area. The response was to a
21 question that we had earlier on, and I'd be happy to
22 share that again with you. Again, it's filed to the
23 docket, and it provides locations where there's
24 other 115 kV lines that you can look at within a
25 residential area that is very similar to this

1 situation.

2 Let's see. Your second question --

3 (Discussion in the crowd.)

4 MR. EK: All right. With regard to -- I
5 think somebody asked me -- posed this question in an
6 e-mail about transmission lines or similar looking
7 structures within the Twin Cities. And just to give
8 you an idea, I know I live right by a 115 in
9 St. Anthony that runs down a -- right along a house
10 line, right in front of a school, similar towers,
11 the 115. That's one I -- one off the top of my
12 head. I know there's numerous transmission lines on
13 the west side. They're bigger lines, 345 with those
14 lattice structures that actually do swing over whole
15 neighborhoods. But I think there is even one --
16 what is it, Lewis Lane, not too far from here, south
17 of here. Is there a transmission line that runs
18 along Lewis Lane even, possibly? And so I know
19 there's many examples. And we can -- we can take a
20 look at that.

21 And anybody who has questions about that,
22 they can call me and I can try to get information
23 out to you that would actually give you an idea of
24 those communities that do have structures that are
25 being proposed similar to this.

1 With the EMF, it's not a matter of --
2 it's not -- I guess we should get into this. It's
3 not drift. EMF essentially is a term for electric
4 magnetic fields. Now, EMF should be -- it should be
5 separated into electric fields and magnetic fields.

6 Typically, electric fields they've found
7 to be harmless. They're very -- they're very low
8 when it comes to these lines. Electric fields
9 aren't the fields that people have been studying for
10 the past 30 years when it comes to transmission
11 lines or home wiring or cell phones or whatnot.

12 It's the magnetic field. And now there
13 is no drift from a magnetic field. What it is is a
14 magnetic field emanates from the conductors
15 themselves, which are up pretty high. I don't know
16 in this case how high they'll be off the ground --
17 or the lowest one will be off the ground, I should
18 say. I believe more than 14 to 18 feet, but that's
19 just an estimate.

20 What happens is, and this is in the route
21 permit application, is the magnetic fields are
22 highest right below the transmission line, below
23 that conductor or the center line, usually, give it
24 a couple feet this way or that way. And so you take
25 the top of that transmission line and the farther

1 back in the 1970s looking at this. So there's
2 30 decades (sic) worth of material, studies that
3 have been done on magnetic fields. And they have
4 not come up with a biological mechanism that's going
5 to -- when it comes to these transmission lines. I
6 should say these transmission lines fall into the --
7 what is it, the ELF --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Extremely low
9 field.

10 MR. EK: The extremely low field,
11 electric magnetic field. That means they are at the
12 bottom of the electromagnetic spectrum. You have
13 television, you have cell phones, you have x-rays,
14 you have gamma rays. These are extremely low
15 fields. And they have been doing plenty of
16 research. It's been -- well, since the 1970s we've
17 got 40 decades (sic) worth of research.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Decades? 40 years
19 or decades?

20 MR. EK: I'm sorry, four decades. Yes,
21 you're right. I'd be dead by now. So -- but no,
22 but that's something that is something that's of
23 concern to folks in all of these dockets. And we
24 don't take it lightly. We are always looking for
25 new information and -- to enhance the environmental

1 assessment and to let folks know, you know, exactly
2 what a transmission line can produce, what they
3 should or should not be worried about.

4 And I know there's a perception out
5 there, but I can say that we have -- you know, I
6 have pored over articles on this, and they just have
7 not found a conclusive connection between the
8 magnetic fields because the energy is not large
9 enough to break a chemical or molecular bond in your
10 cells or create DNA mutations. And so I just wanted
11 to get into that. And we will be looking at that in
12 the environmental assessment, but I wanted people to
13 know that it's not a -- it doesn't float with the
14 wind or what -- it just comes out the line and
15 emanates from the line. And the farther you get
16 away from the line, the quicker it drops.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just have a
18 quick procedural question. Is there any advantage
19 to giving your comments here, in person, as opposed
20 to submitting them online or via e-mail?

21 MR. EK: Not at all. I told folks in the
22 beginning, you know, if you'd like to hand your
23 comments to Ray or bring them up front and put them
24 right on the table here, it's -- to be honest with
25 you, it's easier for us if we have your comments in

1 writing because we can go and outline the items that
2 we find.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

4 MR. EK: It's all up to you.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Except more people
7 will hear your comment. I disagree.

8 MR. EK: Pardon me?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just said that
10 one of the advantages to making comments is so that
11 all the people in this forum also hear findings that
12 people may have done research on.

13 MR. EK: Oh, no, that's fine. No, I
14 don't discourage that at all. So, no, I would love
15 people to come up to the front. That's -- no, I'm
16 not discouraging you.

17 So who do we have next? Paul Hoekstra.

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you maybe call
19 the next person while you're calling that person so
20 that they can sort of come up at the same time, make
21 it go a little faster?

22 MR. EK: I can do that. Up next is
23 William Ingham.

24 MR. HOEKSTRA: Paul Hoekstra,
25 H-O-E-K-S-T-R-A. I live at 5121 Yuma Lane North in

1 the Fields of Nanterre.

2 We got information about the -- I guess
3 it's an alternative route to put the high-tension
4 lines to the north of the tracks, north of our
5 subdivision. And I didn't understand really that it
6 was proposed replacement of the existing 69 kV line.
7 And that that's the proposal, but ours is just an
8 alternative. So I just want to say that as an
9 alternative I wanted to be against that particular
10 alternative of putting it north of the existing
11 Canadian Pacific line. Because when I bought my
12 property, one of the reasons I purchased the
13 property was the sun sets to the west, which is over
14 a natural area, and there's no existing lines there
15 now. So I was against.

16 And I have already submitted written
17 information about this against the proposed
18 alternative. So I'm just suggesting that you go
19 with the current proposed replacement.

20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thanks, Paul.

21 MR. EK: Just to clarify, Paul, that was
22 on alternative B, segment B, the green one?

23 MR. HOEKSTRA: I guess.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yes.

25 MR. EK: Okay. Thank you.

1 Mr. Ingham.

2 MR. INGHAM: My name is --

3 MR. EK: I'm sorry, next up after
4 Mr. Ingham is Doug Haugen.

5 MR. INGHAM: My name is William Ingham.
6 I live at 16212 50th Avenue North in Plymouth. And
7 I'm also on the board of directors for Fields of
8 Nanterre Homeowners Association and next board --
9 board president. We -- our neighborhood is on the
10 northwest corner of Schmidt Lake Road and Vicksburg.
11 And it's a fairly new development. Within the last
12 five, ten years the homes were built. The power
13 lines were not there when they were built. So
14 myself and the association, at least the board, is
15 opposed to alternate route B. Again, opposed to
16 alternate route B for the fact that the home -- the
17 lines were not there when the homes were built,
18 they're not there now, and we ask that they not be
19 placed there.

20 So, again, opposed to alternate route B.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. EK: Thank you, Mr. Ingham.

23 Mr. Haugen. And up next after Mr. Haugen
24 is Jim Zook.

25 MR. HAUGEN: Hi. I'm Doug Haugen. I

1 live at 15100 42nd Place North in Plymouth.

2 H-A-U-G-E-N.

3 And it was interesting to hear about some
4 of the comments about EMF health. There's two
5 documents that are on display over here provided by,
6 I assume, either Xcel or the Public Utilities
7 Commission. And it does mention that if you have a
8 pacemaker you should probably know specifics about
9 what type of pacemaker's implanted into your loved
10 one before you have them there. I guess I would not
11 invite my own mother who wears a pacemaker until I
12 know from her doctor what would be acceptable. My
13 house sits 45 feet from the center line of that
14 pole.

15 I'm also a real estate agent, and I've
16 done statistics, studies by universities that are
17 available through the National Association of
18 Realtors website. Homes drop in value 10 to
19 40 percent if they are adjacent to a power line.
20 And of course everyone in the neighborhood would
21 suffer also because there is comparable homes that
22 are brought into effect when your home's placed up
23 for market if you're a block away or six blocks
24 away.

25 Of course, you know, when you sell your

1 home, the buyer's going to have to have your house
2 appraised; and if it does not appraise, then the
3 deal does not go through.

4 And so any comments to that?

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What percentage
6 did you say?

7 MR. HAUGEN: 10 to 40 percent.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Question.

9 MR. EK: Well --

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Was the power line
11 there when you bought your home?

12 MR. HAUGEN: Yes, in fact, the easement,
13 it's a rural electric line, 59 kilovolts. Or you
14 can address the technical part.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you in real
16 estate then?

17 MR. HAUGEN: Pardon me?

18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Were you in real
19 estate then?

20 MR. HAUGEN: No, that was in 1968 that
21 that was approved. There were no homes there then.
22 I bought the home four years ago.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. But you
24 were there -- was the power line there when you
25 bought your home?

1 MR. HAUGEN: The power line was there.
2 69. Smaller, wood pole, much shorter.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it was there?

4 MR. HAUGEN: It was there.

5 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There was an
6 electrical easement there?

7 MR. HAUGEN: Yeah, there was. And it was
8 scoped out pretty well on the easement.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

10 MR. HAUGEN: Yeah, I looked at the
11 Hennepin County website for what it was approved
12 for.

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it wasn't a
15 high voltage --

16 MR. EK: Just a -- we can't have -- we
17 can't have folks from the crowd because Angie's not
18 going to be able to get the comments down. So, you
19 know, shouting out from the crowd isn't going to
20 help. If you want to come up, please come up and
21 speak into the mic and we can do that. I'm just
22 concerned that, you know, with people shouting out,
23 Angie's not going to get this, you know, on the
24 record for this meeting. And it's important to have
25 that information.

1 MR. HAUGEN: Some of those same studies
2 also showed that being adjacent to one of the power
3 lines will add six months of market time -- you
4 know, this is a high-voltage power line -- will add
5 six months of market time on to selling your home.

6 MR. EK: And just to answer your
7 question, those are two items that we do look at,
8 and of course we will now since you've commented on
9 them. But we do look at property values, and we do
10 look at implantable devices, be it a pacemaker, an
11 insulin pump, whatnot. And what these --

12 MR. HAUGEN: Any others?

13 MR. EK: -- transmission -- oh, yeah,
14 yeah. You know, there's a whole -- there's a whole
15 list of implantable devices now, unipolar, bipolar,
16 some of the older ones, newer ones.

17 MR. HAUGEN: So like the things that
18 Medtronic makes for pain relief and things like
19 that?

20 MR. EK: Yeah, that's an implant. That's
21 considered an implant. So we just essentially look
22 at implants. And that would include -- you know,
23 you actually put that on the record so we can
24 include that in the environmental assessment as
25 something to look at, so.

1 MR. HAUGEN: Thank you, Scott.

2 MR. EK: Thank you.

3 Up after Mr. Zook is John Sullivan.

4 MR. ZOOK: My name is Jim Zook. It's Z,
5 as in zebra, 0-0-K. I live at 16415 39th Avenue
6 North in Plymouth.

7 We live in a property that is very close
8 to the existing lines, and I want to say that I'm
9 very concerned that, with all the proposed routes
10 and the alternate routes, that we're being pitted
11 neighbor against neighbor as to where it will go. I
12 don't want to see us go down that path. And I would
13 suggest that probably everyone in this room, except
14 perhaps the power company representatives, would be
15 in favor of a line that went down I-494 and then
16 along Highway 55.

17 I understand that we bought a house that
18 is close to the existing power line. So those are
19 low-voltage power lines. They were built when our
20 area was a cornfield. That is no longer the case.
21 It's now running directly through our neighborhood,
22 directly through our back yards where the kids play,
23 where we live and work every day. I don't want to
24 see that go on.

25 We are making -- you know, Scott very

1 clearly called out in the beginning that we're
2 making the transition now from what's considered a
3 low-voltage line to high voltage. I did not buy a
4 property next to a high-voltage property line --
5 power line. I don't want to own property next to
6 it. So I don't want to see that change happen.

7 I am also somewhat concerned about where
8 this is heading the future. Granted, those of us in
9 this room may or may not be living here 15 or
10 20 years in the future, but the power needs west of
11 us are just going to grow. So I've lived in that
12 house for 14 years, and now we need to double the
13 power that's running through those lines. 14,
14 20 years from now, that's going to happen again.
15 And they've already got the infrastructure in place
16 at this point to go to 345.

17 So I think this is our opportunity to
18 say, okay, these are cornfields, let's reroute them
19 now, get them along the major highways where they
20 belong. We look at most of the western suburbs and
21 that's --

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. ZOOK: I also wanted to say -- and I
24 appreciate the Realtor view of the property values,
25 because I definitely believe this is impacting our

1 property values. There's no way that when you're in
2 a neighborhood with homes the prices that ours are
3 or have been worth, anyway, that people aren't
4 looking at those values at this point. I mean, any
5 buyer that looks at my home is going to say, let's
6 see, is it closer to a power line with high voltage
7 or is it closer to a golf course. Probably makes a
8 difference in their views. So I don't want to
9 believe that that's not going to affect us.

10 I also want to point out that, for the
11 most part, most of this power is going to the west
12 of us. There's a lot of distribution that's coming
13 out of our areas; but for many of us, I feel like
14 we're being made to sacrifice lands to get power out
15 further west. I have nothing against those people
16 getting power, but I think we need to find the right
17 ways to get it to them. I'm not willing to
18 submit -- to suffer my property value's loss to find
19 a way to get them power when there are other routes
20 that we can be considering. So I don't want to be
21 that sacrificed lamb.

22 I'm also not willing to sacrifice my
23 family's health. And I understand that there have
24 been studies done. We can go on and argue about
25 those. I don't know who funded those studies, but I

1 am concerned about EMF. I also feel like they don't
2 affect everybody equally. I can tell you for one
3 that my wife is EMF-sensitive. I know that for a
4 fact. I can see her devices that she uses in her
5 life every day. And if I end up having to sell my
6 house and move somewhere else because it becomes
7 unlivable for her, you can be sure I will be holding
8 the PUC, the State, and Xcel accountable for that.

9 I'm also concerned -- and I did not hear
10 this, so I got this information secondhand. But I
11 understand that the City of Plymouth yesterday went
12 through a resolution saying that their first choice
13 was to go down I-494 and along Highway 55, which I
14 appreciate, and then punted and said, but if that's
15 not possible, keep it along the proposed route.
16 That's not support.

17 MS. JOHNSON: That's not what we said.
18 No.

19 MR. ZOOK: Okay, good. Because I don't
20 want to see it go that way, because I really think
21 this is affecting the City of Plymouth. City
22 revenues are going to drop. We see the tax in
23 property values and taxes. The City is going to see
24 it in the tax values because they're not going to
25 have the revenues to operate on.

1 Now, major highways, in my opinion, are
2 the clear choice. That's typically where they're
3 run, that's where they need to be run. They weren't
4 run there originally because this was farmland.
5 Okay. That's water over the dam. But I think we
6 wanted to see it rerouted to that.

7 So from my vantage point, you know, yes,
8 it's more expensive. I understand that the power
9 company as a monopoly has a responsibility to try to
10 maintain costs, but I think we want to let them know
11 here that I'd rather pay higher costs than have my
12 property taken down and its values, or have our
13 health submitted to impacts that we can't quantify
14 and can't see what's going on.

15 So I think we got applause -- can I see a
16 show of hands of people who would be in support of
17 an I-494/Highway 55 route?

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. ZOOK: Okay. Let this record show
20 that this was pretty much everybody in the room.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And outside.

22 MR. ZOOK: I also want to say that
23 inasmuch as you can submit your comments -- and I
24 would encourage you to say that, that you let your
25 voices be heard tonight. I don't want to wait until

1 the hearing that's before the judge. That's going
2 to be way, way down the path. And I think we need
3 to let them know that we've got a lot of concerns in
4 this area. This is a nice -- a nice suburb and nice
5 neighborhoods. We want to keep them that way.
6 We've got low-voltage lines right now. Those are
7 way different, in my book, than the high voltages
8 that's been proposed.

9 Thank you very much.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

11 MR. EK: Thank you, Mr. Zook. And as I
12 said, all the items that you brought up, property
13 values, EMF, and so forth, will be studied. And it
14 sounds like you brought up the first alternative of
15 the night, so we have that on record.

16 And also we have Judy Johnson here from
17 the city council who would, I think -- after you
18 talked about what went on there, it might be wise or
19 a good thing to have her explain exactly what
20 happened at that meeting for you folks.

21 MS. JOHNSON: Hi, everybody. Nice to see
22 you tonight. Probably not under the best of
23 circumstances, but it is great to see a nice
24 turnout.

25 I'm Judy Johnson. I represent all of you

1 in Ward 1 on the Plymouth City Council, and I also
2 serve on the advisory task force representing the
3 City in our limited role in this process.

4 The City, as many of you may know, is
5 preempted from this process. We don't have any
6 official approvals for siting of this, but we have
7 been invited to sit on the advisory task force with
8 many of your neighbors and friends, and I really
9 appreciate the work that they're doing. We have
10 another meeting coming up on November 1st, and I do
11 appreciate the Department of Commerce and Xcel
12 Energy for giving us a forum to voice our concerns.

13 As your representative and serving on the
14 advisory task force, it became obvious -- and I've
15 been hearing from a lot of you and so has the
16 council and the mayor about your concerns. And we
17 just want to echo back to you that we've heard those
18 concerns.

19 Last night we had a city council meeting,
20 and I wanted to give the city council an update as
21 to where we were at with the advisory task force and
22 my role representing the City of Plymouth. And I
23 know the advisory task force is looking at alternate
24 routes that can possibly be advanced for study as
25 well in consideration in this process. And I think

1 one thing that's very clear is no matter where you
2 shift these routes, whether it's proposed routes or
3 alternative routes, somebody in here is going to be
4 affected.

5 And so I asked the city council last
6 night, after updating them as to the process and our
7 role in this, if they would support me in supporting
8 the 55/494 route for serious consideration in this
9 so that, you know, a good majority of us in the city
10 of Plymouth won't have this directly impacting our
11 lives, all of your lives, your property values and
12 concerns.

13 And I'm pleased to say the city council
14 did support me on that and passed that as a motion.
15 So, officially, the City of Plymouth has taken a
16 position supporting as an option, through the
17 advisory task force, the 55/494 corridor as an
18 alternate route to get it out of your back yards.

19 And I just wanted to let you know that
20 there were no qualifiers on that. That's just one
21 other option that we would like to see advanced as
22 we're hearing all of your concerns.

23 So I wanted you to know that tonight, and
24 appreciate all the input that you've given to the
25 city, and just reflect back to you that we do care

1 and are trying to advance some of your concerns to
2 the process as well. Thank you.

3 MR. EK: Thank you, Ms. Johnson.

4 John Sullivan is up. And after
5 Mr. Sullivan, it's Laurie Azone.

6 MR. SULLIVAN: My name is John Sullivan,
7 S-U-L-L-I, V as in Victor, A-N. John is J-O-H-N, I
8 guess you know.

9 So, anyway, I live at 4015 Minnesota Lane
10 North. It's in the corner of Minnesota Lane and
11 Rockford Road. The line does not come by my house
12 at the present time. However, an alternate A would
13 bring it by my house and by about 11 of my
14 neighbors'.

15 My concern, like anyone else's, is, you
16 know, I don't want to see it in my neighborhood.
17 But like the last gentleman said, please consider
18 the routing aligned along State Highway 55 and
19 Interstate 494, along the south side of the highway.
20 It's a commercial area. We believe -- I believe and
21 our neighborhood believes that that's the fairest,
22 safest and best way to go. It may be the most
23 expensive, and you'll have to go with that.

24 Thank you.

25 MR. EK: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan.

1 Up after Ms. Azine is Naomi Bretz.

2 DR. AZINE: It's actually Dr. Laurie
3 Azine. First name Laurie, L-A-U-R-I-E. Azine,
4 A-Z-I-N-E. I live at 16250 50th Avenue North, so
5 I'm another Fields of Nanterre resident.

6 I'm on the alternate substation B route,
7 so I'm not on the proposed route at this time. But
8 there's sort of three issues that have already been
9 brought up, but I agree with three of the issues.

10 I live on the -- sort of the back part of
11 the Fields of Nanterre. And when I moved there
12 seven years ago, I had many opportunities to decide
13 where to live. And I chose there because I wanted
14 to live where it was peaceful, quiet, and on a
15 protected wetland. And there were no power lines in
16 our back yards. And we actually had to actually
17 spend an extra between 10- and \$30,000 for those
18 lots to be on that back part. And unless Xcel and
19 Great River are going to spend an extra 10- and
20 \$30,000 to reimburse every single one of us for the
21 extra property value that we actually put in to be
22 on that, you're going to have an extra increase and
23 your \$23.1 million is going up, because that's how
24 much we all had to put just to have that property,
25 just for that view that you're now going to decrease

1 our property values by putting those lines back
2 there if we were in place, number one.

3 Number two, we've also suffered this
4 summer with a multitude of power outages because of
5 your increase to the Medina people that this is
6 actually going to support. So not only have we
7 suffered this summer with five different power
8 outages on random days, and after talking with your
9 representatives at Xcel a multitude of times to find
10 out that it was actually the increase in Medina
11 homes and homes at the other end of Plymouth. So
12 not only are we getting sort of screwed once, we're
13 getting screwed a second time. Doesn't seem like
14 the fairest way to do things, that we're sort of, as
15 you put it, sacrificial lambs. That -- I'm all for
16 the people in Medina getting their power, but not at
17 our sacrifice. We've already been sacrificed once.
18 Don't sacrifice us twice.

19 And number three, as a physician, just
20 because we haven't found a conclusive, actual study
21 yet that shows it's actually a problem doesn't mean
22 it actually is going to now show up five years or
23 ten years from now, because there's many things that
24 as we study them we find eventually that they
25 actually do cause cancer. There are studies that

1 show there's a question of leukemia. They're not
2 proven. Yes, we're not arguing this. They're not
3 all definitive. But if you come back to us in ten
4 years, there may be one that actually is proven
5 positive. And I don't want that in my back yard.
6 And I guarantee you the people who are on the
7 proposed route right now doesn't want it in theirs.

8 And I guarantee you if I asked you guys
9 right now sitting in front, do you live next to a
10 high-voltage line?

11 MR. SEDARSKI: No, I don't, not a 115
12 line.

13 DR. AZINE: Do you live next to a
14 high-voltage line?

15 MS. PARLOW: No.

16 DR. AZINE: Okay. That just shows me
17 that you guys, who are Xcel and Great River Energy
18 people, choose not to live next to a high-voltage
19 line.

20 So I think, even though it's not going to
21 be as cost-effective to go down 55 and 494, let's be
22 honest, sometimes you do things for the right
23 reasons. And you may not be as cost-effective, but
24 you do them for the right reasons because it's
25 people's homes and people's lives that you're

1 dealing with. And that's more important than money
2 sometimes.

3 MR. EK: Thank you for your comments.

4 Up after Ms. Bretz is Matt Knutson.

5 MS. BRETZ: My name is Naomi Bretz.

6 N-A-O-M-I. B-R-E-T-Z. I live in Timber Creek
7 Crossing, which are neighbors to those in the Fields
8 of Nanterre.

9 I'm going to make it short. We have
10 always heard that being silent means that you accept
11 whatever decision is made, even though it's not the
12 decision that you want. I 100 percent, along with
13 165 other people in our community, agree with the
14 gentleman who said Highway 55 and 494. It's more of
15 a municipal and commercial venue.

16 He said that within 300 feet the voltage
17 starts to subside from there. But what about all
18 the people who live within those 300 feet?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

20 MS. BRETZ: So that's what I say.

21 I also have my stuff written down, too.

22 Thank you.

23 MR. EK: Real quick, up after Mr. Knutson
24 is either David or Mary Hideman, Hegman?

25 MR. HARDMAN: Hardman.

1 MR. EK: Hardman.

2 MR. HARDMAN: We'll pass.

3 MR. EK: He'll pass. Okay.

4 MR. HARDMAN: We'll go with Mr. Zook.

5 MR. EK: And then I guess the next person
6 would be Judy Johnson. Judy, did you --

7 MS. JOHNSON: I'm good.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: How many on the
9 list?

10 MR. EK: There's not too many more left.
11 Pam Perrina would be next, then, after Mr. Knutson.

12 MR. KNUTSON: Hi, my name's Matt Knutson.
13 I live at 4340 Niagra Lane North. K-N-U-T-S-O-N.

14 I just have a handful of questions that
15 I'd like to get through. I was hoping to actually
16 show a few PowerPoint slides. I think it would
17 really help, but I was told I can't. So I'll turn
18 in a hard copy.

19 But, anyway, a couple of the questions
20 that I had was, as you step through the route permit
21 application process and you step through the
22 different objectives that you try to reach, we get
23 to the last couple of points of trying to minimize
24 impacts to residences. And it seems like that's
25 severely overlooked in the comments that were made

1 as far as the reason why the proposed route was
2 essentially the one you recommend.

3 The question that I have for Xcel staff
4 is, there are numerous homes along the existing
5 route that are only 30 feet or less from center
6 lines of these poles, yet in the route permit
7 application it says there will not be any homes
8 within the right-of-way once this project is done.
9 For example, my street on Niagra Lane North is right
10 next to -- the poles are right next to a road to the
11 west, and to the east are the homes. Well, they
12 can't obviously move closer to the homes.

13 How does Xcel plan to pull this off in
14 terms of spacing? Because there doesn't appear to
15 be the space there to accommodate the right-of-way
16 that they need. And how can Xcel make that
17 statement that there won't be these homes within the
18 right-of-way? Because, logistically, we look at it
19 and go, there's nowhere to move these poles. So
20 that's one question, if Xcel could comment on that
21 one.

22 And then another question I have, in
23 looking at the easement for our lot -- and this
24 represents a big section of the Quail Ridge
25 development -- is I actually looked at the easement,

1 and the easement clearly states -- and I'm all in
2 favor of the 494/55 route. I'm simply speaking for
3 the proposed routes and questions related to that.
4 In the easement it clearly states that, at most, it
5 can be single-pole wood structures. There's no
6 mention of metal structures. I know those 345 kV
7 lines by 494 existed back in the late '60s. And so,
8 as a result, there's not the wording in the easement
9 to allow something like that to happen. So I'd love
10 Xcel to comment on that.

11 And then my last question is some
12 specifics related to 494. I did have a chance to
13 look at the project that ran from Pomerleau Lake
14 station all the way up through, I think, the Elm
15 Creek substation. And I read through the document
16 of the administrative law judge's ruling why it
17 couldn't be on the west side of the road. I would
18 like specifics tonight to address the comments of
19 the east side of 494. Is there enough spacing? I
20 saw wording that -- what's the minimum any SC
21 (phonetic) vertical and horizontal clearances
22 between two existing 115 kV lines.

23 I would really like to understand that,
24 because I think at the end of the day that's where
25 the biggest challenge for this project is going to

1 be, is running that north/south stretch on 494. And
2 I would love to get some specifics tonight than wait
3 until we have this public hearing after the
4 environmental impact has been done. There has to be
5 some initial concept to share tonight.

6 MR. EK: Joe, if you could come up and
7 address, and Matt, if you could stay up there just
8 in case Joe --

9 MR. SEDARSKI: Chris Rogers is going to
10 come up. And, let's see, Jeff Gutzmann, can you
11 come up, too?

12 Thanks for your comment, Matt.

13 MR. KNUTSON: Sure.

14 MR. SEDARSKI: Excuse me. The first
15 question related to layout. As I mentioned earlier,
16 there are right-of-way easements that are 75 feet
17 wide, anywhere from 75 feet to 100 feet. What I
18 also mentioned is that we can build 115 kV line
19 within that right-of-way. So the 70 foot does work.
20 35 feet works as well.

21 In our route permit application, let me
22 analyze this. At the level that we're looking at,
23 we're looking at a lot of data. We're looking at
24 aerial photographs, we're getting on the ground and
25 looking at things, but we're not necessarily taking

1 a tape measure out and measuring from point A to B.
2 In this case we don't have rights to access the line
3 to do all that, but part of our design process would
4 include getting more details as we go.

5 So can you add to that?

6 MR. ROGERS: Matt, you live on Niagra; is
7 that correct?

8 MR. KNUTSON: Yeah.

9 MR. ROGERS: Some of the easements were
10 drafted through United Power, I believe back in
11 1971, that state either 35 feet on either side of
12 the center line. In other cases -- in your
13 particular, I don't recall, but it could be so many
14 feet on one side. I'd have to take a look at that.
15 Here we go. 47 and 23. So I think what you're
16 talking about is it would be on the east side of the
17 road from here (indicating), from the section line
18 is 23 feet, into the road is 47 feet. So I think
19 what you're trying to say is you can't move into the
20 road there; correct?

21 MR. KNUTSON: Exactly. So how this pole
22 shifts east is -- my question basically is there's
23 no room west or east to move the line. If you move
24 it to the west, it's in the middle of a road. If
25 you move it to the east, it's that much closer to

1 the property. So...

2 MR. ROGERS: You know, I think the answer
3 to that -- I'm not an engineer; I know Jeff Gutzmann
4 is available -- the poles can be designed to shift.
5 They don't necessarily have to be in the center of a
6 70-foot easement. For example, the insulators could
7 be tilted to one side, the street side in your case
8 there, where a smaller easement would be needed on
9 the east side versus the west side. So there are
10 some design criteria that can be applied to this and
11 can work -- exactly what you see there. Stack
12 conductors on one side there. So poles do not
13 necessarily have to go in the center of that 70-foot
14 easement.

15 MR. KNUTSON: But the main question I
16 have is in the permit application it says no one
17 will be within the right-of-way. It clearly states
18 that. There will be homes within the right-of-way.
19 How can you make the statement that there won't be
20 homes? I mean, I can tell you the page that it's
21 referenced on.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Which home, I
23 guess, is the question?

24 MR. KNUTSON: Every single home on the
25 north -- on the east side of Niagra, all the homes

1 along the walking path of Turtle Lake Park, I
2 believe some of the homes that are south of Orchid
3 Lane in Plymouth. There are dozens and dozens of
4 homes within the right-of-way.

5 MR. ROGERS: Again, at the level when we
6 put that route application together, it's the
7 quality of the data that we have. As we get further
8 into this process, we refine that. We get more and
9 more data. We do surveys, we map out where we have
10 easement rights that exist, and then from there we
11 do design. So if we said that, it was because there
12 was maybe a deck within the easement area or the
13 house.

14 MR. KNUTSON: These are houses.

15 MR. ROGERS: Within --

16 MR. KNUTSON: These are homes within the
17 right-of-way by a magnitude of 5 to 15 to 20 feet.

18 MR. ROGERS: I have not seen that.

19 MR. KNUTSON: I will personally walk you
20 out there and you'll meet all the homeowners. I
21 went to Hennepin County. I personally pulled the
22 easements for our development that shows where the
23 easement lies as well as the documents from the City
24 of Plymouth. And that fundamentally -- and I don't
25 just speak on behalf of people from Quail Ridge. I

1 speak on behalf of everyone for that north/south
2 stretch of the line. When this is done, they will
3 all be within that right-of-way. That's why I don't
4 understand how that wording can say there will not
5 be any homes within the right-of-way. It's just
6 flat-out false.

7 MR. ROGERS: Matt, just so I understand
8 your question, are you -- are you saying that we're
9 going to shift the right-of-way or are you saying
10 that what we said in our application is just wrong
11 if we take it from the center line out? Because
12 it's offset, the easement area is offset as you just
13 talked about.

14 MR. KNUTSON: Yeah, the wording talks
15 about 37 and a half on the east side of the --

16 MR. ROGERS: Okay. Okay. So 37 and a
17 half is our standard 115 kV right-of-way. What we
18 said is that we can make this fit within 70 feet.
19 Even if it's offset, we can do that.

20 MR. KNUTSON: Right.

21 MR. ROGERS: 37 and a half feet, 75 feet
22 wide is for new 115.

23 MR. KNUTSON: That's why the 47 and
24 23 feet -- I realize -- you know, I can add; it adds
25 up to 70 -- is the existing easement in that area.

1 These homes are still within 30 feet. There are
2 some homeowners back there, their homes would be
3 within 20 to 30 feet along our area. They're
4 30 feet away. So even if these poles shift a matter
5 of a few feet, they're still within some of the
6 ranges of where these rights-of-way are. That
7 should be at least 35 feet or more. These homes are
8 within that. That's my fundamental question.

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Clearly closer
10 than they would build new lines.

11 MR. KNUTSON: Absolutely. And the reason
12 being -- just to make one other point. And this is
13 from Xcel's documentation. This is an excerpt right
14 from their information about easements and
15 right-of-way.

16 It says, Utilities have determined that
17 the best way to prevent outages is to restrict the
18 placement of structures within the right-of-way.
19 For example, if a building or structure in the
20 right-of-way caught fire, it could burn into the
21 power line and take the line out of service for an
22 extended time.

23 That's right from Xcel's information. I
24 don't think a lot of these homeowners knew their
25 homes were within the right-of-way. Okay. That was

1 the case. Now, with this upgraded line, we've seen
2 information that shows that. So there should be
3 something that can be done to accommodate, to move
4 it to a location that puts it in an area outside of
5 residential areas and that amount of impact.

6 MR. EK: Thank you for your comments.
7 And that's going to be a good -- something good to
8 look at in the EA. As a matter of fact, that's one
9 of the items we do look at, proximity to homes and
10 so on and so forth along each route, along each
11 alternative. That's just an item that we typically
12 look at.

13 And just kind of to clarify what you're
14 saying, what I thought I heard you say is the homes
15 that are there now are in the existing easement, is
16 that correct, the existing 69 kV easement or --

17 MR. KNUTSON: From the -- from the way
18 the Hennepin County -- I think it's the plat survey
19 group in the Hennepin County, fifth floor, downtown
20 Minneapolis explained it is with -- there's a
21 70-foot easement, there's 47 feet on the east
22 side -- it's actually two -- two, basically, pieces
23 of land that meet. So it's 47 feet of the eastern
24 edge of one plat of land, and it's the western edge
25 of the eastern piece, the 23 feet of that. So based

1 on the maps that they showed, the homes are outside
2 the easement, but the right-of-way from the poles
3 are within that 35, that magical number of 70,
4 35 feet on each side. And there's a number of homes
5 like that.

6 MR. EK: I just wanted to clarify that to
7 make sure I know what we're talking about and study
8 in the EA here. Very good questions. Thank you.
9 Thank you.

10 I believe it was -- did I miss somebody
11 here?

12 Pam Perrina.

13 MS. MELISSA PERRINA: Hi, I'm Melissa,
14 and I really think that we should run the power line
15 around 494 and 55 because I don't think it's
16 acceptable to run it through the neighborhood.

17 MR. EK: Thank you for your comment,
18 Melissa.

19 I can't figure out the first name, but
20 the last name looks like Lazar.

21 DR. GRINGAUZ: Yeah, Lazar. My name is
22 Raisa Gringauz, the last name of my husband. I am
23 living on 4725 Minnesota Lane North. And the power
24 line -- existing power line now, low-power line goes
25 through our back yard.

1 I'm a physician, an MD, a working
2 physician. I am a rehabilitation physician.
3 Believe me, I'm treating a lot of cerebral palsy
4 kids, premature kids and other problems, including
5 MS. Believe me, all of the words about safety of
6 the magnetic fields are not true. I can prove it.
7 We are using magnetic stimulation for treatment, and
8 it's a powerful tool. Don't compare the TV or cell
9 phones or microwaves to the high-power line.

10 Please, everybody, listen to me, don't
11 believe that it is safe. Protect your kids.
12 Otherwise, in months or years you'll see premature
13 babies, cancer, leukemia and cerebral palsy.

14 Thank you.

15 MR. EK: Thank you for your comments.

16 Next is Pat or Randy Naples.

17 MS. NAPLES: I did not come with notes.
18 My husband and I moved here six years ago. My name
19 is Pat Naples, N-A-P-L-E-S, like Naples, Italy;
20 Naples, Florida; and Naples, New York. 4975 Archer
21 Lane North, Plymouth, and I live in Fields of
22 Nanterre.

23 My husband and I moved here six years ago
24 to be full-time grandparents. We have two beautiful
25 granddaughters, a six-year-old and a four-year-old,

1 and we've watched them for five years at 4975 Archer
2 Lane North. Our daughter and son-in-law have
3 dropped them off and picked them up, and we have
4 them now on their sick days. The oldest one goes to
5 school.

6 When we moved here from Syracuse, we
7 looked for a place that was very quiet, very
8 peaceful, and had nature, birds, all kinds of
9 animals, things to teach our grandchildren. And we
10 found Fields of Nanterre. And our house faces west.
11 We have the most gorgeous sunsets. We have ducks.
12 We have a little pond. We had deer born two years
13 ago almost in my back yard. And I have pictures and
14 they're on our website. I don't want to look out at
15 power lines.

16 Now, there are many people here who are
17 much more educated than I am to tell you the reasons
18 why they're good, they're bad, and let them have
19 their fights. I don't want to look at them.
20 They're aesthetically unpleasing. I've driven
21 through the neighborhoods where the existing power
22 line is, and I don't blame you for not wanting it.
23 It's not pretty. The larger ones will not be
24 prettier. They need to go down 55 and 494.

25 Originally, my husband and I spent over

1 an hour driving around to see where these power
2 lines were. And we went all through the
3 developments, and I was just appalled that these
4 things were as close to houses as they were. Now, I
5 have over 25 years of real estate experience in
6 central New York; and whenever there was a power
7 easement, any kind of an easement, I made sure that
8 the people knew and understood there was an easement
9 and something else could happen. Don't call me in
10 five years and say this and this and this. I don't
11 know what can happen, and neither can you.

12 Unfortunately, we expect the worst. I
13 don't want to fight with my neighbors. I want us
14 all to go together and try to convince Xcel to put
15 this down 55 and 494. It won't affect everyone
16 then. There are safety issues. You know, yes, we
17 have a train and it goes up and down and my
18 granddaughters love it. They count the cars. Okay.
19 They look for the blue cars, the red cars. They
20 found a blue engine and thought it was wonderful.
21 But I don't want them affected by power lines.

22 MR. EK: Thank you for your comments.

23 Looks like John or Nicole Stanchina.

24 It's spelled -- the last name is S-T-A-N-C-H-I-N-A.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They left.

1 MR. EK: Oh, they did. All right. Thank
2 you.

3 Tom Kubinski.

4 MR. KUBINSKI: My name is Tom Kubinski,
5 K-U-B-I-N-S-K-I. I live in Holly Creek, 16955 39th
6 Place North. I'm a former board member for the
7 Holly Creek Association, which has 85 homes in it.
8 Not currently serving, but I understand things need
9 to be done.

10 So my first question -- I know about
11 voting. And the gentleman that asked to have a
12 vote, a raise of hands of how many people were in
13 favor of the 55/494, we did not do the secondary.
14 How many are against? Can I have a show of hands?

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Against what?

16 MR. KUBINSKI: Against the 55/494
17 proposal? So let the record show that nobody's
18 against it. Okay. That's as much as I know about
19 running a board.

20 The next question I have is, I've
21 contacted our board representatives, got to the very
22 first meeting because none of them seemed to have
23 gotten the mailing. The mailing went out to the
24 people who were within 100 feet of either side of
25 the power lines. That's ridiculous. As earlier

1 stated here, it's not just those who are connected
2 that are going to be affected by it; it is every
3 homeowner and every association. The reason why
4 there was such a low turnout at the first meeting is
5 because only 1,113 people were sent the notice.

6 With the proposals, I want to know how
7 many people have actually been sent out together,
8 total, so that the word gets out? By going to my
9 board, I now have a champion of our president and
10 board members.

11 So the next question I want to ask Xcel
12 and the State of Minnesota is, would you rather have
13 85 homeowners give you the same documentation and
14 concerns, or would you like the board of one
15 message? And from what I'm hearing here, numbers is
16 everything. So I would recommend that anybody that
17 is in an association to talk to your board members
18 and get your whole development to come to a
19 conclusion and send it out as many people in your
20 home.

21 The next comment I have is, when we were
22 going through the presentation on the first day, I
23 don't know if a lot of you got this, but the
24 presentation was talked to as if the power line that
25 is in our back yard, which is a low-voltage power

1 line, was an active line. And I found out through
2 more conversation that it was not an active line.
3 It's an overflow line. There's a big difference
4 there. And now to upgrade it to a 24/7/365
5 high-voltage line is not, again, what a lot of us
6 agreed to do when we bought our homes.

7 The next thing I found out through more
8 conversation in the first meeting is it was made as
9 if they had already owned the power line, Xcel, and
10 they do not. They're proposing to buy that line to
11 be used. So that's very interesting.

12 Then I made the suggestion --

13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Great River owns
14 it.

15 MR. KUBINSKI: Correct. But Xcel does
16 not. And in the presentation --

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Somebody asked who
18 owns it.

19 MR. KUBINSKI: Oh, sorry.

20 Then I made some suggestions about
21 looking at alternative routes running to current
22 existing lines that were running around the highways
23 and how much that projected cost would be. And the
24 statement I got was, we are not required under the
25 law to assess alternative routes. So then I looked

1 at the alternative routes, which I think were two
2 compared to the main one, and we all know if you
3 want something done a certain way, you propose it
4 the way that directs you to that route that you
5 want.

6 The proposed routes were, in my mind, not
7 very intelligent. And when I proposed another one
8 at that first meeting, I talked to an individual who
9 was an employee of Xcel who actually worked with the
10 lines and he said, That's a really good alternative;
11 it would make my job easier; I wonder why they're
12 not looking at it.

13 Then I had somebody that I know that also
14 worked for an energy company -- and you've seen it
15 in your documentation about noise -- and she
16 informed me on some really good stuff. Have you
17 ever heard that high-pitched sound from the power
18 lines? Well, guess what you're going to hear on a
19 recurring basis with this, through your house? The
20 closer you are, the more you're going to hear it.
21 Another thing you have to be aware of is the power
22 lines are going to move with wind. So I think
23 that's what part of the right-of-way is.

24 I just think that what we were told in
25 these meetings, which are informational meetings, I

1 feel that they're throwing something up to see how
2 many people argue with it before they have to figure
3 out another alternative. I think the fact that they
4 didn't have enough room for people here shows you
5 they didn't plan accordingly. Which brings me to
6 the point, how many people have been invited to
7 these meetings to get to this point, to voice their
8 opinion, versus waiting toward the end to voice your
9 opinion when it may be too late?

10 There are plenty of other alternatives
11 that are less impact on our health, on our home
12 values. We've covered them. I'm not going to
13 reiterate that. But I think we need to inform
14 everybody. And I think you need to talk to your
15 neighbors, and I think you need to inform your
16 associations, and I think we need to submit and come
17 together.

18 And I like the comment about not pitting
19 one neighborhood against another with route A, route
20 B, route C. I think we've come up with a really
21 good solution as a group, in unison, that, Xcel, I
22 understand your needs, I understand you're planning
23 for the future, you've got to plan for it; but plan
24 for it where it's not going to compromise the
25 individuals currently.

1 Thank you.

2 MR. EK: Thank you for your comments.

3 I just wanted to add something about
4 commenting or supplying comments. I would suggest
5 that each and every one of you, instead of relying
6 on one comment letter from an association member or
7 group, each and every one of you supply a comment of
8 your thoughts. Each and every one of you have
9 different opinions. Each and every one of you can
10 supply a comment. We look at them. I can tell you
11 many dockets -- you can supply alternate routes.
12 You can supply issues to be looked at. Many times
13 in these dockets alternate routes proposed by one
14 single citizen have changed what the utility company
15 proposed in the beginning. Not just a task force,
16 not just a group of people, but a single letter from
17 a citizen. So I really urge you to send in your
18 letters and send in your comments, send in your
19 alternatives.

20 Also know, at the same time, that the
21 alternate routes you see in the application, the A,
22 B, C, D, E, those are still routes you can comment
23 on, whether you like them, whether you don't like
24 them, whether you like the proposed, whether you
25 don't like the proposed. The 55 to 494. Somebody

1 not being notified, the different various homeowners
2 associations, those are difficult ones, you know,
3 because we can only have a limited amount of people
4 on there. So what we did is went to the City of
5 Plymouth to find out if they had a registry of
6 homeowners associations, and they did. They said it
7 wasn't complete and didn't have all of them, and we
8 could not find any, I guess, clearinghouse that
9 would -- that would supply us the information on
10 every homeowners association in Minnesota or in
11 Plymouth or whatnot. So we had to take with what --
12 we had to go with what we had on the addresses.
13 And, as I said, we took locations that were spread
14 out across the line to get everyone's -- you know,
15 an equal point of view across the whole thing. And
16 we could only have ten members. They're limited to
17 ten members. So, you know, I apologize, this is a
18 common thing that happens. People get missed in
19 noticing. That's why I suggest you sign up for the
20 mailing list, our mailing list in the back. And,
21 yeah, that's really important.

22 And a lot of good questions tonight.

23 It looks like we're all done with the
24 people that checked on the sheets. And now I guess
25 I'll just go to hands. I saw this woman right here

1 in the gray, greenish.

2 MS. SWISHER: Good evening.

3 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: People should line
4 up if they want to speak.

5 MS. SWISHER: Good idea. Sorry, that's
6 why I stood up, because I knew otherwise it would be
7 forever.

8 My name is Vicki, with an I, Swisher,
9 S-W-I-S-H-E-R. I live in the beautiful Kingsview
10 Heights neighborhood, 4155 Minnesota Lane North in
11 gorgeous, Money-magazine-award-winning Plymouth,
12 okay. I, like the rest of you, am super proud of my
13 city, of my beautiful neighborhood. We have one
14 thing major in common, everybody that's in this
15 room, we love our homes, we love our neighborhoods,
16 and we don't want to see anything happen to them.

17 Very briefly. Joe Sedarski just has been
18 very, very helpful to me. I've been bugging him
19 with questions and give me this information, give me
20 that information. One piece of information that I
21 had asked for and he kindly got the data for me was,
22 I was curious to know what the precedent in the
23 seven-county metro area for residential miles of 115
24 kV line versus nonresidential miles of 115 kV line.
25 And I did crude calculations, and basically it's

1 about a 6:1 ratio of nonresidential to residential
2 in the seven-county metro area.

3 If the proposed route is adopted, that is
4 going to be a significantly higher ratio from the
5 standpoint of residences that are going to be
6 impacted. And I don't think there's a surprise to
7 anybody here in the room.

8 I'd like to thank Mr. Zook for saying
9 what we all wanted to say and saying it so
10 eloquently about the nonresidential option is the
11 way to go, 55 to 494. And, frankly, we need to
12 figure out a way to make that work.

13 Mr. Haugen, the real estate agent, who
14 had mentioned about the home value, I did another
15 crude calculation that -- strictly for segment A,
16 which is the 90 homes on the north/south of the
17 proposed route, a 10 percent home value -- home
18 devaluation would account for \$2 million, a
19 \$2 million home value loss. And I'm using that
20 based on 55446 as the zip code. And I think we can
21 all probably agree that chances are the average home
22 price for our particular area of the proposed route
23 is probably higher than that. So, again, that's our
24 home value, and then that translates to property tax
25 revenues being impacted accordingly.

1 Finally, I want to thank Judy Johnson for
2 representing us so well with the City of Plymouth
3 and on the task force. I'm very encouraged by the
4 direction -- or the notice, I guess I would say,
5 that the City is now taking.

6 I will say I remain concerned that I hear
7 from you even this evening and have heard from other
8 of our council members and our mayor that the City
9 has no jurisdiction. Now, there may be no formal
10 jurisdiction, but I will say that I have heard from
11 several PUCs from other states and just different,
12 different folks that we need the City's support. So
13 I appreciate what you did last night. I would
14 encourage you and the City to go further and to say
15 not that this an alternative, 55 and 494, not that
16 it is an option, but it is the option, that it is
17 the only option.

18 And then, finally, with that in mind, I
19 encourage you all, if you have not heard of the
20 Hiawatha Project, the Midtown Greenway Coalition has
21 been a very active grassroots organization. And the
22 City of Minneapolis in that instance has actually
23 stood behind the coalition, and they are -- they
24 haven't yet succeeded, but it appears that they're
25 close to victory in compelling Xcel Energy in that

1 instance to bury the lines along that corridor. So
2 thank you.

3 MS. JOHNSON: The City of Plymouth, in
4 its support of the 55/494 route, that is the only
5 route they're supporting. I mean, there is no
6 comments on any of the other routes proposed. So
7 that's the one that the City of Plymouth came out in
8 support of. So that was all --

9 (Applause.)

10 MR. EK: Looks like we have a line of
11 folks. So I think we'll just keep going that way.
12 If people want to line up, we'll let folks talk. If
13 you can remember to state your name and spell it for
14 Angie, and go ahead. Thank you.

15 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: My name is Mykola
16 Sarazhymkyy. First name M-Y-K-O-L-A, and last name
17 S-A-R-A-Z-H-Y-M-S-K-Y-Y. And before we hear my
18 accent, I came from Ukraine. And I regard United
19 States and still regard it as a place where the
20 concern about citizens and concern about health is a
21 higher priority than properties or existing rights
22 and things like that. And my question -- but when I
23 read the proposal, it seems like in route selection
24 criteria -- and there were at least several
25 selection criteria and one of them -- and several of

1 them were effect on the current houses and on the
2 environment. But it seems like when routes A, B and
3 different alternative routes were selected, some
4 criteria were higher on priority list than the
5 others. And obviously health reasons and impacts on
6 current houses were lower on priority list than the
7 criteria that were over that.

8 So my question is, is I want to know the
9 reason for the route selection criteria, did one
10 hold precedence or over the other or are they all
11 equal or how that works in selecting those different
12 routes? Either to you or to you. I don't know who
13 will take that question.

14 MR. EK: Just so I have this, on the
15 selection of the routes?

16 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: Yes, the route
17 selection criteria, I think, were listed on the
18 slide, and they were listed like as bullet points.
19 And my question is, is one of them higher priority
20 than another? The environmental impact and the
21 impact on houses was listed there, but it seems like
22 in the report they were not taken into account as
23 higher over priority as the other criteria.

24 So my question is if one has higher
25 priority than other or are they all equal in

1 selection?

2 MR. EK: Okay. I'll let Xcel finish my
3 answer out. But they have the route permit
4 application, and they put together those routes
5 themselves. You know, after they had those initial
6 meetings way back a year or two ago, they put the
7 routes together themselves. Not -- in the case of
8 the alternative permitting process, which this is,
9 per rule they have to -- they do not have to select
10 an alternate route and put it in their route permit.
11 However, if they did look at alternative routes
12 during their process, they do have to put them in
13 there and their reasoning as to why they may have
14 rejected it. And that's what they did. They
15 rejected the alternative routes and want the
16 proposed route, which is the rebuild 69 and the new
17 115 and the substation sites.

18 So nothing in the route permit
19 application is favored over each other. They
20 essentially said in the route permit application --
21 you can correct me if I'm wrong, Joe -- that the
22 alternatives, they didn't feel, were as strong as
23 the route -- the proposed route.

24 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: But it seems like, if
25 I read it correctly, that current easement and other

1 things kind of related to ease of kind of the
2 building were having precedent over impact on houses
3 and other things and environmental impact. And
4 that's more of a question to you, because it seems
5 like when you look at numbers, that those things
6 were not taken into account as heavily as kind of
7 existing properties.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Current lines in
9 the existing right-of-way.

10 MR. EK: Yeah, and that's exactly why
11 we're here tonight, because that's what the
12 environmental assessment will do; it will actually
13 take all those impacts, concerns, and we will
14 evaluate, you know, whatever alternative routes have
15 been selected to be looked at against the proposed
16 and what gets into that scoping document. That's
17 what the environmental assessment then is for. We
18 take their information in their route permit
19 application, we vet it, we make sure the
20 information's correct, we supplement it, we compare
21 routes, and we provide that information to the
22 people in the EA and to the Commission for them to
23 make a decision on what route might be better.

24 You know, it depends. Some routes are
25 going to have many homes close. Some routes are

1 going to have more wetlands. Some routes are going
2 to be running along streets versus through easement.
3 So the environmental assessment will weigh those
4 items. And that's what will be coming up next that
5 comes out of this process.

6 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: What comes next. But
7 my question is is about the current proposal and why
8 environmental impact and impact on existing houses
9 were not taken into consideration as highly as
10 existing easement rights and other things.

11 MR. SEDARSKI: Thanks for your question.
12 Scott's right, and you're right in terms of sort of
13 what was presented in the route permit application,
14 that is our application with GRE. So it's our
15 assessment. There are no rules or statutes that I
16 know of that says you have to weight anything, you
17 know, 90 percent here or 80 percent there. So
18 everything is in in terms of what assets were looked
19 at.

20 There are certain things that are
21 required that were looked to in the rules and
22 statutes in terms of, if there's an existing utility
23 line and easement area, that there's a preference
24 for us to look at that as opposed to looking at some
25 new route where we're going to impact new

1 landowners, whether it's residential or commercial
2 or industrial or whatever.

3 So the fact that we're putting together a
4 route permit application and we're basically doing
5 an inventory, we have to come up with reasons that
6 we think as our proposal what makes sense and what
7 doesn't. And there are no rules that say you have
8 to weight it or whatever.

9 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: But from a perspective
10 of the Company, not necessarily --

11 MR. SEDARSKI: It's the reason why we go
12 out and try to meet with the public beforehand to
13 tell them what we're thinking about doing. That's
14 why we had our two meetings. That's why we took in
15 alternative route segments that were proposed by
16 landowners, and we put those in our application as
17 well. But we had to assess them and we had to look
18 at them and we had to see where it was good or bad
19 and why our proposed was correct.

20 So part of the process is what we're
21 doing tonight. Part of the process is what you guys
22 are doing here tonight, being here and showing us
23 what some of those values are, helping the State
24 decide, well, this is right, this is wrong. So this
25 is all part of it.

1 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: My suggestion, many
2 support to look into impact on the people more and
3 to weight it higher than interest of immediate
4 monetary interests of --

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. SARAZHYMSKYY: Concerns about home
7 values and concerns about impact on health and
8 houses weighted higher than immediate monetary
9 interest of the Company.

10 MR. EK: Thank you. Thank you.

11 If you could just please state your name
12 and spell it, please.

13 MR. LUKECART: Hello. My name is Nate,
14 N-A-T-E, Lukecart, L-U-K-E-C-A-R-T. And I want to
15 first make a comment. I'm not sure if it was called
16 out specifically, but if a 494/55 route is another
17 alternative, that specifically the lines be run on
18 the south side of Highway 55, not the north side.

19 Second, I'd like to make a comment that
20 any -- in the environmental assessment, any
21 assessment on potential impact to property values be
22 done weighted heavily with data post-2006, because
23 the -- any property value environment a decade ago
24 would be very different than now. So any larger
25 trends of everything is going up so we don't see a

1 statistically significant effect would be very
2 different now, easily be very different now.

3 And I have two questions. And I'm glad
4 that for many of you the 494/55 route is comforting.
5 I happen to live proximate to Highway 55, so that's
6 not particularly comforting to me personally. So my
7 question, one, is for Scott. And that question is
8 how many projects have ever been changed or canceled
9 due to concerns over human health for these types of
10 utility projects?

11 And my second question is for Xcel and
12 Great River. And that question is what level of EMF
13 your companies deemed to be unacceptable for human
14 health?

15 MR. EK: I can answer the first one. A
16 route's never, I guess, been changed or not given a
17 permit from the Commission, as far as I know, on the
18 dockets that I've worked on -- and this is only the
19 dockets that I worked on; we have eight other people
20 that are working on similar dockets -- but for the
21 ones I've worked on, no, as I said, the Commission
22 doesn't consider electromagnetic fields, they
23 don't -- as a health risk when it comes to
24 transmission lines. And that's -- they've provided
25 it in their findings of fact for the most recent

1 docket are -- the Brookings to Hampton 345 kV
2 versus a 115 kV now and, I believe, St. Cloud to
3 Fargo are two recent ones where they were working
4 with 345-kilovolt double circuit lines. And even
5 with that high voltage, the Commission did not find
6 EMF to be an issue that would stop a line from being
7 permitted.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Clearly they don't
9 live next to them.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Clearly those are
11 right next to 494, not next to homes.

12 MR. LUKECART: So what I hear you say is,
13 regardless of any concerns that anyone who might
14 live by these lines have about their health and the
15 health of their family and children, you don't?

16 MR. EK: It's not me personally. It's
17 the Commission that makes these decisions. I
18 provide the information. I -- in the environmental
19 assessment, we look at it, we provide the public as
20 much information as we can. The greater outpouring
21 of concern there is when it comes to a subject such
22 as EMF, you know, we will go into deeper depth. In
23 this case homes are closer. I haven't worked on a
24 project where homes happen to be this close to a
25 transmission line.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you put that
2 in bold letters?

3 MR. EK: So -- so, no, it just
4 provides -- like I said, every project is different.
5 We're always going to look at EMF. For a project
6 like this, we'll dig deeper and we'll look at it in
7 more depth. And, no, I don't make the decisions.
8 The Commission makes the decisions on whether to
9 consider EMF as an issue or whether to -- where to
10 site the line or whether to give a permit and what
11 weight to give to what, you know. But my job is to
12 provide that information, and it's been made very
13 clear to me it's an important item, and we will take
14 a very strong look at it.

15 MR. SEDARSKI: Thanks for your comment.
16 The question is what level is a concern to Xcel. Is
17 that your question.

18 MR. LUKECART: What's acceptable for
19 human health?

20 MR. SEDARSKI: There's two fields,
21 magnetic fields and electric fields. For magnetic
22 fields, it's 8 milligauss standard that we design to
23 and operate at, which is a number that the PUC, I
24 believe, has acted in in other transmission lines.
25 So 8 milligauss is the standard for magnetic fields.

1 And there are no standards for electric fields. If
2 there were, we would operate and design to that as
3 well.

4 MR. EK: Actually, that's the reverse.
5 It's 8 kV/m for electric fields, and then there is
6 no standard for magnetic fields in Minnesota.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But in whole world
8 we need to know this. Minnesota is not alone. It's
9 part of whole world.

10 MR. EK: Yes, yes. And, actually,
11 typically what we'll put in the environmental
12 assignment -- or assessment is there's many
13 organizations, the World Health Organization,
14 National Cancer Institute, the natural -- or
15 National Institute for Health Sciences -- trying to
16 think of some better, well-recognized
17 organizations -- and they have set them -- they
18 themselves have set levels of exposure for magnetic
19 fields and electric fields around the world, the
20 World Health Organization. And I include that, my
21 associates include that in their environmental
22 assessments, so people can take a look at.

23 There's also a number of states in the
24 United States here, Florida, New York,
25 Connecticut -- I can't think of all of them; I can

1 probably count them on one hand -- that either have
2 an electric field limit or a magnetic field limit.
3 In Minnesota, as Joe said, we have an 8 kV/m
4 electric field limit. That's for shocking, you
5 know, any shocks or induced current that would
6 maybe, for an example, hit a fence and cause a quick
7 spark. Anything -- anything below 8 kV/m the
8 Commission has found that that will not happen.

9 But, yes, in the EA we do put a
10 comparison table of what those standards are around
11 the world in other states and so and so forth, and
12 then we compare them to what the Company has
13 estimated for this line, those magnetic and electric
14 fields to be, so you can take a look at, you know,
15 what the difference is, you know, what's the cutoff
16 here and is this too much.

17 So, yes, we take a really good look at
18 that. It's -- it consists of quite a few pages of
19 the EA. So there's a lot of information that we
20 look at for EMF.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you remember
22 how many years asbestos was considered to be safe?
23 A long time ago.

24 MR. EK: I think that predates me, but
25 as --

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not safe.

2 MR. EK: Yeah. Well, we've found that
3 out, it's not -- and neither is cigarette smoking,
4 neither is driving with your cell phone. I mean,
5 there's many things. But --

6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This is a --

7 MR. EK: We can keep going down.

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's not
9 comparable.

10 MR. EK: No, no, you're right. You're
11 right. You're right. And I'm not -- I'm not trying
12 to start an argument. It's -- I understand -- I
13 understand people's concerns, the perception, and
14 it's important that --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not conception.
16 Experience.

17 MR. EK: Um-hum. And I understand that
18 you're treating children with magnetic fields?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

20 MR. EK: Using magnetic fields to treat
21 them?

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not children.
23 Adults.

24 MR. EK: Adults.

25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

1 So that whole thing concerns me.

2 And I also want to read something.

3 There's talk about the electric field and the
4 magnetic field and the milligauss on the electric
5 field. Well, here, if you Google 115 kV power volt,
6 just go on the Internet, it says here, The better
7 documented risks associated with the line's magnetic
8 field are associated with the current going through
9 the line rather than its voltage. To deliver the
10 given amount of power, utilities must push more
11 current through low-voltage lines than high-voltage
12 lines. Therefore, field measurements show magnetic
13 field on a 115 kV line is often greater than the
14 field immediately under a 345 kV line. Also,
15 high-voltage lines are currently customarily built
16 on wider rights-of-way than low-voltage lines;
17 therefore, people tend to live closer to low-voltage
18 lines than they do to high-voltage lines.

19 So this magnetic field, there's no
20 measurement for it; but it seems to me to be the --
21 the bigger concern is the amount of current being
22 pushed through these lines. And a lot of us live in
23 areas where those lines have never been used.
24 They've been quiet and, really, they're overflow
25 lines. All the sudden it's going to be like a major

1 highway going through there and pushing the magnetic
2 fields through. So just -- I'd like that to go on
3 record.

4 And, then, I'd also like to find out how
5 I can get a copy of the minutes for this meeting for
6 our own reference. And, you know, is there a
7 process to do that? And, also, where did this
8 November 9th date come from? Like I'm at this
9 meeting tonight, and then I got to go back to my
10 neighborhood and tell everybody what's going on and
11 try to organize them and get all this done before
12 Nov -- and, you know, organize that group. Where is
13 that date coming from? It seems arbitrary to me.
14 It's not a day -- I didn't choose the date. So I'd
15 like to find out can we get that date shifted and
16 can we get some more time as neighborhoods to
17 respond to this thing, because this is of great
18 concern? Thank you.

19 MR. EK: First to answer your question on
20 the transcript. Once it becomes available, I will
21 post it to our website, post it both on eDockets and
22 our website. If you would like a copy of it, feel
23 free to give me a call. Typically I can e-mail
24 them, if they're small enough in size. Otherwise, I
25 can direct you to the link to an e-mail or print

1 them out for you, and I'll send one out to you. I
2 think they usually two to three weeks.

3 As for the comment period --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Three weeks?

5 That's after November 9th.

6 MR. EK: Well, it takes -- it takes
7 awhile to get these transcripts out.

8 But here's where the November 9th comes
9 in. It's a Minnesota rule. It's written down in
10 rule. 7850.2900 to 7850.3900 there is a rule. I
11 believe the comment period after a public meeting at
12 the minimum is -- what is it -- ten days or
13 seven days. And we usually extend it to two weeks.
14 So we provided more than what the rules provide for
15 already to move it up to November 9th. And that's
16 typically what we do.

17 It's a six-month process, and we kind of
18 got to -- you know, we can't -- we can't be letting
19 these dates float out there and float out there and
20 float out there. Because there is going to be
21 another opportunity to comment during the public
22 hearing as well, after what you see in the
23 environmental assessment what's been looked at. So
24 you'll have another opportunity to comment.

25 MR. ABLACK: So you're saying that

1 November 9th is not really a hard date then? We
2 still have another chance to comment for -- to
3 oppose --

4 MR. EK: Oh, yeah.

5 MR. ABLACK: -- and submit a route?

6 MR. EK: Certainly. Like I said, the
7 November 9th date is to -- this meeting and the
8 comments that are submitted are for consideration
9 for the scoping decision document. And those are
10 the items that we'd study in the environmental
11 assessment.

12 Now, during the hearing, it's a little
13 different. Like I said, the administrative law
14 judge will be convening the meeting. And that's
15 when folks can say, well, hey, this alternative
16 route A or this alternative route what number --
17 whatever number stinks, you know, we don't like it;
18 it has problems because of this, it has problems
19 because of that. And the judge will actually take
20 those comment letters and put together her report,
21 which includes findings -- it's a legal document --
22 findings of fact, a recommendation and a conclusion.
23 And she'll take all your comment letters at that
24 time. And that's probably going to be, what did I
25 say, four -- four to five months down the road.

1 MR. ABLACK: So then a lot of procedural.
2 If we don't like the judge's ruling, can we
3 challenge or appeal that ruling?

4 MR. EK: Yeah -- well, actually, not the
5 judge's ruling. The judge will write his or her
6 report, and that's submitted to the Public Utilities
7 Commission. Now, they'll take that, the
8 environmental assessment, everybody's comments from
9 tonight, from the public hearing, the route permit,
10 many, many different documents, and they take a look
11 at that. They'll make a decision. If you don't
12 like the decision that they made, there is a 20-day
13 reconsideration period where you can ask the Public
14 Utilities Commission to reconsider their decision.

15 Thank you.

16 MR. ANDERSON: My name is Tim Anderson.
17 A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I live in the Quail Ridge,
18 4345 Polaris Lane North. Just a comment and then a
19 question. I'm about a block west of where the line
20 runs through the Quail Ridge Association. I find it
21 hard to believe that you would propose putting these
22 massive powers in somebody's front yard. There's
23 got to be a better place to put them.

24 My question is is there anything in the
25 easement, in the right-of-way, in any of the

1 logistics surrounding a 55/494 alternate route that
2 would preclude you from running that line there?

3 MR. ROGERS: Chris Rogers, Xcel Energy
4 siting land rights. The only thing that would
5 preclude us from there is there are no existing
6 rights for transmission line in that corridor.

7 MR. ANDERSON: What does that mean?

8 MR. ROGERS: There's no easements where
9 that corridor is.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you quickly
11 explain to us what that means when there's already
12 lines running there?

13 MR. SEDARSKI: I can add to what Chris is
14 saying. I think the question is more about, well,
15 what are the constraints to preventing a line from
16 going there; right?

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

18 MR. SEDARSKI: Okay. Not so much that
19 there's a right there that we can use right away.
20 So I think part of the process that we're in with
21 this EA scoping to decide what's going to be in the
22 environmental document includes this alternative
23 route that you made, so 494/55. And we already know
24 that we're going to be looking at that in more
25 detail.

1 So I don't have the answer for you right
2 now, but the constraints that we would look at would
3 be if there is no room to do it because there's
4 already an existing line there that we can't either
5 double-circuit with or put our line next to because
6 of safety or operational concerns and if there's no
7 other area that we can actually physically put the
8 line.

9 So in order for us to know that, we need
10 to do a little bit more homework to figure out
11 whether or not a line could go east side, west side,
12 and what those constraints are. So we don't have
13 the answer to that yet. That's part of including
14 that route segment alternative to this project.

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And/or including
16 burying lines there, too?

17 MR. SEDARSKI: If that's being proposed
18 tonight. The question was if burying lines there as
19 well. I guess if that's proposed, that would be
20 included to be considered.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm proposing
22 burying lines on 494 and 55 as well, then.

23 MR. FLANDERS: Hi. My name is Todd
24 Flanders, T-O-D-D, F-L-A-N-D-E-R-S. And I serve as
25 headmaster of Providence Academy here in Plymouth,

1 and I thank people for hosting this meeting tonight.

2 Our immediate concern is that on our
3 campus -- it's near very many of our friends here --
4 currently five transmission poles exist with current
5 lines being run. The upgrade would obviously
6 present a massive change. These lines currently run
7 through places where kids currently play soccer and
8 play softball across our property.

9 We have very serious concerns about the
10 upgrade, and particularly heightened by some
11 potential health concerns that have been raised
12 tonight. We have been really pleased to grow,
13 serving more and more families over the past ten
14 years and are hoping to continue to do that, to
15 serve more in the community. And we are also hoping
16 to continue to build out of our property and are
17 hoping to build at some point a very lovely chapel
18 on that east side, pretty much where some of these
19 big power lines are planned.

20 We are very, very much in support of, it
21 seems everybody's opinion here tonight, that we do
22 the 494/55 route. We think that would be very
23 sensible, given the notion of so many residential
24 properties and, in our case, a very large school
25 serving a lot of kids.

1 If the rebuild is granted along the route
2 preferred by Xcel, we would encourage the
3 transmission line that runs north and south on
4 Providence Academy's campus, between Schmidt Lake
5 Road and the railroad tracks, to be moved to the
6 east of the conservation easement located on campus.
7 It would keep it from running right across campus,
8 across kids' playing fields.

9 The line would then span uninhabited
10 property owned by the City of Plymouth. And we are
11 hoping to be able to work with the City, Xcel and
12 others to foster a change if it comes to that.

13 We thank you very much for your
14 consideration.

15 MS. LAFRENZ: Hi. My name is Elizabeth
16 Lafrenz, L-A-F-R-E-N-Z, and I live at 14420 51st
17 Avenue North. It's just along the northernmost part
18 of the transmission line placement, east of
19 Providence and along 51st Avenue.

20 I'm attending this meeting, as most
21 everyone is, because I'm concerned about the
22 potential negative impact of this project on my
23 family, my young children, my neighbors, and the
24 surrounding areas. I'll submit my comments, much of
25 which is duplicitous of what you've already heard

1 tonight. But I did want to share with this group a
2 few facts that I found about the negative health
3 impacts on -- through my Internet research.

4 There are numerous studies that point to
5 the increased health risk of living near these power
6 lines, particularly for young children. According
7 to a study in the Internal Medicine Journal from
8 September of 2007, people who lived within
9 328 yards -- yards, not feet, yards -- of a power
10 line up to the age of five were five times more
11 likely to develop cancer. Those who lived within
12 the same range to a power line at any point during
13 the first 15 years were three times more likely to
14 develop cancer as an adult.

15 In a separate study, the California
16 Health Department issued a final report on power
17 frequency EMF in October of 2002. They did a
18 seven-year, \$9 million study which concluded EMF can
19 cause some degree of increased risk of childhood
20 leukemia, adult brain cancer, Lou Gehrig's disease
21 and miscarriage. The evaluation further concluded
22 that the magnetic fields may cause suicide and adult
23 leukemia. This study used a standard of causation,
24 which is a more rigorous test than the more common
25 standard that seeks merely to demonstrate

1 association between EMF and these diseases.

2 There was another study that appeared in
3 the June 2005 British Medical Journal which
4 concludes that there is a statistical link between
5 EMF from power lines and leukemia. More
6 specifically, the study found that children whose
7 birth address was within 200 meters -- meters of an
8 overhead power line had a 70 percent increased risk
9 of leukemia. Children living 200 to 600 meters away
10 from power lines also had a 20 percent increased
11 risk.

12 Most European countries, including the UK
13 and Germany, have prohibited the construction of
14 transmission power lines near homes and schools for
15 many years.

16 The State of Connecticut, a little closer
17 to home, has passed by overwhelming margin in early
18 May 2004 a law that requires power lines to be
19 buried if they pass near residences, schools,
20 hospitals and other sensitive facilities. As a
21 followup, the Connecticut Council study also showed
22 that burying long lines is feasible.

23 As someone else mentioned from the
24 audience -- just to make sure it's on the record --
25 first I will say I'm hugely in support of the

1 494/Highway 55 alternative. I would also request
2 that you consider mitigating the undeniably negative
3 impacts not only for possible health impacts,
4 property values, all the things that have been
5 discussed tonight, by considering underground burial
6 of the lines, in particular through areas of
7 residential impact. I imagine this will be of
8 additional expense to the utility initially, but
9 also is a potential additional benefit by providing
10 more consistent service through our harsh weather
11 and potentially saving massive rebuilding expenses.

12 Thank you very much.

13 MR. EK: Thank you for your comment.

14 MR. ONKEN: My name's Bob Onken. I live
15 at 18715 37th Avenue North. It's Onken, O-N-K-E-N.
16 I wanted to represent the Bridlewood neighborhood a
17 little bit here.

18 I understand taking this corridor down
19 55, and we're located in this area that I represent,
20 probably at least 35 different homeowners. We
21 weren't aware of any task force, and I don't know
22 that anybody -- maybe somebody was identified, I
23 don't know, but we never heard anything about it.
24 But I just represent those people. They're not here
25 tonight because I don't think they really understood

1 what was happening.

2 But, you know, I propose an alternate
3 route as well. There's a lot of open area
4 throughout this area (indicating), and it seems like
5 it would be feasible for an alternate route there.
6 We're within 50, 70 feet of these power lines, and
7 with the easement we could be as close as 50 feet.

8 So when we bought these houses, that was
9 an alternate line or kind of a support line that
10 they were -- that we were told wasn't running power.
11 Made a factor when we bought the house. And had we
12 known this might happen, I know we wouldn't be
13 living there.

14 My background. Years ago I came from the
15 naval nuclear industry, and we were told a lot about
16 how safe everything was. And they lied about that.
17 And that's why I left, because the studies started
18 coming out about how things were changing. And I
19 just look at this, things might change here too, and
20 we've got to be aware of that. Thanks.

21 MR. EK: Thank you. You brought up a
22 good point about the advisory task force. And I --
23 you know, I want to let -- I want to let folks know
24 that a single citizen's comment letter is just as
25 important as anything the task force is going to put

1 out. They hold no greater weight over what a single
2 citizen can write in, or a group of citizens. It's
3 an extension of the scoping process. We like to get
4 the city members involved because they can give us
5 information that we may not know about because
6 they're in contact with their constituents. So it's
7 an extension of this process. They hold no greater
8 weight or power.

9 So please send in a comment. Don't think
10 that just because there's a task force that your
11 comment is going to fall to the bottom of some pile.
12 No, it's -- they're all looked at and they all --
13 they all hold the same amount of weight. So I just
14 want folks to know that.

15 MR. KRAVCHENKO: My name is Yan
16 Kravchenko. First name is Y-A-N. Last name,
17 K-R-A-V-C-H-E-N-K-O. I live at 16115 39th Place
18 North.

19 For those of you, this is pretty much
20 right in this corner triangle area (indicating). So
21 regardless whether it's segment C or the proposed
22 route, I feel like my house will be microwaved as
23 well.

24 Yes, we are right next to the existing
25 line that is mostly turned off right now and it's

1 almost invisible. With a new line it will be
2 extremely visible. My house currently backs up to a
3 beautiful nature preserve where we have very active
4 wildlife, plenty of birds, plenty of wild animals.
5 Apart from the long-term effects of the power lines,
6 I'm also equally concerned, once the construction is
7 over, how many of those animals will still want to
8 call that area their home and what changes can we
9 expect from that process.

10 I appreciate the presentation by Xcel
11 Energy, and I do appreciate the bottom of the list
12 of all the things that get considered when lines get
13 routed, impact on residential areas is a
14 consideration. However, I think most of the people
15 will agree with me when you look at the proposed
16 existing transportation as well as alternative
17 routes, that was probably last on that list. In
18 fact, what is extremely clear to me is that the
19 number one consideration, which I can respect, is
20 saving company money.

21 Now, one thing that would -- I guess my
22 one comment to all those who are affected by this
23 is, the surest way I'm aware of of changing the
24 formula is to make it clear for Xcel Energy, make it
25 clear that the cost of running the line through any

1 of the current proposed areas will go up. You know,
2 we live in a day of social media. I think presently
3 some of the people in this room not only show their
4 support of how bad an idea this currently is, but
5 also how easy it is to motivate people to do the
6 right thing.

7 I think corporate responsibility isn't
8 just a clichéd term. It is something I think we
9 should be able to hold Xcel Energy accountable for.
10 I also feel that as somebody who pays Xcel Energy
11 considerable amounts of money year over year, I
12 deserve a little bit more respect than to be
13 completely ignored and have a giant power line run
14 through the back of my house only to help save a
15 multimillion-dollar company a couple more millions.

16 And, for the record, I'm very much in
17 favor of running the power line down the 55/494
18 corridor. Thank you.

19 MR. EK: Thanks for your comments. Just
20 so you know, that's another item that, well, of
21 course, we're going to look at now, but we
22 automatically look at flora, fauna, and typically
23 construction and how that impacts them. We look at
24 threatened and endangered species. I believe there
25 were a few listed here. I can't think of them right

1 off the top of my head. But we take a look at that.
2 We take a look at how flora and fauna is affected,
3 threatened and endangered species, nature preserves,
4 wildlife management areas, scientific natural areas.
5 I think another gentleman brought up a bike path or
6 a walking path, lakes, public areas of recreation
7 and so forth.

8 So you'll see a good review or discussion
9 of that information in the environmental assessment.
10 Thank you.

11 MR. WAARANIEMI: Paul Waaraneimi. I'd
12 just like to say a couple of things that I neglected
13 to say when we started.

14 One is I think we all need to educate
15 ourselves. The fact that maybe this power line
16 would have less EMF than some other things we use,
17 we have to look at the fact that it's cumulative.
18 We use all those other things. And if we add this
19 as a daily dose in our back yards, that's just
20 adding another level of EMF exposure. And I think
21 that we should all -- you know, there's lots out on
22 the Internet, powerlinefacts.com. --
23 powerlinefacts.com is a good resource. I don't know
24 if the Company would agree with that.

25 But the other thing that I think that is

1 important when we look at the walking trails that
2 that goes along, people, children are on that
3 playing all the time. We see it. There's just
4 constant traffic on that. And I think that other
5 Plymouth residents who maybe don't live right next
6 to it but use those trails should be aware as well.
7 And I would hope that the principal of Providence
8 Academy, if he's still here, or some other people
9 would let their parents know about the development
10 because I don't know how aware they are.

11 And then the other thing that I have is a
12 question and a comment. First of all, is it really
13 so that GRE and Xcel actually hasn't considered 494
14 and 55 as a possibility? It just seems like such an
15 obvious one. And I can't believe that it was never
16 one of the proposed routes or even that we got any
17 information on why they think it's not a desirable
18 route.

19 And then I'd just like to exhort GRE to
20 be good corporate citizens, pull that line right out
21 of there and just, you know, abandon it.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can you answer
23 that?

24 MR. SEDARSKI: Hi. Joe with Xcel Energy.
25 There are any number of planning studies

1 that happen throughout our system. And in this
2 particular area, there was a transmission and a
3 distribution planning study done for the need for
4 the project that we proposed. There were several
5 alternatives looked at in terms of different
6 corridors. I'm not sure if the 494 corridor was
7 looked at seriously in that, but some other
8 corridors were relative to trying to solve the
9 problem of Hollydale in terms of distribution.
10 That's something that I can double-check with our
11 planner and make sure that we address to the EA
12 process as well, so you understand what we did look
13 at initially at a planning level, higher level view.

14 I hope that answers your question.

15 MR. EK: Yes.

16 MS. ZOOK: My name is Lynn Zook, Z-0-0-K,
17 16415 39th Avenue North, Plymouth.

18 I'm just curious to know, what can we do?
19 It seems like we've got a lot of caring people here
20 tonight and they will all be sending in this
21 information. But it seems like it would be helpful
22 to us to know is there some specific way we could
23 help our city represent us? And I'm sure you've
24 been thinking and thinking, what can we do and how
25 can we help. And I guess I'm wondering, is this

1 something we could put to a vote as the City of
2 Plymouth to say all in favor of running high-voltage
3 power lines through Plymouth speak -- something
4 specific that we can do to help you represent us
5 better.

6 MS. JOHNSON: Well, first of all, again,
7 thank you for that question.

8 No, we can't put it to a vote. We don't
9 have authority to do that through state statute.
10 We're actually preempted in the process. You know,
11 the rail lines and the power lines and those kinds
12 of systems that go through our city preempt local
13 control.

14 The way we are participating, as I
15 mentioned earlier, is through the task force. We
16 have a seat on the task force, and I'm serving in
17 that role. And in my role, I had asked, again, for
18 city council support last night at our council
19 meeting and to take this issue to the rest of the
20 city, get it on the council meeting where the media
21 is covering it so everybody knows what's going on to
22 support that 494/55 route. And that's the only one
23 that was mentioned and supported last night.

24 So the City of Plymouth doesn't have
25 another vehicle. We don't have our own hearing

1 process. We don't have any approval process that we
2 would perhaps have if we're going to put a new road
3 in or new street construction or some of those
4 typical things that local governments do.

5 I would just really encourage you -- and,
6 again, I want to thank Scott, because that -- this
7 is where the comments need to go. And Scott has
8 assured me that these comments are all going to be
9 taken seriously. This is the process we all need to
10 be involved in. And this is a great turnout tonight
11 that you're all here participating. The City is
12 very aware of this. So I was very pleased that the
13 council supported me last night in this alternate
14 route.

15 The other thing, of course, in this
16 process is Xcel is wanting to buy a piece of
17 Plymouth property for their Pomerleau preferred
18 substation. And that we'll have conversations
19 about.

20 MS. ZOOK: Thank you.

21 MS. JOHNSON: So, really, just stay
22 engaged in this process. If I could magically wave
23 a wand and make this all better for everybody, get
24 the much-needed power we need for the city and
25 traveling through our city and the stability, I

1 would do that.

2 But truly, truly, truly, I'm not making
3 this up, stay engaged in this process, have your
4 voice heard. The council is aware of this. There
5 were two council members here tonight, a staff
6 member here tonight. So just keep engaged in this
7 process. And, you know, I live in this ward too. I
8 live in Windemere Farms, and I'm representing all of
9 you here. And, you know, I'll keep lending my voice
10 in support of this.

11 But, you know, it will be publicized.
12 Stay active, work through the process, talk to
13 Scott. So far he keeps saying everybody
14 communicate. Everybody communicate. So that's why
15 I would say to stay engaged.

16 MR. EK: Thank you.

17 MR. KUBINSKI: Tom Kubinski once again.
18 Just a couple questions for clarification.

19 Scott, you're with the state. Do you
20 represent us, the people, or the company, Xcel, when
21 you're making your decision?

22 MR. EK: I, of course, represent you, the
23 people. That's who I work for.

24 MR. KUBINSKI: So the decision -- when we
25 talk about all the things that everybody brought up

1 about the bullet points of what makes a decision of
2 what proposed route, and I think a couple made it
3 very clear that it seems like the individual
4 homeowners' personal health and property values were
5 lower on the totem pole. Is that going to resonate
6 with you when you're making your decision versus the
7 proposed line being less expensive for Xcel to put
8 it in where it is?

9 MR. EK: Again, I think you have it
10 wrong. The Public Utilities Commission makes that
11 decision. I take the information. I take your
12 comments, I take information from the transcript, I
13 take information from literature, from past dockets,
14 studies, we vet information that's in the route
15 permit. I don't personally make a decision on if
16 this Company will get a route or, if they do get a
17 route, where it would go. That's up to the Public
18 Utilities Commission.

19 So my job is, my focus is to take your
20 comments and make sure the Public Utilities
21 Commission is aware of what the citizens in the area
22 of a project feel and are concerned about.

23 MR. KUBINSKI: And let's carry that
24 forward. Let's say -- the Public Utilities, again,
25 they must represent us, the people, not the Company;

1 right? So when they're evaluating these decisions,
2 again with these points that we brought up, the
3 rated value -- weighted value of the decision is
4 based on the bullet points. How do we know the
5 people who are concerned with is -- right now
6 everybody's talking, you know, everybody's bringing
7 up great points. What's going to be done with that
8 talk?

9 I mean, that's my biggest concern here.
10 We all got great points, but we're individual
11 voices, we're not a unity voice.

12 Judy, my question for you is, can we get
13 a mail list, an e-mail list of every individual
14 that's affected with this that's here so we can be
15 talking with one another to come together for a
16 voice?

17 Second question, do we need legal
18 representation as a group?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. We probably
20 need some.

21 MR. KUBINSKI: I mean, that's a question.
22 And there's no way we're going to unite as a group
23 if we don't have contact information. Because as
24 we're talking through all of these timelines, you
25 know, November 9th is our re -- our response date,

1 but we're not going to get a recap of this meeting
2 for three weeks, which I understand it takes time to
3 transcribe. But where is our voice going to be? I
4 mean, you're all going to come here for the next
5 meeting, we're going to probably say the same things
6 and do the same stuff. Now is the time to unite as
7 a group and get legal representation if we need it.
8 I don't know if we need it. But how are we going to
9 communicate with one another? I guess that's a
10 question for you.

11 And then what my biggest concern is that
12 you stated, Scott, is that on the committees you've
13 been on, which is a limited number, none have been
14 changed, but yet none have had as close proximity of
15 homes as this one.

16 There's a lot of stuff that's just being
17 talked about, and is everybody here concerned as
18 well as I am?

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Yeah.

20 MR. KUBINSKI: And we're talking, we're
21 having these meetings just like they've been from
22 the other meetings we've had, but really, have we
23 united and what can we do to unite? That's another
24 question.

25 MR. EK: To answer your question, I guess

1 I answered it incorrectly. Projects have been
2 changed. You posed your question, have they been
3 changed due to EMF.

4 MR. KUBINSKI: That wasn't my question.

5 MR. EK: Or somebody had. Projects have
6 been changed. Many of my projects have been
7 changed. The route proposed by the applicant due to
8 citizen comment, could be one citizen comment, due
9 to a task force alternate, that has ultimately
10 changed the route proposed by the applicant and
11 eventually permitted by the Public Utilities
12 Commission.

13 When it comes to your statement that
14 you're skeptical about this process, we're very
15 early in the process. Right now we're trying to get
16 information for the scoping decision document,
17 information to put into the environmental
18 assessment. We will weigh those issues in the
19 environmental assessment. Folks will have an
20 opportunity to look at that. There will be a public
21 hearing. I will not be convening it. I will not be
22 taking the comments. You're going to have a
23 third-party administrative law judge now looking at
24 what people have to say that's in the EA or that's
25 in the route permit and drawing her own conclusions.

1 Now, we take all that information and
2 give it to the Public Utilities Commission. I can't
3 comment on how they make their decisions, how they
4 weigh their decisions on, you know, where the
5 route -- should the Company get a route permit,
6 where the route should go if they do. And I don't
7 know what value they put into each of these
8 categories and how they weigh them, proximity to
9 homes, EMF. It varies with each project, and I
10 can't speak for the Commissioners themselves.

11 But it is -- it is important to keep up
12 in this whole process, because when you do find
13 something that's wrong or out of whack after the EA
14 comes out or if you thought of something new or even
15 better, that's when -- that's when you tell the
16 judge at a forum similar to this and provide comment
17 letters, similar to what you're doing now but they
18 go to a judge, saying, well, this is incorrect, or
19 this is even a better idea I thought of.

20 And so there are opportunities down the
21 line. Like I said, we're right in the beginning of
22 the whole -- this is the first step, essentially, in
23 the process.

24 And another thing that's not really
25 common is, even prior to the Applicant submitting

1 their application on June 30th, I was receiving
2 comment letters from folks. I saved all those
3 comment letters. In the rule there's not a comment
4 period for that. I'm going to save all those
5 comment letters for use in the scoping decision, and
6 I will continue to save comment letters until the
7 scoping decision is finished.

8 So, no, I take this very seriously, and I
9 read all the letters. And I'm not even lying. And
10 I just urge you to keep involved in the process.
11 It's the only way to know the...

12 MS. JOHNSON: Do you want to talk about
13 how to get involved?

14 MS. CLARKE: Did you have anything else?

15 MR. KUBINSKI: One thing. The lady that
16 had all the medical research, was that you?

17 MS. LAFRENZ: That's me.

18 MR. KUBINSKI: That's you? Again, it
19 goes to my point about meeting contacts. That would
20 be great information for every one of us to have.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is there a way to
22 get everyone's e-mail addresses?

23 MR. ZOOK: Start a list.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, with who's
25 here, I mean to your point.

1 MS. JOHNSON: And through social media
2 there are some already established things that might
3 help people communicate. It's not through the city,
4 but it's through everybody, like us, that are
5 already going. So that might be the best way to
6 immediately get started.

7 MS. CLARKE: Janet Clarke, C-L-A-R-K-E.
8 17004 39th Court North, Plymouth. Forgive the
9 voice.

10 There's two social media things, if you
11 want to write down the addresses. If you are on
12 Facebook, if you are already a Facebook member --
13 now you have to type this in verbatim or it will not
14 come up -- Hollydale, H-0-L-L-Y-D-A-L-E, space,
15 project, P-R-0-J-E-C-T, space, M-N for Minnesota.
16 Okay. So Hollydale Project MN. The intent of that
17 site is to post factual information. The intent is
18 not to start a discussion. If somebody wants to
19 start a Facebook page that is dedicated to
20 discussion, great, I'll post a link there. But that
21 one's really intended for information links.

22 There's also a blog, so if you don't want
23 to be part of Facebook, it's Hollydaleproject, all
24 one -- all shoved together, dot, blogspot, B L --
25 excuse me, B-L-0-G-S-P-0-T, dot, com.

1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Could you repeat
2 that, please?

3 MS. CLARKE: Yes, Hollydaleproject, all
4 one word -- all one word, excuse me, dot, blogspot,
5 B-L-O-G-S-P-O-T, dot, com. If you do a search on
6 Hollydale blogspot, it should pop up.

7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that pot or
8 bot?

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Pot. Blogspot.

10 MS. JOHNSON: If you e-mail search it, it
11 will pop up.

12 MS. CLARKE: Yeah, search on that.

13 MR. EK: Excuse me, Janet.

14 MS. CLARKE: Yes.

15 MR. EK: Just a question I had. For the
16 Facebook, I should have found this, but you just
17 type the HollydaleprojectMN into the search?

18 MS. CLARKE: So if you are a Facebook
19 member, you have to go on your Facebook page,
20 there's this place to search up there. If you just
21 put in Hollydale, it will not find it. If you just
22 put in Hollydale Project, it might not find it. So
23 you have to put in Hollydale, space, Project, space,
24 MN on the Facebook --

25 MR. EK: Okay.

1 MS. CLARKE: -- it should come up.

2 MR. EK: Thank you.

3 MS. CLARKE: Yes. I also have a question
4 for Scott. On the environmental assessment -- for
5 example, on the document that I submitted, there is
6 homes -- two homes in our area that are 50 feet
7 apart and the line runs between them, so obviously
8 one of them must be in the easement. If we put that
9 as a concern, is anyone actually going to physically
10 go out and look at the addresses that we have
11 concerns about?

12 MR. EK: If I get that in your comment
13 letter, we can -- yeah, we can -- I can go out there
14 myself. But I would have to have, I guess,
15 permission by you to go out there and really take a
16 look, or permission by whoever owns the houses to
17 take a look.

18 That has already been brought up tonight,
19 proximity to homes. And what I do -- what we do at
20 Energy Facility Permitting Unit is we look at that
21 information the utility companies provided us and we
22 do vet it, we do vet the information to make sure
23 it's correct. So...

24 MS. CLARKE: So you actually put boots on
25 the ground at some point?

1 MR. EK: We can. Oh, yeah, we can.

2 MS. CLARKE: By assessment? Do we need
3 to specifically request that?

4 MR. EK: You don't need to specifically.
5 But if -- a question like that would imply that
6 you'd need to get boots on the ground. So that's
7 a --

8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just ask the
9 question.

10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just make the
11 question. Then it's on record. Make the question
12 of what addresses you want to be on the record,
13 then.

14 MS. CLARKE: Would you please --

15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Then they're going
16 to have to do it.

17 MS. CLARKE: Okay. Would you please go
18 to the addresses on Garland Lane, let's see, must be
19 3961 Garland Lane North is 50 feet -- approximately
20 51 feet from the single-family home at 3963 Garland
21 Lane North, which was noted by Xcel to be the
22 closest home to the line.

23 MR. EK: So the first one was
24 3962 Garland Lane?

25 MS. CLARKE: Yes.

1 MR. EK: And 3060 --

2 MS. CLARKE: Garland Lane North.

3 MR. EK: Oh, North?

4 Oh, it was North too.

5 MS. CLARKE: They're both Garland Lane
6 North.

7 MR. EK: Okay. Got it, got it, got it.

8 MS. CLARKE: And also there's seven
9 townhomes on Everest Lane North, the address range
10 is from 3924 through 3900, that are approximately
11 31 feet from the center line. And the concern is
12 the -- even trying to access the existing pole
13 that's behind those homes. So I request boots on
14 the ground there.

15 MR. EK: Okay.

16 MS. CLARKE: Okay.

17 MR. EK: Thank you.

18 MS. CLARKE: Thank you. And I do really
19 appreciate very much that we have a process to
20 request these type of things. Thank you very much
21 for your involvement.

22 MR. EK: Thank you, Janet.

23 MR. ZOOK: My name is Jim Zook, Z-0-0-K.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: Hey, Jim.

25 MR. ZOOK: I gave my address earlier. I

1 have a question and then a comment to make after
2 that.

3 My question is regarding the Public
4 Utilities Commission. Scott, you made it, I think,
5 very clear that ultimately this is their decision to
6 make. So my questions are, how do we contact the
7 Public Utilities Commission? How do we find out who
8 the members of the Commission are, and how can we
9 contact them?

10 MR. EK: Typically there's a staff member
11 from the Commission here, but I don't see him.

12 Mike Kaluzniak, are you here tonight?

13 No.

14 What -- let me try to figure this out for
15 you. You can go online. I'm trying to figure out
16 how to give everybody the information without -- I
17 don't have a handout here. I tell you what, anybody
18 who wants to get ahold of the Public Utilities
19 Commission call me, e-mail me, grab my card, call
20 me, e-mail me, you can also go online to Energy
21 Facilities -- very good question.

22 MR. ZOOK: It wasn't actually mine, but
23 good question.

24 MR. EK: Go to puc.state.mn.us, and that
25 brings up their web page. You can also,

1 met, and they split up into three separate groups to
2 come up with alternate plans. All three groups
3 independently came up with Highway 55 and up 494.
4 The next day Judy Johnson sent a request wondering
5 if there were any impediments to going up Highway 55
6 with the line that was already there.

7 Here we are, and we get tonight the
8 response that I'll check into that to see if there's
9 any reason. I get the impression that they are not
10 being cooperative in sharing information, and I'm
11 disappointed with that.

12 My question is, with this stubbornness
13 and foot-dragging on the part of Xcel, why cannot we
14 delay the response period beyond November 9th?

15 MR. EK: As a matter of fact, I had the
16 same e-mail from Judy Johnson, and I directed it to
17 Xcel Energy. And they are working on it as we
18 speak, on the feasibility of that 55 to 494 route.
19 It does take time. When -- you know, they're not
20 dragging their feet. It takes time to find out
21 where these MnDOT rights-of-way are, where
22 utilities -- other utilities are located, be it
23 water, be it gas, be it aboveground transmission
24 lines. There's a lot of detail that goes into
25 figuring out if a route can be done.

1 And they are working on it. They're not
2 dragging their feet. I just received an e-mail from
3 Xcel today explaining to me, you know, we're working
4 on it, we're working on it; we couldn't get it done
5 for the meeting, but it will be something, you know,
6 in the environmental assessment that we will take a
7 look at. And so usually when an alternative --
8 alternate --

9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: When did they say
10 they would have a response back to you by?

11 MR. EK: Oh, they don't. They can't.
12 It's very difficult. No, it is. It is difficult
13 for all the -- all the different things that go into
14 planning a route. It's going to be available for
15 the environmental assessment. It needs to be and
16 will be part of it.

17 It takes -- this is very common for any
18 docket that I've done where a new alternate route
19 comes up. There are no answers when it comes to
20 this first public information meeting when a new
21 alternative comes up because the company has to go
22 back and take a look at everything. And that's
23 typically analyzed in the environmental assessment
24 then.

25 They're not dragging their feet, I can

1 tell you that. They've been more than accommodating
2 to the State of Minnesota when I've asked for
3 information on this project, when other citizens
4 have asked for information on this project. They've
5 been very accommodating and very quick to turn
6 around information. So it's -- no, they're not
7 pulling your leg and they're not dragging their
8 feet. It's just a new alternative that they have to
9 have the correct information. They can't just stand
10 up here and rattle things off the top of their head
11 when they don't know if they're facts or not.

12 But we have this down in record now that
13 this is an alternative that folks are in favor of.
14 So Xcel is here to hear that, and there's been
15 e-mails by Jodi (sic) Johnson, the council member.
16 I re-sent the e-mail. So they're working on it, and
17 we will get an answer. So thank you.

18 MR. NAPIER: I'm Allen Napier at
19 16520 39th Avenue North. N, as in Nancy, A, P as in
20 pencil, I-E-R.

21 First of all, I'm neighbors with Jim, and
22 I want to thank you very much. That was suspected
23 of you all along, but you came through in the end.

24 Second, I think that was a very
25 distressing comment, because we have till

1 November the 9th, and they have, well, we'll get
2 around to it, in essence is what you said, and they
3 are not dragging their feet, et cetera. We have a
4 finite date, November the 9th. They have, we're not
5 dragging our feet. That's distressing for me.

6 But my question is, at the end of the
7 discussions and when we go in front of the PUC, the
8 Xcel people continue to push for what they have, can
9 the answer by the PUC be no, you can't have a
10 permit?

11 MR. EK: Oh, certainly. Certainly.

12 MR. NAPIER: How many times has that
13 happened?

14 MR. EK: I do not have those numbers. I
15 do not have those numbers.

16 And just to comment, again, on the
17 November 9th date. That November 9th date is for
18 comments from you as citizens. That note -- that
19 has nothing to do with comments we receive from
20 Xcel.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But it's without
22 facts.

23 MR. NAPIER: You're missing my point.

24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's without the
25 facts.

1 MR. EK: What facts? If you could please
2 come up to the microphone, sir.

3 MR. NAPIER: My point -- if I could make
4 it before, you know, before this gentleman comes up,
5 my point is that for our comments, for the public's
6 comments, we have a very finite period. When
7 responses are from Xcel, it's, well, we didn't get
8 to it by tonight. That was your -- I think that's
9 what you had said. We don't have the proposals
10 ready for tonight. Now, I understand that their
11 response to your question is probably a whole lot
12 more complex than our comments.

13 MR. EK: I think you're misunderstanding.
14 The point is in the scoping decision document you --
15 it's already been put on the plate, the 55 to 494
16 route. And so that's something we'll look at. So
17 now in the environmental assessment, we'll need
18 information from Xcel. You've already -- people
19 have already said they'd like that route. What are
20 you trying to disagree with --

21 MR. NAPIER: I'm not disagreeing --

22 MR. EK: -- about Xcel or what
23 information are you looking for from --

24 MR. NAPIER: We have ten days. When you
25 ask them a question, how long do they have?

1 MR. EK: They have -- this is -- this
2 is --

3 MR. NAPIER: I understand that decision.
4 It's apples-ish and orangie-ish. But I think that
5 it's -- I'm having difficulty putting this into
6 words that seem to convey my question. But it seems
7 as though we have rules that you're already
8 stretching by from ten days to two weeks. But when
9 it comes time for a response from the Xcel
10 positions, there isn't a ten-day to two-week
11 requirement; there is when we get done with the
12 survey.

13 Now, as I say, I understand that their
14 responses are a good deal more complex than are our
15 comments. But to the point that he's going to make,
16 we don't know what we don't know.

17 MR. EK: What type of response are you
18 looking at -- for?

19 MR. NAPIER: Why can't we build it up 55
20 and 494?

21 MR. EK: That's what we're going to look
22 at in the environmental assessment.

23 MR. NAPIER: No, that's a -- that's my
24 point. They have the entire span --

25 MR. EK: No, the State of Minnesota puts

1 together the environmental assessment.

2 MR. NAPIER: Okay.

3 MR. EK: That's my job. My job is to ask
4 Xcel for information on alternative routes. It's
5 the citizens' and the public's job to provide those
6 alternatives to the State of Minnesota so we can
7 include them in the environmental assessment.

8 So you've already accomplished that goal
9 by bringing up the 55 to 494. Now it's my job to
10 take that alternate, ask Xcel for information on
11 that route, and put that into the environmental
12 assessment, along with their proposed route and any
13 other alternative routes that come up.

14 So that's something that the State does
15 and evaluates in the environmental assessment. It
16 has nothing to do with comments received by Xcel.

17 MR. NAPIER: I give up. We do need legal
18 representation.

19 MR. SAVAGE: Pete Savage. The point I'm
20 trying to make is you're asking us to make comments
21 without certain facts regarding the Highway 55
22 route. And we're waiting for Xcel Energy to give us
23 that information so that we can make comments based
24 on that information.

25 But what you're saying is we don't need

1 their input. We can just make up things to comment
2 on. That's stupid.

3 MR. EK: What type of facts are you
4 looking for?

5 MR. SAVAGE: The question was asked, are
6 there any impediments to going up Highway 55. And
7 we can't address those impediments unless they tell
8 us what they are.

9 MR. EK: The whole point I think folks
10 are missing is this is one step in the process. The
11 environmental assessment will evaluate any
12 alternative route. You're going to have an
13 opportunity at the public hearing to ask questions
14 about what's proposed in the environmental
15 assessment, which describes each of these
16 alternative routes. You'll be able to provide
17 comments to the judge. You'll be able to provide
18 comments orally here in the same, similar fashion on
19 engineering of a proposed line, limitations of a
20 proposed alternative that are brought up in the
21 environmental assessment. And that's when you have
22 your opportunity to say, hey, well, why --

23 MR. SAVAGE: So you're saying we
24 shouldn't make comments now; we should wait until
25 the environmental assessment is done?

1 MR. EK: No, you should make comments now
2 on alternative routes, say I like that 55 to 494.

3 MR. SAVAGE: I would like to have more
4 facts on the 55/494 route that Xcel isn't sharing.

5 MR. EK: Well, we can't -- they don't
6 have that information.

7 MR. SAVAGE: I understand. So what I
8 asked was, can we delay the November 9th until they
9 can get some of that information to us so that we
10 have an opportunity to review that -- those facts
11 and comment on it?

12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Scott, I think
13 what these two gentlemen are trying to say is, in
14 order for us, the public, to comment on why 55 and
15 494 makes sense, so we can back up the comment. I
16 think that's what they're saying, they don't have
17 the facts to state why this is a good alternative to
18 look at versus just saying, look at this.

19 MR. EK: Well, then -- that's the whole
20 point of a comment letter from a citizen, is to
21 provide reasoning why you want it to go down a
22 certain route.

23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, I understand
24 that. But what I think these two gentlemen are
25 trying to say is they don't have enough time -- if

1 I'm hearing correctly, correct me if I'm wrong --
2 they don't have enough time to gather the data and
3 the research to back up the point of why they want
4 to make this alternative route. I mean, we had a
5 lady here who --

6 MR. EK: No, the ongoing theme to me is,
7 because of proximity to homes, you do not want these
8 existing 69 kV built to a 115 through where it is
9 now. There's two points you could make for the
10 route down 55 to 494.

11 EMF was another issue brought up for
12 reasons that you'd like to see an alternative route
13 go down 59 -- 55 and up 494.

14 Let's see, there was another. Homes
15 within the right-of-way, homes within the
16 right-of-way was another reason why you might like
17 to see a route go down 55 or up 494. Those are
18 reasons.

19 We're not going to have engineering
20 details to provide you on a route that's just been
21 pulled out of a hat just as of last week. That's
22 not possible. And any docket that I've worked on,
23 it just doesn't happen that way. It's a new route
24 and they're not going to have that information.

25 And so the comment period ends

1 November 9th. And the comment period is meant for
2 you to provide the State information to study in the
3 environmental assessment, which includes alternative
4 routes.

5 You can say I just want the 55 to 494
6 route. There's a simple comment. There needs to be
7 no backing. We've received comments like that on
8 many, many dockets, so -- and many alternatives have
9 been accepted just because they think it's a better
10 route. So I don't understand the question, I guess,
11 and I can't answer the question.

12 MS. LAFRENZ: Hi, Elizabeth Lafrenz. I
13 just had a couple of questions, actually.

14 And I apologize if I missed this. Just
15 to be clear, so after the public hearing with the
16 judge, is it the judge who actually makes a
17 recommendation on a proposed route, whether it's
18 Xcel's proposal or an alternative route, to the
19 Public Utilities Commission? That's, I guess, my
20 first question.

21 MR. EK: Yes. In this case, I am going
22 to ask the judge to put together findings, a
23 recommendation and a conclusion -- or a
24 recommendation and conclusion on which route.

25 MS. LAFRENZ: Okay.

1 MR. EK: So she -- or he, I should say,
2 could come up with -- could say it's the proposed
3 route, or could say it's a new alternative route.
4 The PUC may take her decision. They may not. In
5 the Brookings case I did, they did not. It was a
6 back-and-forth decision. They did not take the
7 decision fully by the judge. Sometimes they'll
8 split it apart and do different things with it.

9 But it's hard to say what they're going
10 to do, because they look at more than just the
11 judge's report. And so they listen to citizens and
12 look at the citizens' comments. But, no, it's not
13 solely based on the judge's report.

14 MS. LAFRENZ: And then the PUC, can you
15 tell us a little bit more about who these people are
16 and I guess how they're put into position and what
17 they're accountable for, how they're compensated as
18 part of that?

19 MR. EK: I can -- I don't know about the
20 compensation and all that. I do --

21 MS. LAFRENZ: But who are they --

22 MR. EK: Oh, yeah, yeah. There's five
23 Commissioners that are part of the Public Utilities
24 Commission, and they are all appointed by the gov --
25 or not by the gov -- the governor. But then they

1 have to be, what do you call it, approved by the
2 legislature or the Congress. And I do not know what
3 their backgrounds are. I do not know what they get
4 paid. I do not know any of that information.

5 MS. LAFRENZ: But they are paid by the
6 state, by the governor?

7 MR. EK: Yes, they are paid by the state.
8 That I can tell you. But there's five of them, and
9 they will make a decision.

10 MS. LAFRENZ: They're not elected, are
11 they?

12 MR. EK: No, they are not elected, no.
13 They're appointed.

14 MS. LAFRENZ: And then have they been
15 Commissioners for a long time or are they relatively
16 new to this?

17 MR. EK: I'm trying to think. I can't --
18 I know there's two of them that have been on there
19 for quite some time, at least five years or longer.
20 There's, oh, three of them five years or longer.
21 And there's two relatively new ones from within the
22 last couple of years.

23 MS. LAFRENZ: Okay.

24 MR. EK: Off the top of my head.

25 MS. LAFRENZ: And just my last question,

1 then. I do appreciate you taking our comments and
2 considering them. Any advice, given your history
3 and bringing these forward, knowing the Commission
4 as you probably do, for us to obviously want to see
5 the 494/55 corridor be successful other than what
6 we've heard, to continue to provide comments or, as
7 someone said, to continue e-mailing, talking, saying
8 the same thing? Any other pieces of advice do you
9 think that we should be doing as a group? And that
10 would be it. Thank you.

11 MR. EK: Well, yeah, like I said, you
12 can, of course, send in a comment that simply says I
13 like -- I hate the proposed route but I like this 55
14 to 494. That's a fine comment. If you add to that
15 comment, because the power lines are 20 or 30 --
16 they're currently 20 or 30 feet from my house, I'm
17 worried I'm in the right-of-way, I'm worried about
18 electric magnetic fields, I'm worried about --
19 whatever your concern may be, if you can add it to
20 that letter.

21 As to the reasoning why, essentially,
22 this alternate route would mitigate those problems
23 for you and possibly many of your neighbors. That's
24 another thing you could put in there, that many of
25 my neighbors have -- or my townhome association or

1 homeowners association. You want to qualify the
2 statement and it helps us out. Maybe there's a
3 wetland in your back yard or woods or a trail or a
4 park or a lake and, you know, you add all that
5 information in. And you can say at the end, by
6 putting this proposed line in a different location
7 would mitigate those problems that I have, maybe my
8 neighbor has, maybe a few neighbors have.

9 And I guarantee I'm going to receive more
10 than one letter that says that. So I'll have a
11 whole stack of letters that say -- that support that
12 issue. It will go into the scoping decision
13 document, go into the EA, and we will take a look at
14 that. And -- and we will ask Xcel -- you know, when
15 it comes time to be putting together this EA, that's
16 when we ask Xcel for the information on those
17 alternate routes. I'm sure there's going to be more
18 than one. There always is. But, yeah.

19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you guys accept
20 photos?

21 MR. EK: Yes. Yeah. Yep. Photos are
22 fine. Photos are great. I just think to comment,
23 regardless, you know, if you're a good writer, bad
24 writer, whatnot, just to provide a comment is
25 important, period. So I hope folks do. I hope

1 folks do.

2 Yes, sir.

3 MR. CIEMINSKI: My name is Cort Cieminski
4 spelled, first name, C-O-R-T, and then
5 C-I-E-M-I-N-S-K-I. And I'm at 16515 39th Place
6 North.

7 And I guess I'm trying to recap the
8 frustration of tonight and having heard information
9 about this. And so correct me if I'm wrong, but my
10 frustration is, why wasn't the 55 and 494 explored a
11 long time ago? That would have been the moral,
12 responsible thing to do from Xcel Energy. Why are
13 we now getting a comment of we need to explore that,
14 thanks for your comment? That should have been done
15 a long time ago. And now we're sitting at this
16 point of we're frustrated and we're waiting for
17 feedback on something that we don't have. And for
18 me, as someone who has three young children within
19 45 feet of that power line, that would have been the
20 moral, responsible thing to do.

21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Because the
23 process is not backing up to allow time for that.

24 MR. CIEMINSKI: Absolutely. And we're a
25 relatively small group. We have a lot of people

1 here tonight, but there's a -- I can guarantee you
2 there's a lot of people that don't know about this
3 for a variety of reasons. But I guarantee, if they
4 had heard about this awhile ago, they would be up in
5 arms about this. I agree about having some
6 neighborhoods band together.

7 But I'm frustrated because it seems to me
8 it comes down to, whether perception or reality, it
9 is that Xcel is acting out of their own
10 self-interest. It is cheaper for them, it is easier
11 for them to do exactly what it is to do right now,
12 and that is to go through our back yards, as opposed
13 to the moral, responsible thing to do, and that's
14 expose the least people as possible to a
15 high-voltage power line in a major metropolitan
16 area. Thank you.

17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can we get a
18 response, please, to why that wasn't considered?

19 MR. EK: Yeah, I think Joe explained it.
20 But, Joe, if you could.

21 MR. SEDARSKI: I guess I tried to explain
22 it before. We did -- we do look at these planning
23 efforts at various times over the years. I think
24 planning efforts are going on four, ten,
25 twenty years down the road for these things. So, in

1 the meantime, other things change. So there's
2 corridors that got -- that get filled up. There's a
3 345 along --

4 COURT REPORTER: Could you please speak
5 up.

6 MR. SEDARSKI: I'm sorry. We do look at
7 these things at various times. It's not that we
8 don't. We're planning all the time. We've got a
9 whole team of planners and so does GRE, so there is
10 a point you have to decide, okay, well, we need to
11 solve this problem at this date and let's take a
12 look at this, let's take a look at what's available
13 and then move on from there. So we do have a
14 planning report for this particular project, and
15 that can become available as well. It's not
16 something we typically provide, but we can.

17 So I apologize if it seems like we're
18 hiding information. We're not. We're trying to be
19 part of the process in permitting and responding to
20 everybody's questions. And we're going to be
21 looking at the routes that you guys proposed,
22 alternate routes, and we're in this process. If the
23 PUC decides that's the route, then that would be the
24 route.

25 MR. EK: Do we have any other folks that

1 would like to come up and provide a comment or have
2 any questions? All right.

3 Well, I don't know how many cookies or
4 coffee is left at the back, but feel free to grab
5 it.

6 I thank you for coming. If you haven't
7 signed up for the mailing list, please sign up.
8 Please grab a comment form, and please get ahold of
9 me any time. I'll try to answer any question you
10 have about the process of the project.

11 So thank you.

12 (Proceedings concluded at 9:42 p.m.)

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