

From: [Umesh Acharya](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113
Date: Monday, November 12, 2012 5:32:22 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Umesh Acharya

From: [H.A](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Holly Creek, COD
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 12:08:55 AM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

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We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Hatem Alassy
16764 39th ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55446

18120 39th Avenue N.
Plymouth, Minnesota
55446 USA

Barry J. Altman

October 26, 2012

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198
Fax: 651-297-7891
suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us

Re: Hollydale Certificate of Need Scoping Docket 12-113

Dear Ms Steinhauer:

I have spent a considerable amount of time over the past year trying to understand all the notices and proposals regarding the Hollydale Project. Xcel Energy has stated that they need 8 miles of 115kV High tension lines between the Medina Substation and the proposed Pomerleau Lake Substation.

This proposal is of concern as the proposed route passes within 27.5 ft of my home as documented by the attachment from Xcel Energy on page 3. I am asking that the Environmental Report for the Hollydale Certificate of Need research Xcel Energy's Alternative A2 in detail due to my concerns about the Hollydale project as proposed by Xcel.

In the Certificate of Need application Xcel Energy discussed several alternatives. These are identified in the Certificate of Need Document as:

- Alternative – 1 ("A1" or "Hollydale Project"): Hollydale 115/13.8 kilovolt distribution substation and two 115 kilovolt transmission lines (See Map on Page 4.)
- Alternative – 2 ("A2"): Perimeter 115/13.8 kilovolt distribution substation and two 13.8kV low voltage feeder lines. (See Map on Page 5.)
- Alternative – 3 ("A3"): Upgrade of the Gleason Lake and Parkers Lake 115/13.8 kilovolt distribution substations along with low voltage feeder lines. (See Map on Page 6.)

Xcel energy has stated that Alternative A1 best meets their needs. Based on this assumption they have requested approval for the route to run the 115kV line adjacent to my property. To me this certainly places the proverbial cart before the horse. How can Xcel possibly be granted a route before a final decision is made on the Certificate of Need?

Suppose Alternative A2 is better suited to meet the electricity needs in the community or is just as effective? Wouldn't there be a lot less impact not only on my home but on the neighborhood?

Page 2

Alternative A2 adds capacity from the existing Hollydale substation to the new Pomerleau Lake Substation. As Xcel states in page 61 of their application: "With respect to operability, similar to the Hollydale Project, Alternative A2 is an extension of the existing distribution system and provides for a large number of standard options that could be quickly implemented under contingency conditions."

It appears that Xcel wishes to run their own 115 kV line rather than pay GRE \$47,000/MW/ year. The Environmental Report should analyze all the financial issues for Alternative A1 (Hollydale project) and Alternative A2 and determine what the costs really are and whether Xcel's calculation is different from what benefits the community.

At this point, I am totally confused. If Alternatives A2 will meet the requirements of Xcel Energy, why is a 115kV line required to the Medina substation? The Medina substation is not even mentioned in Alternative A2.

Alternative A2 reduces a major portion of the neighborhood objections represented by this room full of people. Additionally, this alternative reduces the environmental impact of a new 8 - 10 mile 115kV line.

The Certificate of Need (CON) Appendix B (Studies) refers to Options H1, H2, and H3. (See Map on Page 7.) Option H1 is the Hollydale project. This connection option brings a new 115 kilovolt line from Great River Energy's Medina Substation to a new 115kV switching substation, near Great River Energy's Plymouth and Bass Lake substations. A proposed name for this substation is Pomerleau Lake.

Option H2 and H3 also have 115 kV power lines. These alternatives could create different impact areas for other neighborhoods. It seemed from Xcel Energy's studies that they excluded Option H2 due to "routing concerns." The Environmental Report should investigate the other 115 kV Options put forward by Xcel Energy in the studies and see if Xcel chose the Hollydale project because they assumed that its Option H1 would have no opposition.

Also, it seems that Xcel ruled out Alternative A2 because they didn't want to pay Great River Energy for power from the Parkers Lake Substation. But the Hollydale project that they are proposing seems to require Xcel to pay for power the GRE's Medina Station. The Environmental Report should evaluate the financial assumptions that Xcel is making and see if the facts have been misused to support a de facto conclusion.

As stated at the Scoping Meeting on June 8th, 2012 my family, along with my neighbors, have expressed our concerns regarding proximity to the line, EMF and other environmental issues; so I will not repeat them here.

I will close by stating that Alternative A2 will meet the needs of Xcel Energy and will remove the objection of my self and many neighbors. This alternative needs to be seriously considered by the Department of Commerce in their Environmental Report.

Further, I believe it essential to approve an alternative and/or option from the Certificate of Need process before any Hollydale route can be analyzed or approved.

Respectfully,



Barry J. Altman



Altman

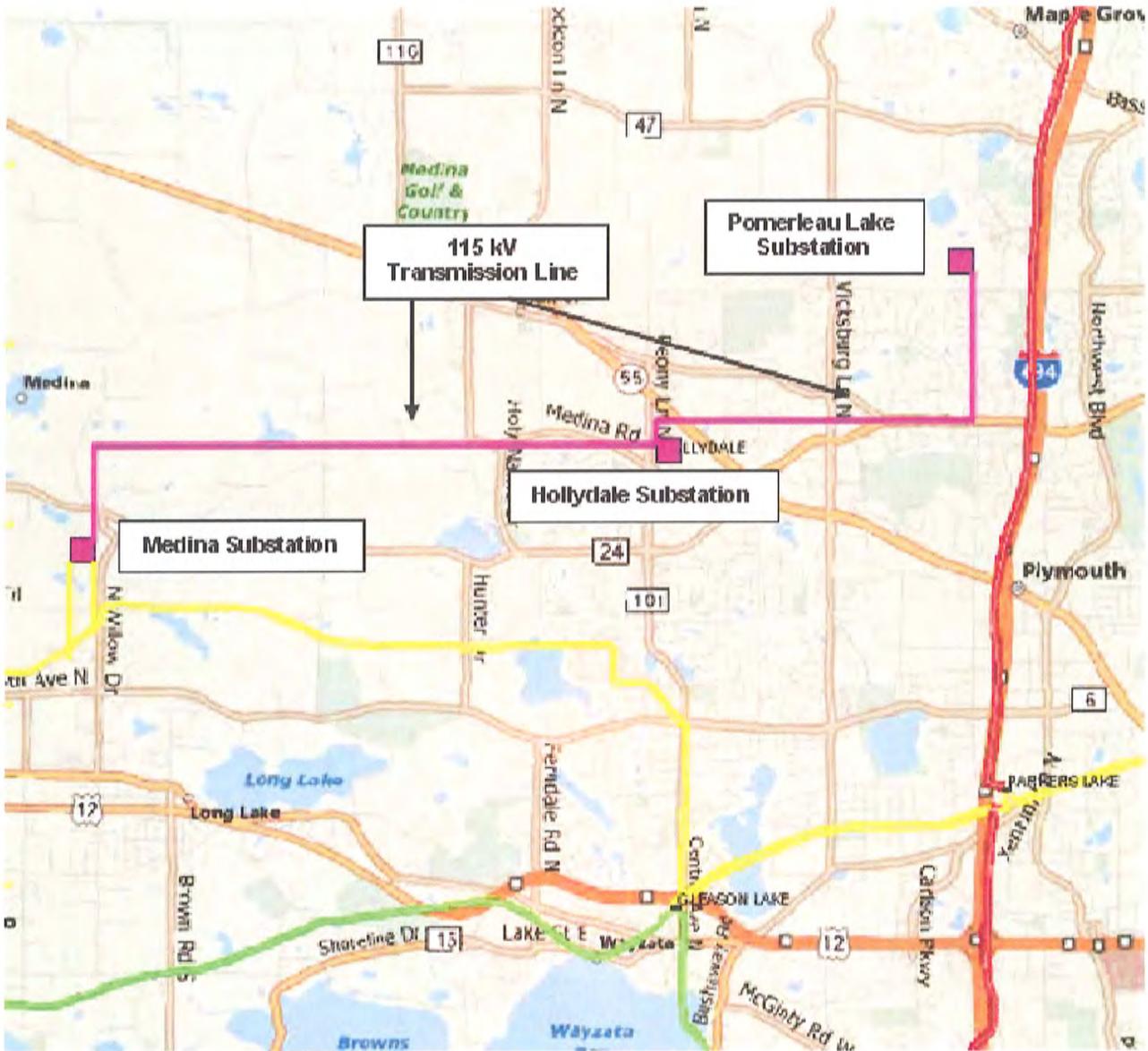
these was built into easement area by 9.5'

27.50' to n. edge of parcel

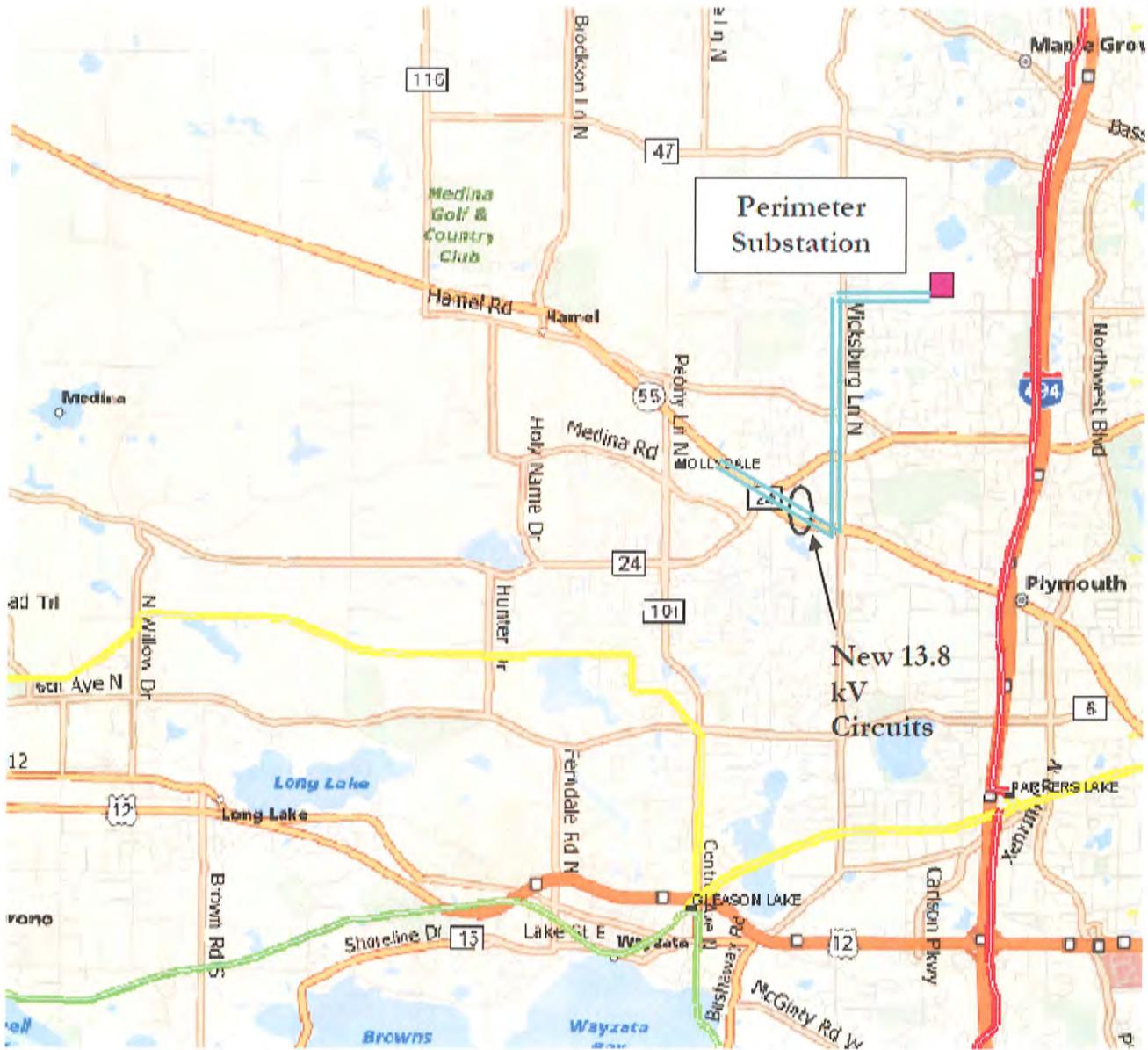
37' wide easement south

33' wide easement north side

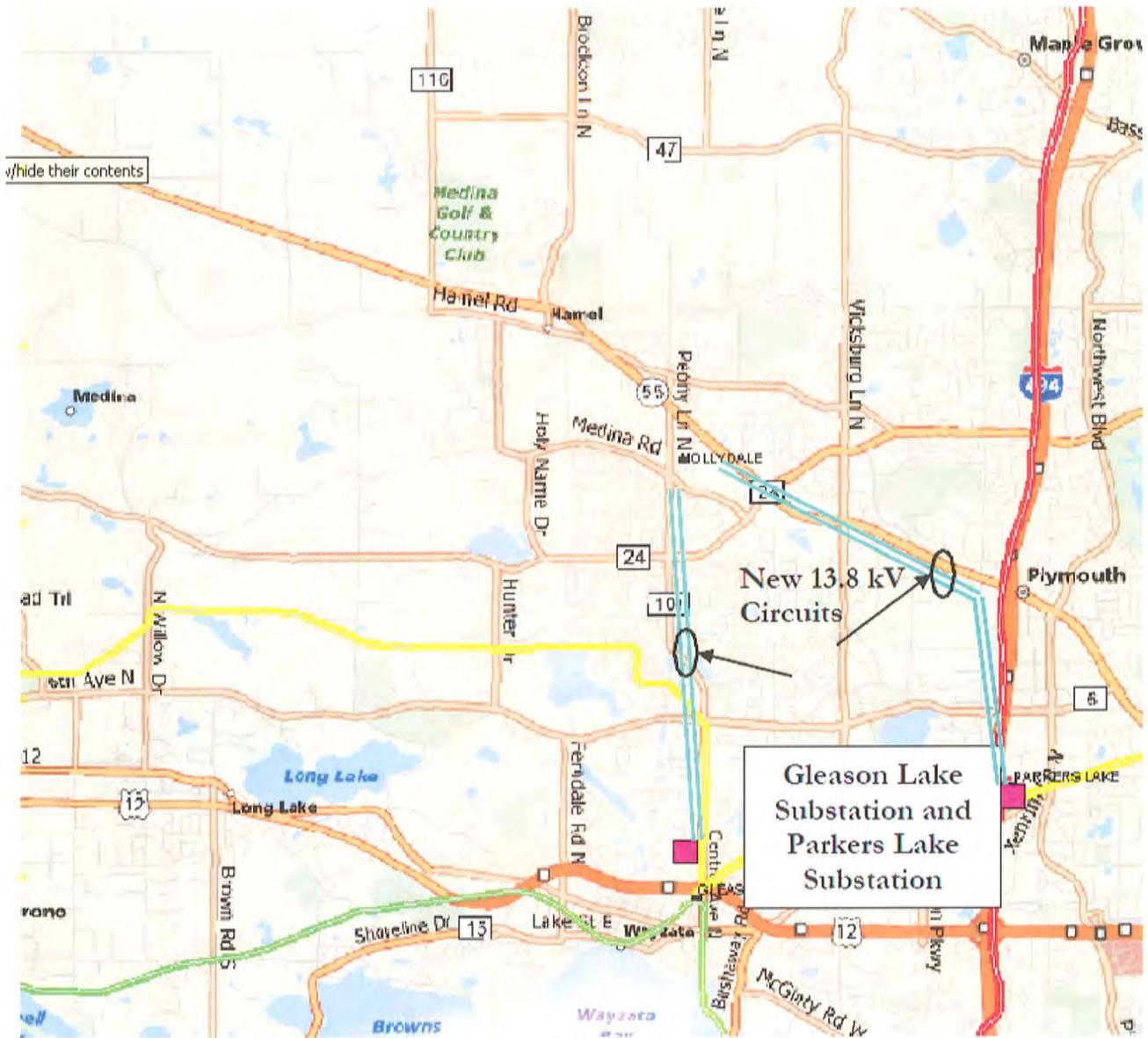
Easement view provide by Xcel Energy on July 11, 2012



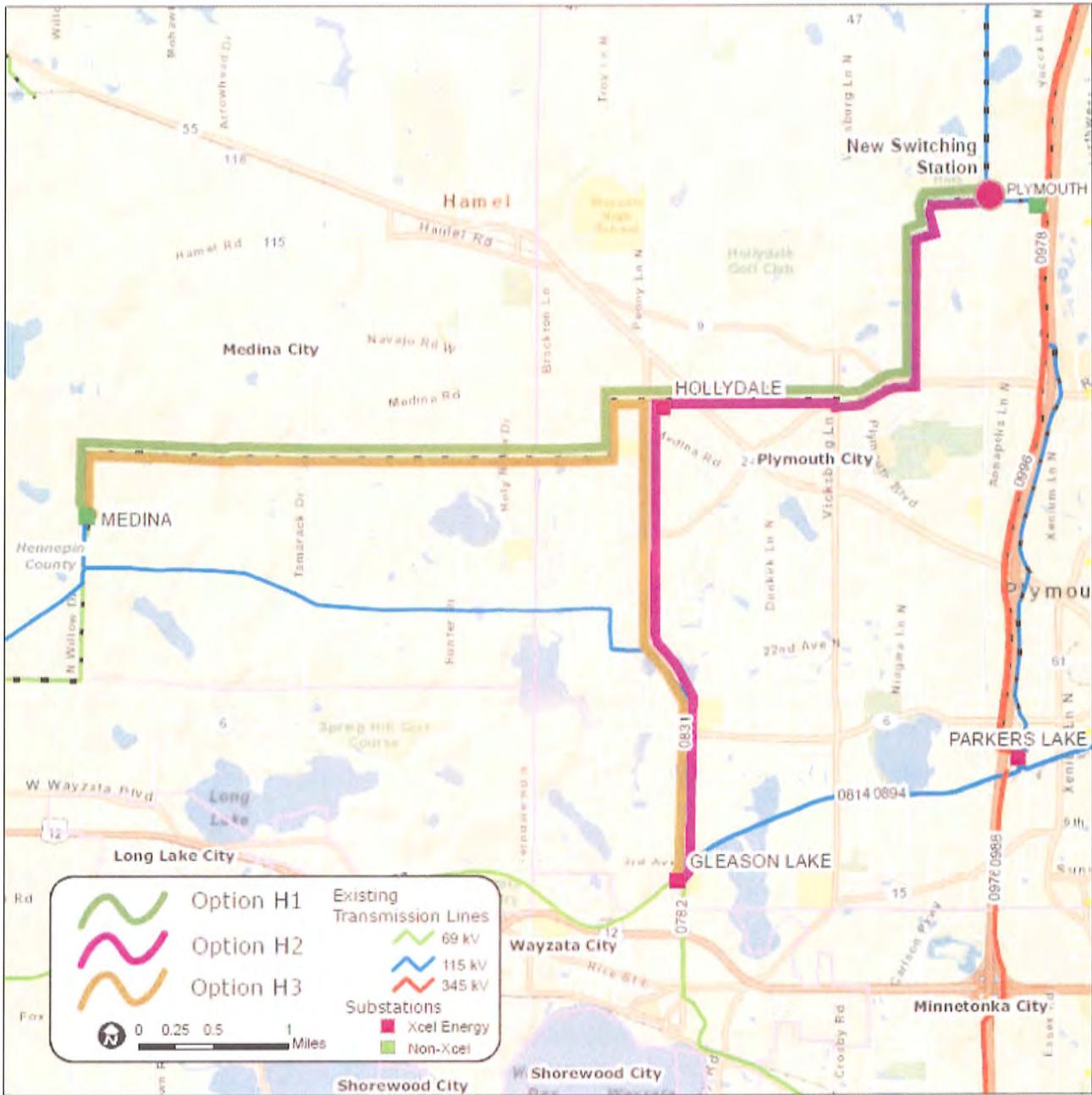
Map of Alternative A-1
Certificate of Need Appendix B Figure 6.1 Page 58



Map of Alternative A-2
Certificate of Need Appendix B Figure 6.2 Page 60



Map of Alternative A-3
Certificate of Need Appendix B Figure 6.3 Page 60



Map of H1, H2, and H3 Options
Certificate of Need Figure 22 Page 65

From: [Aleksandr Andzelevich](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: In comment line of the email write: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113
Date: Monday, November 12, 2012 4:31:46 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Aleksandr Andzelevich, Holly Creek Association Member

Owner of townhouse at 3945 Garland Ln N

Address: 16230 Old Rockford Rd, Plymouth MN 55446

Aleksandr Andzelevich

Sr. Database Administrator

Toll Free: (800) 334-1099

Direct: (763) 235-5746

Mobile: (612) 237-7703

Fax: (763) 235-5546

Email: aga@convey.com

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From: [John Angel](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113
Date: Monday, November 12, 2012 4:45:20 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

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We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

John C. Angel
16828 39th Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55446

From: [Leonid](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 5:09:33 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

We are homeowners in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. We are very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

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We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Irina & Leonid Astashinsky

17025 39th Ct. N

Plymouth, MN 55446

From: [Azine, Laurie S.](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: tropicwarmweather@gmail.com
Subject: Hollydale 115kV HVTL - Certificate of Need
Date: Friday, November 02, 2012 10:46:26 PM

Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer:

I am unclear as to whether or not I need to yet again submit my comments in writing as I already made a statement on the record at one of the Public Meetings held a little more than a week ago now. Which is no part thanks to the post card that I received from Xcel Energy which came one day after the meetings took place, which I did just yesterday speak with RaeLynn Asah about because all it did was even make me trust Xcel Energy less when it comes to this whole process and the data that they are providing if they cannot even get a reminder card to homeowners in a timely fashion.

So I decided to be safe; I am sending a brief statement to you to make my opposition yet again known. I am against the build of the Hollydale 115 kV HVTL unless a more equitable solution can be found that does not include building in people's backyards (no matter whose back yard we are talking about). When I reviewed the documents that were provided on the websites; I freely admit I am not a mechanical, structural or electrical engineer, but one thing stood out to me which was that summarily in a matter of a few pages all options that were in opposition to what Xcel Energy wanted were dismissed for various reasons without giving them the same equitable weight that the reasons why what they wanted were supported, by a significant margin. And given that fact the only way to make this a more fair and balanced evaluation of the process is to have independent evaluations be made, be experts in the field and ones that are not done by Xcel if they want to continue with this process if they feel that the only option is to build, which I am still not convinced of in the first place.

Second Xcel Energy and Great River Energy need to start being more forth coming in that the need area is greater than what they are saying and that this line is going to hook up to other lines that they are already in the permitting processes for in other communities (evidenced by the fact that we finally had them admit that at the Thursday night meeting, something they had not done previously, until they were directly put on the spot at that meeting and had to respond to the question because we had done our homework). It makes their jobs easier if we just "go along" and the route is already in place and then they would not have to deviate from the plan that they already have about how all the lines and substations will all connect up in the future. But why should homeowners like ourselves suffer for others who are now moving into the newer more western/southern and western/northern areas and farther out areas, this is not our problem. It is Xcel's problem. We are here already, and we should be the priority for them first (as we have had more outages than any other place I have ever lived) and if they have to build more substations and more lines farther out for them, that is their issue and it is not ours, so do not make it ours which is part of what has happened here, they are making it our problem.

We need dependable power, but we can do it through other means (using buried lines along the highways if you intend to move forward or upgrading the lower level lines from 13.8 to 34.5 kV, but not making them HVTL so close to people) and we should never sacrifice health and well being of people at any cost. All you need to do is ask the people affected by hurricane Sandy on the east coast, I am sure that they would like the power back on ASAP, but not if it means someone is going to be electrocuted because there is still standing water next to where a power line is going to be turned back on, no one would say turn the power on that would be crazy, it just would not happen. We live in civilized society where people come before money and profits (and should!) and there are health studies that show EMF is a human health concern and I would argue that putting high voltage power

lines in people's back yards so close to their homes is dangerous cancer causing and a reckless idea especially if a better alternative can be found. So why not have an independent person, such as a physician who specializes in cancer causing issues or EMF evaluate this issue and give their expert opinion and see what they think (and not someone just hired by Xcel to say what they want to hear).

Lastly, there will always be a socioeconomic impact of putting HVTL up and no one can deny that. I would like to know what Xcel is going to do about that if they do succeed in putting HVTL up especially in neighborhoods? Are they going to reimburse every homeowner on the line the amount that they have lost on their home and I do mean everyone not just the ones that right next to the line that is every neighborhood and every Plymouth and Medina taxpayer whose home value goes down as well? Are they also going to reimburse those of us who have lot premiums that were paid on our lots for the nature and wetlands that we live on and for the pristine backyards that we have that could be destroyed by their HVTL? They need to understand that we understand there is money involved if they have to put Band-Aids on a power system that will eventually result in spending more money later.

We are not unreasonable, we have seen that when enough residents, homeowners and city planners get together in opposition to a plan Xcel Energy, Great River Energy, the PUC and MDOC all work towards trying to find another solution they can find one. In fact one has been provided to them by the homeowners and residents that has already been suggested if only everyone else will listen to us and not summarily reject it just because it will cost more. It was the same response the Hiawatha Line on 55 initially had and just about a month ago now those lines were also buried the end result of homeowners and residents standing up and saying we will be heard and not in my neighborhood. I would hope that everyone in that project maybe would have learned something, they could teach the folks in this one something, that when there are a lot of voices in opposition to something instead of trying to yell louder from their side, maybe it is time to stop yelling and start listening and do what is right, what was always right, listen to the residents and the homeowners either do not build this at all, but if you are able to show there is need in PLYMOUTH (when everyone else is not taking from us! (still not convinced) then do what is right BURY THE LINES ON 494 and 55! end of story.

Thank you for your attention to this email.

I hope this will be one of the last ones I have to write. I cannot tell you how many hours I have personally spent learning all about HVTL and LV lines, EMF and lots of other electrical engineering topics more than I ever wanted to know.

Sincerely,

Laurie S. Azine, D.O.
Internal Medicine Physician



**ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING COMMENT FORM**

**Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project
PUC Docket: E002, ET2/CN-12-113**

Name: Christopher & Amy Barry
Address: 1822 Morgan Road
City: Medina State: MN ZIP: 55356

Please share your comments and suggestions on the potential issues, impacts, and alternatives that should be considered in the Environmental Report to be prepared for the Certificate of Need for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project. Suggestions can be directed toward alternative means meeting the stated need for the Project.

You may turn in this form tonight or mail it to the address provided (use additional sheets as necessary). You may email comments to Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager, at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or fax to (651) 296-2888, with CN-12-113 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 PM, Friday, November 16, 2012.

See attached

Signature: *Amy Barry* Date: 11-14-12

November 14, 2012

Dear Suzanne Steinhauer,

We are writing to express our concerns regarding the Hollydale Project and upgrading the current low voltage lines to 115kV lines in our backyard. We feel that these upgraded lines will adversely affect the health of our family and be an eyesore to the rural setting, ultimately effecting property values in our little community.

Earlier this year, we purchased our home on Morgan Rd in rural Medina. We knew when we saw the house and the surrounding area that we wanted to establish roots here after having being relocated for work several times over the past 10 years. After some extensive renovations, and the sale of our previous home, we moved in at the end of the summer.

Shortly after our purchase, we received a flyer in our mailbox regarding the Hollydale High Voltage line project. We were unaware of this project and honestly if this were disclosed before our purchase, we most likely would have walked away from the sale. The current low voltage line runs along the entire length of our property and is only 100 feet from our house itself. We have two young children (ages 5 and 7), and are deeply concerned with the impact the high voltage line will have on our family's safety, needless to say our property value after we just spent a significant amount of money on this property and renovations.

While Xcel and other power companies continue to state that there is no irrefutable proof that there are adverse health effects, the overwhelming consensus by the medical and scientific experts around the world is that serious health effects of overhead high voltage power lines cannot be ruled out. Even information provided by Xcel Energy (PUC Docket 11-152) shows that 300 feet is the "safe distance" from exposure to EMFs from these 115kV overhead power lines. Since no one can guarantee that these power lines that are so close to our house are safe, alternate measures must be taken.

Burying high voltage power lines eliminates the electric field component of EMFs through shielding, and thereby eliminates any health impacts caused by electric fields. Burying lines significantly reduces the magnetic field component of EMFs through phase cancellation, and thereby essentially eliminates negative health effects caused by magnetic fields other than immediately above a buried line.

If alternate distribution or low voltage alternatives are deemed not feasible to address current need, we strongly feel that Xcel should bury these 115kV lines on whichever route is ultimately selected to ensure the safety of the community and protect homeowner property investments.

Christopher, Amy, Leah (7 years) and Justin (5 years) Barry
1822 Morgan Road Medina



**ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
SCOPING COMMENT FORM**

**Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project
PUC Docket: E002, ET2/CN-12-113**

Name: Pam Barton
 Address: 18170 39th Av N
 City: Plymouth State: MN ZIP: 55446

Please share your comments and suggestions on the potential issues, impacts, and alternatives that should be considered in the Environmental Report to be prepared for the Certificate of Need for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project. Suggestions can be directed toward alternative means meeting the stated need for the Project.

You may turn in this form tonight or mail it to the address provided (use additional sheets as necessary). You may email comments to Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager, at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or fax to (651) 296-2888, with CN-12-113 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 PM, Friday, November 16, 2012.

You have mentioned tonight that you don't look at house counts in the proposed route. Why? Have you looked at how many houses are too close to the line? Do they need to be torn down or do they just stay too close until people become sick. Neither is a good option to our well being or property values.

Signature: Pam BartDate: 10-25-12

Also who really is looking out for the homeowners this feels like a potential rubber stamp for Xcel

From: [Lynda Berglund](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: CN-12-113
Date: Sunday, November 04, 2012 3:29:06 PM

Ms. Steinhauer:

This email is in regard to the proposed Hollydale 115 kv HVTL project.

I have been a home owner in the Kingsview Heights Edition for 21 years. I have a low voltage power line running behind my home in the marsh area on Minnesota Lane. My address is 4095 Minnesota Lane North and a creation of a High Voltage power line would be devastating to my property as well as my neighbors.

I have been attending meetings regarding this issue for the past year or more. There has been evidence submitted to Excel Engery as well as Great River Energy as to why this project should NOT be permitted to be placed in a residential area. The concerned citizens have voiced numerous complaints over this proposal and have suggested alternate routes. Our city representative, Judy Johnson, as well as our state senator, Teri Bonoff, have written letters on our behalf stating that this proposal should be tabled and a new route be proposed.

Many of the concerned neighbors have suggested running the new power lines down I 494 to highway 55. There are already existing power line there. Another consideration is to bury the lines, which would be very costly, but is much better than affecting the health and welfare of children and adults that would be exposed to the electromagnetic fields as well as the wildlife it would affect in the marsh area.

It has also been proven that home values go down by as much as 20-30% when a high voltage power line goes through your property. I have seen my home value decrease 21% over past several years, I DO NOT need for it to go down even more due to this power line.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW EXCEL ENERGY AND GREAT RIVER ENERGY TO PUT UP A HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Lynda Nelson Berglund
4095 Minnesota Lane North
Plymouth, Mn. 55446
763-551-1209

From: [Linda Borowiec](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [kslavik@plymouthmn.gov](#); [jjohnson@plymouthmn.gov](#); [terri@terribonoff.com](#)
Subject: FW: HOLLYDALE 115Kv HTVL PROJECT
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 1:19:51 PM

From: Linda Borowiec
Sent: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 11:30 AM
To: 'suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us'
Cc: 'kslavik@plymouthmn.gov'; 'jjohnson@plymouthmn.gov'; 'terri@terribonoff.com'; Ilan Zeroni (ilan.zeroni@gmail.com)
Subject: HOLLYDALE 115Kv HTVL PROJECT

Ms. Steinhauer:

My husband and I reside at 3920 Zanzibar Lane N, Plymouth MN 55446 in the West Branch Estates neighborhood. Our property will be directly affected by the project above. The current power line runs between our house and the house next door. We currently have a 35 foot easement on the south side of our house.

The current power line is strung such that it is visible from our Master Bedroom window. Since the easement is 35 feet, I assume it is approximately 35 feet from our bedroom where we sleep every night. When we purchased our house, we expressed concern about the close proximity of the power line and were assured by our builder, the current voltage did not present any health concerns. We were also told, at some point in the future the line would possibly be moved or buried.

We are concerned the higher voltage power line being proposed will present a health hazard to our family and subsequently, deter any potential future buyers from buying our house. Therefore, we are doubly concerned and ask that these concerns be taken into consideration when making the final decision.

We ask that we receive a response to this email addressing our concerns specifically. We are interested in receiving any information you may have outlining the health hazards of a power line with the voltage proposed as well as any information regarding the impact it will have on the value of our house/property.

Linda and Stanley Borowiec
763-383-0661
linda.borowiec@mmicgroup.com

From: [Michael Boutang](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Public scoping meeting
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 7:03:54 PM

Sorry, but this is a sham! Xcel Energy sends me a postcard notice of meetings that your department was conducting about the Hollydale project that states that there are two meeting times Thursday Oct. 25th at 6:00 PM and Friday Oct. 26 at 1:00 PM. So far so good but conveniently for Xcel the postcard is delivered to my mailbox late in the afternoon on Friday Oct. 26 and I get it at the end of my day long after the second meeting is over. Very convenient indeed!

Michael Boutang
14905 32nd Ave. N.
Plymouth, MN 55447

From: audrey@brittonforhouse.org
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Commentary on the Plymouth Hollydale Power Line
Date: Friday, November 16, 2012 3:31:00 PM

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198

November 16, 2012

Re: Plymouth Hollydale Powerline

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

I understand that you are collecting input on the Plymouth Hollydale Powerline certificate of need. As this is my first time submitting written comments, my comments may extend beyond the one purpose.

As mentioned in my testimony at the last public hearing, I was running for state representative. This afforded me the opportunity to meet residents along the entire powerline route in Plymouth and to see and hear firsthand the affects this project has on those along its route.

As I was invited into people's homes, it was both amazing and shocking to see the line seemingly within near reach of residents' back porches, so close to the front doors of homes and running through the branches of beautiful, mature tree lined streets. The line also runs through parks and near schools. Clearly, it is time for the line to be moved.

The concerns raised by those living along or near the powerline's path are very real. Foremost, people have health concerns. But, of course, that is not the *only* concern to be considered: dangers to humans and animals are worrisome, home values will go down which hurt both the homeowner and those in the real estate business, noise levels may increase, mature trees will be removed, and more.

As I listened to Xcel representatives present their case to those who stopped at their tables before the meeting convened, they made several points:

Xcel expressed that it has rights that were in place before homes along the powerline path were built. This is a valid concern. However, poor planning some 40 years ago cannot stand in the way of corrective action needed today and into the future. Surely, as a society we have progressed by replacing what used to be in the past with what should be

for our future.

Xcel representatives argued that upgrading the powerline where it stands is least expensive. Understandably, as a for-profit company, Xcel has a duty to its shareholder do what is profitable. I also believe it is the duty of all for-profit companies to balance profit with corporate citizenship. I do not feel this is a time to what is most profitable but rather do to what is right. This may be even more relevant to Xcel as it is a company that serves the public. As such, we were reminded by a testifier that the PUC exists to work for the people and help ensure that balance. The people have spoken loudly and clearly; the line needs to be moved. While not all legislators during the last legislative session held a solid understanding of cash reserves and many general accounting principles, Xcel has managed to keep its books in healthy order. Its [profits of 22 percent](#) and an annual CEO salary nearing \$6 million, would seem to indicate the company has the means for such projects as moving or developing widely-accepted alternatives for the Hollydale powerline.

I look forward to our continued conversations,

Audrey Britton
Plymouth resident

From: [Ethel Browne](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113
Date: Tuesday, November 13, 2012 6:55:38 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ethel Browne
Plymouth

From: [Dan Callahan](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#); dantish@live.com; [Dan Callahan](#)
Subject: Hollydale Project - Comments Environmental Report/Certificate of Need
Date: Wednesday, November 14, 2012 12:58:39 PM

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101-2198

I would like to add one comment without repeating the comments heard at the earlier meetings.

Excel reports on page 35, Appendix B of their Certificate of Need Application, the results of adding one 34.5 kV feeder circuit in the Focused Study Area in 2003/2004. The graph on this page shows that the utilization rate went down by half. There is no explanation in the report that I could see that tells me why this may or may not be an alternative solution to the proposed 115kV line. Smaller lines would reduce impacts.

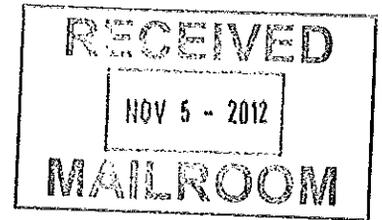
Sincerely,

Daniel Callahan
15025 - 48th Ave N
Plymouth MN 55446

November 1, 2012

Suzanne Steintauer

Michael Kaluzniak



Attached is my original letter to Scott EK about the Hollydale project.

My major concern is the substation.

I requested a review of nine (9) separate items.

I'm requesting that you include these same items in your review of this project.

Thank you very much.

Gonda S. Carlson

4620 Dallas Lane North
Plymouth, MN 55446
November 1, 2011

Scott Ek
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

PUC Docket # E002/TL-11-152

The purpose of this letter is two-fold: to contribute to the public comment on the above-mentioned project and to respond specifically to the proposed substation and its location.

I was in attendance at the public meeting last week and wish to go on record as being opposed to the complete project. The meeting raised many issues, most of which revolved around what appears to be a lack of concern for residents, land use, and the city of Plymouth's plans for the future.

The proposed substation was not discussed at all except to say that the site is "at the intersection of 494 and Schmidt Lake Road". Please note that this site is not an intersection: Schmidt Lake Road runs beneath the highway. The land at this site has been planned for future development as park and recreational use. The city has made it clear that the land is not for sale.

As a resident of Plymouth for more than 30 years, I love it here. This city was chosen specifically because of the school system and the city's commitment to its citizens as evidenced by its parks, trail systems, and recreational opportunities.

I purchased my current home four years ago for reasons that include my view to the east: woods, wetlands, and deer, turkey, and eagle sightings. The builder asserted that development wouldn't happen because it's a wetland. Sadly, the southern edge of the proposed substation appears to be in the view.

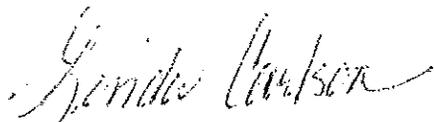
Based on this "new view", I am requesting a review of the following:

1. Please study carefully the impact on the beauty of the land.
2. Please study carefully the impact on wildlife in the area.
3. Please consider the very close proximity of residences.
4. Will there be future development of 494?
5. Please take into consideration Plymouth's national recognition for its use of outdoor space.

6. Please, please take into consideration the impact on human health. The public meeting raised significant concerns about the health impact of the transmission lines. Is it logical to assume that the impact of a substation would be even greater? I am a cancer survivor and strongly wish to remain just a survivor.
7. Please evaluate the loss of property values specific to those homes next to the proposed substation.
8. Please review the impact of noise. The property owners in this area already live with traffic noise and with ASE Fluidyne Aerotest Laboratory, which is located adjacent to the proposed site. Perhaps this is enough noise in this part of the community.
9. To accommodate growth to the west, where there is more open land, please identify a substation site along Highway 55 and the railroad line. Please work with the local government(s) in a more collaborative manner.

Scott, thank you for your efforts to moderate the public meeting. I understand there are rules to the permitting process. The huge frustration expressed at the meeting is not with the permitting process. The citizens of Plymouth are quite confident that the proposed plan is NOT the best plan. Additionally, the state needs to know that we have absolutely NO confidence that any other alternatives were considered.

I strongly encourage the state to take a broader view of this project --- energy needs, land use, and future development. To that end, follow the 494/55 corridor for transmission and please build a substation further west (Medina, Hamel, Corcoran) on more open land.



Linda Carlson
763-473-8801
lindacarlson2825@comcast.net

cc Judy Johnson, City of Plymouth
Joseph Sedarski, Xcel Energy
Marsha Parlow, Great River Energy
Timothy Rogers, Xcel Energy
Hidden Terrace Homeowners Association

From: [Cort Cieminski](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale Project public comments
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 4:33:21 PM
Attachments: [Hollydale 115Kv Project letter of opposition.docx](#)

Ms. Steinhauer,

Please find attached a letter from my wife and I in opposition to the proposed Hollydale 115Kv project by Xcel Energy. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this important matter to the residents of Plymouth, MN.

sincerely,
Cort & Karen Cieminski

--

Cort J. Cieminski, PT, PhD, ATR
Associate Professor &
Director, Human Anatomy Lab
Doctor of Physical Therapy Program
St. Catherine University
601 25th Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55454
(651) 690-7884 (Office)
(800) 945-4599
(651) 690-7876 (Fax)
www.stkate.edu/dpt

**MEDINA**

2052 County Road 24, Medina, MN 55340-9790

ADMINISTRATION | PLANNING & ZONING | PUBLIC WORKS

p: 763-473-4643 f: 763-473-9359

e: city@ci.medina.mn.us

PUBLIC SAFETY

p: 763-473-9209 f: 763-473-8858

November 9, 2012

Suzanne Steinhauer
State Permit Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

RECEIVED

NOV 9 2012

MAILROOM

Re: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113 – Hollydale 115Kv Transmission Line Project

Ms. Steinhauer,

This letter is in reference to the Environmental Report Scoping Comments for the Hollydale 115 Kv Transmission Line Project in Medina.

To alleviate health anxieties related to the proximity of the Hollydale transmission line to some Medina homes, and to help preserve the property values of those homes, the Medina City Council at their November 7, 2012, Meeting directed staff to send a letter advocating that the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) should:

- Bury the transmission lines underground if they are within 300 feet of residences at the cost of the utility provider, or shift the easement to avoid such proximity;
- Bury the lines where future, high density residential development is probable on the eastern end of the line through Medina;
- Install single pylon poles to support the transmission lines through the City of Medina, in order to limit future upgrades to no more than 115 Kv;
- Insulate the lines to reduce the impact of electromagnetic fields on residents and property, if this is possible;
- Explore alternatives, which permit use of the installed infrastructure but that would carry a lower voltage than the proposed 115 Kv.

The Medina City Council supports these recommendations to make the Hollydale project as safe as possible for our residents.

The Council also acknowledges the need for a reliable supply of power to our businesses on Highway 55 and to the 87-unit Gramercy housing cooperative on Highway 55.

Thank you for your work on this important issue. Please contact me at (763) 473-8840 if you have any questions regarding this letter.

The City of Medina

By 
Scott Johnson, City Administrator

From: [Larijul4](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: PUC Docket No. CN-12-113
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012 12:22:37 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Larry and Julie Copeland

3937 Garland Ln N

Plymouth, MN 55446

Sent from my iPhone

From: [AL COTIE](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale power line proposal
Date: Monday, October 22, 2012 11:36:25 PM

What does Excel energy plan to do about the Cranes that inhabit Turtle lake, and have they done an environmental study about the impact on them?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Tracy Crocker](#)
To: [Lipman, Eric \(OAH\)](#); [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: OAH Docket No. 8-2500-22806.2
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012 10:42:00 AM

Dear Judge Lipman and Ms. Steinhauer

I am a resident of Plymouth and wish to express my concerns on the major impact that the Hollydale 115V transmission line project power lines may have on several issues that were brought up at the public meeting held on October 25th and 26th.

The two major issues that are of concern to me are health issues that have not been thoroughly examined and the impact on the real estate values of the private homes in our city.

Health:

1. I am not sure that any non-partisan study has been done on the long term effects on human health as it relates to these power lines. Without such a study it is hard for me to believe that this project would be allowed to go forward.
2. It also appears that alternative solutions have also not been fully explored, such as upgrading the 13.8kV lines to 34.5kV, not building anything (no build), implementing measures to curb demand, 69kV alternatives.
3. As a person who has heart issues I am very concerned as to how these lines may impact my health. How the lines may impact children and the elderly as well as those in-between.
4. It may also be more viable to look at putting these lines underground especially looking at what has been going on in Eastern United States the last couple of years. Though the cost today would be increased the long term effect if a weather disaster were to hit this area would be minimized. This would also lessen the impact on the health issues that is of primary concern.

Real Estate Values:

1. In listening to those who spoke at the meeting there is conclusive evidence that the impact of these lines could reduce the value of the homes along the route by some 40%. This will have a residual effect on all homes in the community.
2. With the devaluation of real estate there would thus be additional property tax increases to make up the difference.
3. As a senior citizen my home represents a major part of my financial stability, my ability to remain independent and my ability not to become a burden of the state.

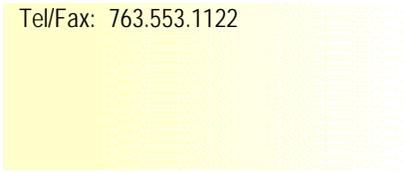
Costs of this project initially should not be the determining factor, the need to look at both the environmental health impact and the economic impact on the Plymouth citizens should be the dominant factor in your decision.

My wife and I are confident that you will heed the concerns of the citizens of Plymouth and will take all of these concerns to heart.

Tracy

Mr. Tracy A. Crocker
14115 41st Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55446

Tel/Fax: 763.553.1122



From: [Tracy Crocker](#)
To: [Lipman, Eric \(OAH\)](#); [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: CN-12-113
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012 3:08:13 PM

Dear Judge Lipman and Ms. Steinhauer

I am a resident of Plymouth and wish to express my concerns on the major impact that the Hollydale 115V transmission line project power lines may have on several issues that were brought up at the public meeting held on October 25th and 26th.

The two major issues that are of concern to me are health issues that have not been thoroughly examined and the impact on the real estate values of the private homes in our city.

Health:

1. I am not sure that any non-partisan study has been done on the long term effects on human health as it relates to these power lines. Without such a study it is hard for me to believe that this project would be allowed to go forward.
2. It also appears that alternative solutions have also not been fully explored, such as upgrading the 13.8kV lines to 34.5kV, not building anything (no build), implementing measures to curb demand, 69kV alternatives.
3. As a person who has heart issues I am very concerned as to how these lines may impact my health. How the lines may impact children and the elderly as well as those in-between.
4. It may also be more viable to look at putting these lines underground especially looking at what has been going on in Eastern United States the last couple of years. Though the cost today would be increased the long term effect if a weather disaster were to hit this area would be minimized. This would also lessen the impact on the health issues that is of primary concern.

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2. With the devaluation of real estate there would thus be additional property tax increases to make up the difference.
3. As a senior citizen my home represents a major part of my financial stability, my ability to remain independent and my ability not to become a burden of the state.

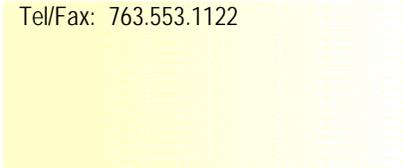
Costs of this project initially should not be the determining factor, the need to look at both the environmental health impact and the economic impact on the Plymouth citizens should be the dominant factor in your decision.

My wife and I are confident that you will heed the concerns of the citizens of Plymouth and will take all of these concerns to heart.

Tracy

Mr. Tracy A. Crocker
14115 41st Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55446

Tel/Fax: 763.553.1122



From: [Joyce](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: CN-12-113
Date: Thursday, November 15, 2012 3:56:25 PM

Suzanne Steinhauer, Permit Manager
Energy Facility Permitting
Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

I am a resident of Plymouth and extremely concerned about the major impact that the Hollydale 115kV transmission line project power lines would have on health issues, land property values and esthetic values in the city of Plymouth. In evaluating the several issues that were discussed at the meetings on October 25, 2010 and October 26, 2010 at the Plymouth Creek Center regarding the Hollydale 115kV transmission line project there are two major concerns that are of concern to me and have obviously not been thoroughly examined. These issues are health issues and the impact on real estate values of the private homes in our city.

The health concerns are as follows:

1. I am not sure that any non-partisan study has been done on the long term effects on human health as it relates to these power lines. Without such a study it is hard for me to believe that this project would be allowed to go forward.
2. It also appears that alternative solutions have also not been fully explored, such as upgrading the 13.8kV lines to 34.5kV, not building anything (no build), implementing measures to curb demand, 69kV alternatives.
3. My husband has heart disease and I am very concerned as to how these lines may impact his health. It is also concerning how the lines may impact children and the elderly as well as those in-between.

The real estate value concerns are as follows:

1. In listening to those who spoke at the meeting there is conclusive evidence that the impact of these lines could reduce the value of the homes along the route by some 40%. This will have a residual effect on all homes in the community.
2. With the devaluation of real estate there would thus be additional property tax increases to make up the difference.
3. As a senior citizen my home represents a major part of my financial stability, my ability to remain independent and my ability not to become a burden of the state.

Costs of this project initially should not be the determining factor. The dominant factor

should be that this project will have a huge impact on homeowners like my husband and I. Health implications and the financial implication of home values to residents would cause great hardship to Plymouth residents. Most of us have our life savings invested in our homes and with the economic world as it is, we cannot afford to have a project like this cause us undue hardship and concern about our future lives.

My husband and I are confident that you will heed the concerns of the citizens of Plymouth and will take all of these concerns to heart.

Joyce Crocker

Joyce Crocker
14115 41st Ave N
Plymouth, MN 55446
763-553-1122

From: amy21@comcast.net
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale 115kV HVTL
Date: Friday, November 16, 2012 3:27:13 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer-

I just wanted to comment regarding my concerns with the proposed Hollydale 115 kV HVTL. I am the mother of two children and am very concerned about any health hazards that may be brought about by this project. I suggest that Xcel Energy be prepared for the possibility of a class action suit if persons become ill from this transmission line. Also, I have lived in the Bridlewood neighborhood since 1994 and am very concerned about the property values decreasing. I would propose that Xcel Energy be ready to compensate home owners for any loss in property values if they do proceed with the requested project. I wonder if any of the Xcel Energy employees would want their family members and friends living near this type of transmission line. I don't understand how anyone could have a clear conscience about proceeding with this project.

Thanks so much for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Amy Dahl

From: [Eleanor Degman](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Public meetings
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 3:14:05 PM

Good Afternoon Suzanne,

It is with deep disappointment I just picked up the notification from you regarding the meetings to provide information about the Hollydale Project. Those of us who live in Medina are very interested as well as people in Plymouth. However, when the notices are not sent out until after the events, it is very concerning and disappointing. I received the notice today, October 26th at 3:00 P.M. I attended your last meeting in Plymouth that was well attended. People in Plymouth have some concerns as do the people in Medina. Both areas need more power. We have had to spend \$10,000 in the past six years on surge protectors to try and protect our elevators from having outages as well as replacing many circuit boards. It has also caused us added extra expense when twice we have had residents stuck in elevators when the power went out and we had to hire the elevator service to come out and manually let them down. I spoke with an Excel employee 5 years ago when he was here regarding the problems we were experiencing. At that time, I was told we would have to live with the issues because there simply was not enough power in the area. We also, have concerns about the location of your planned lines.

If you could send me some written material regarding the discussion and outcomes of these two meetings, it would be appreciated. Do you have future meetings planned?

Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Eleanor Degman
100 Clydesdale Trail #125
Medina, MN 55340

ejdegman@gmail.com

From: [Mark Donahoe](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale 115kV HVTL - Public Comment Period
Date: Monday, November 05, 2012 4:52:26 PM

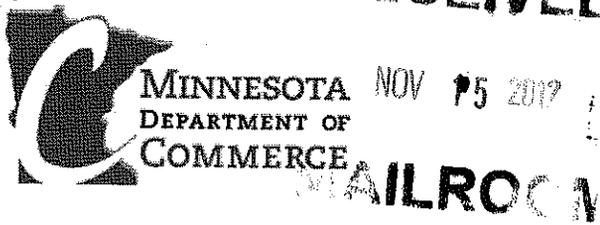
To whom it may concern,

Mark and Anne Donahoe, 2475 Bantle Farm Road, Medina MN 55340 would like to be on record opposing the permit Application for the Hollydale 115kV Transmission Line project in the cities of Plymouth and Medina, Hennepin County. In particular, the south side of our property boundry has a tree line that the current 69kV transmission lines runs through the middle, and we are concerned for the potential destruction of the existing environment. There would be many unintended consequences by removing this old and mature tree line to the current environment, as well as to many of the property owners that either border or live in the immediate area. We strongly urge Xcel to work closely with us on this issue since we are the actual property owners, and look forward to any and all solutions to avert a potential environmental and neighborhood disaster.

Thank you for your consideration to this important issue we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Mark and Anne Donahoe.



**ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING
 ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT
 SCOPING COMMENT FORM**

**Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project
 PUC Docket: E002, ET2/CN-12-113**

Name: Charles and Carole Eidem
 Address: 18240 39th Ave. North
 City: Plymouth State: MN ZIP: 55446

Please share your comments and suggestions on the potential issues, impacts, and alternatives that should be considered in the Environmental Report to be prepared for the Certificate of Need for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV HVTL Project. Suggestions can be directed toward alternative means meeting the stated need for the Project.

You may turn in this form tonight or mail it to the address provided (use additional sheets as necessary). You may email comments to Suzanne Steinhauer, State Permit Manager, at suzanne.steinhauer@state.mn.us or fax to (651) 296-2888, with CN-12-113 in the subject line. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 PM, Friday, November 16, 2012.

We would like to express our strong opposition to the proposed new high power energy lines that Excell Energy is proposing. We are very concerned about the health hazards this will present to our family. There is also an elementary school (Greenwood Elementary (Wayzata School District)) located across Medina Road from us. The hundreds of children attending that school will also be exposed to the effects of EMF.

We bought our home 12 years ago. The beautiful wetlands in our backyard as well as the wildlife would also be put at risk. The noise would impact the peaceful atmosphere.

Finally, we have been told by various realtors that our home value would dramatically decrease if this goes through our backyard as proposed.

Signature: Mr. & Mrs. Charles Eidem Date: 11-10-12

From: [Judy Ekern](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Certificate of Need -Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No NC-12-113
Date: Monday, November 12, 2012 4:56:06 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Judy Ekern
17000 39th Ave N
Plymouth, MN 55446

From: krisscotte@comcast.net
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: [Erickson, Scott & Kristine](#)
Subject: CN-12-113
Date: Sunday, November 04, 2012 4:46:26 PM

Alternatives that should be considered in the Environmental Report to be prepared for the the Certificate of Need for the proposed Hollydale 115 kV HVTL project include:

1. The no-build alternative.
2. If no-build is not selected, the underground alternative needs to be the only other alternative.

Reasons for the underground alternative:

Human impacts will be minimized with the underground alternative.

1. EMF - health for all people, including young children and the elderly, needs to be the highest priority
2. Reduction in noise pollution from buzzing transmission lines
3. Smaller reductions in property values from visible lines or properties located near substations which in turn means lower reductions to the City of Plymouth's tax base since property values would not be as greatly affected.

Environmental impacts if no-build is not selected:

Some property may not be used in the way that it is currently zoned which means that potential loss could include:

1. Loss of proposed ballfields/play areas
2. Loss of wetlands/nature areas
3. Loss of habitat

A note about human impacts and Xcel Energy's ability to get it right. The household counts need to be accurate. Human density in housing units needs to be considered by total number of people impacted. One apartment building does not equal one single family home.

My disappointment over inaccurate maps provided by Xcel Energy at the public hearings held on October 25 and October 26 was inexcusable. Accuracy in people and place is not a "sort of correct" answer. If this high voltage line is so needed, you would think that Xcel Energy could provide an accurate service area map and count dwellings correctly.

Thank you for entering my comments on record.

Kristine Erickson
4815 Cheshire Lane N
Plymouth, MN 55446

From: [joe](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Holly dale project
Date: Wednesday, November 07, 2012 5:34:16 PM

Good evening:

Thanks much for taking the time to read this.

I am on the current line of voltage transformers in Medina on holy name drive, and the last thing in the world I want, is a higher voltage line with metal poles that will significantly reduce my property value, and look absolutely terrible, and take away our beautiful country views.
Please call me to discuss this scenario when you have time.

Thanks very much.

Please consider to bury the lines underground, and spread the cost out to everyone involved.
Kind Regards,
Joel Feder

612 810 2572
Sent from my Verizon Wireless BlackBerry

From: [Andy Filer](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale 115kV HVTL - Public Comment Period
Date: Thursday, November 01, 2012 8:14:40 PM

Ms Steinhauer,

I'm a Plymouth resident with 3 children (ages 1, 4, and 6), and we completed a 2 story addition to our house in late 2011 with the intent of staying in Plymouth for many years to come. With the news of the potential power lines coming through our area I have significant concerns of how this will impact the value of our home that we just made a huge investment in prior to knowing of any potential power lines. Had we known new power lines were even a possibility in our neighborhood we NEVER would have spent this significant amount of money on our home. We love our new home, and we love our neighborhood, but we will not expose our children to the possible EMF health risks, so if any power lines are installed near our home we will be forced to move. The power lines will greatly reduce the value of our home, and our recent large investment in our home will be gone. I'm not sure how we'll financially recover from this devastating loss in our home, but I guess if the power lines are installed I will be happy knowing we didn't stay in a home where our young children's health is at risk every day.

Sincerely,
Andy

Andy Filer
President
Berkshire Home Solutions
763-432-9855 - Office
612-396-2283 - Mobile
afil@berkhs.com
www.berkhs.com

From: [Alex Fox](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Cc: raelynn.asah@xcelenergy.com
Subject: Hollydale Project
Date: Thursday, October 25, 2012 9:21:36 PM

Good evening to you both,

I wasn't sure who I was to direct my comments to, so I'm emailing you both. First of all, I'd like to thank you for having meetings to both explain to, and to hear from local residents, about the new project that is happening. However, I'd like to express my disapproval at the planning, or logistics of these meetings. To begin with, I open my mailbox today, Thursday the 25th, to find a postcard *announcing* that there will be a meeting TODAY at 6PM and another tomorrow at 1PM. Perhaps my association didn't get them as scheduled, but even if they arrived 2 days prior, is 1, 2, or 3 days enough of a notice to really let people plan ahead? I work 7AM to 6PM, so on top of the same day notice, there is no possible way for someone who works a normal job to make it to these meetings. And if my memory serves me correct, this isn't the first time this has happened. I remember a meeting that took place in the late spring or summer that I received same day notification for.

If you seriously want to educate the public, and honestly want their feedback, please, a little more thought into when you send these notices out.

A concerned resident,

Dr. Alex Fox
17195 49th Ave N #E
Plymouth, MN 55446

From: [Sally Friedman](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Xcel Energy hearings
Date: Friday, October 26, 2012 2:16:53 PM

Dear Ms. Steinhauer,

I am a homeowner in the Plymouth area and, today, on October 26, 2012, I received notice of the hearings which were held on October 25 and 26 concerning the Xcel Energy's Hollydale Project. I received notice of the hearings AFTER the hearings had taken place. Hardly adequate notice!

I am opposed to the construction/installation of high voltage transmission lines as they will affect my property values and quite possibly pose a health risk.

Please provide me with an update as to the status of the hearings. And, further, I object to the hearings taking place without your office providing the timely and appropriate notice.

Very truly yours,

Sally Forbes Friedman

From: [Fruechte, Kevin](#)
To: [Steinhauer, Suzanne \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Hollydale 115kV HVTL
Date: Friday, November 02, 2012 11:37:49 AM

Ms Steinhauer,

We are Plymouth homeowners who live directly under the proposed transmission route. We attended the recent public hearings and are more convinced than ever that Xcel Energy has neither fully addressed the human and environmental impacts of this project, nor considered the full range of options available. Building high voltage overhead power lines directly through densely populated areas is the LEAST acceptable option that Xcel could propose. The company's proposal as it currently stands should be rejected, and they should be directed to more fully explore a distribution network of lower voltage lines and/or underground alternatives.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Rebecca Fruechte

16410 39th Avenue North
Plymouth, MN 55446

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November 12th,2012

Dear Ms. Steinhauer:

I am a homeowner in Holly Creek Townhomes in Plymouth. I am very concerned about the Certificate of Need (CON) for the Hollydale 115kV HVTL, PUC Docket No. CN-12-113.

Please require Xcel to prove it has re-calculated need based on the most current demand projections as of November 2012. News stories in the Star Tribune on Nov. 2 and Nov. 9, 2012 indicate that demand has fallen in the last several years since Xcel filed their original request. A certificate of need should not be based on out-of-date data.

I am also concerned with aesthetics and setting precedents. The original route chosen for the 69kV line was not regulated by the city or state because of the lower voltage. The line was installed before any of the current housing developments were built. Saying this unregulated route sets a precedent for upgrading to a regulated route is unreasonable in this case.

No neighborhoods in Plymouth have 115 kV 70-90 foot metal transmission poles between homes. This is a new, dramatic and unnecessary precedent to set in Plymouth. The current precedent in Plymouth is that metal transmission poles are relegated to railroad right-of-ways or major highways. Highway routes are available. Because this is a contested case, Xcel needs to justify why it should set this new precedent, beyond the convenience of using an existing route.

We trust that you will consider all the public comments submitted and help to find a reasonable resolution. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kim Furlano

16783 39th Ave N

Plymouth, MN 55446

October 22, 2012

Ms. Suzanne Steinhauer
Project Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce

Re: Hollydale 115 Kv Project

Ms. Steinhauer,

Greetings to you and thank you for allowing so many Plymouth residents to voice their numerous concerns about the proposed Xcel Energy/Great River Energy Hollydale 115 Kv Project at the previous community meetings in 2011 and 2012. My name is Cort Cieminski and my wife Karen and our three children live at 16515 39th Place North in Plymouth, MN. We would be adversely affected in a profound way by the proposed route of the high voltage power line, as it would run less than 50 feet from our home.

It is my with my strongest voice that I recommend that the Department of Commerce reject the proposed and alternate routes of this high voltage power line that is to be constructed as part of the Hollydale Project. I strongly suggest that solutions other than routing this line through several residential areas of Plymouth, including my neighborhood, be developed. If a line is finally necessary I, along with a mass of Plymouth residents, suggest that an alternative to Xcel Energy's preferred routing of this 115 Kv power line would instead take it along the corridors of Minnesota State Highway 55 and Interstate 494 in Plymouth.

In my view, the current proposed route of the Hollydale Project and the alternate routes would both come with a steep negative impact upon residential areas of Plymouth and choosing one route over another simply pits one Plymouth neighborhood against another, with no residential neighborhood wanting to have this new high voltage power line running through it. It was quite apparent at the 2011 and 2012 community meetings that I had the opportunity to attend that this was the overwhelming sentiment of those in attendance of that meeting. In their application for the Hollydale Project, Xcel Energy and Great River Energy claim that one of their objectives of this proposed project is to minimize the impacts of this high voltage power line on Plymouth residents. It is disingenuous, as best, for Xcel Energy to claim that they desire to minimize the impact upon the residents of Plymouth, while at the same time, putting forth a proposed route for the power line that exposes at least 360 homes in Plymouth within 200 feet or less along the proposed route to the potential safety concerns of electromagnetic fields, significant loss of home values, power line noise, risk to wetland areas, and general unsightliness that would accompany such a high voltage power line.

This proposed route of the Hollydale Project is quite simply the easiest and cheapest route for Xcel Energy/Great River Energy. It does not, however, take into account all of the detrimental

effects of running a high voltage power line through a heavy residential area. To construct a project such as this would be counter to the vast majority of high voltage lines in the state of Minnesota that are routed instead through existing non-residential corridors. Such a corridor already exists in Plymouth and it is the Highway 55 and I-494 corridor. It was extremely disappointing at these past community meetings to hear that Xcel Energy did not have any details to provide about the feasibility of such a route in this corridor. Not including this Highway 55 & I-494 corridor as an alternate route of the Hollydale Project demonstrates to me that Xcel Energy is not interested in the welfare of the residents of Plymouth over its corporate profit margin and fiscal bottom line.

I thank you in advance for including this letter in the public comments on the proposed Hollydale 115 Kv Project. I strongly urge the Commerce Department to reject the proposed route and instead seek other solutions and, if necessary, to instead route this project within the Highway 55 and I-494 corridor.

Sincerely,

Cort and Karen Cieminski

Cort & Karen Cieminski
16515 39th Place North
Plymouth, MN 55454