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SCOPING COMMENTS
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ENERGY FACILITY PERMITTING

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a
Route Permit for the 39 Line 115 Kilovolt High Voltage
Transmission Line (HVTL) Project in St. Louis County

PUC Docket Number: E015/TL-12-1123

Leonidas Community Center
141 2nd Street North
Eveleth, MN 55734

February 25, 2013

1 MR. STORM: So if you would like to ask
2 me about the scoping process, would like to put
3 something on the record about one thing you would
4 like me to cover in the scope. It's really kind of
5 hard for me to put an alternative on the table in
6 this format. You can bring it up and talk about it,
7 but I will ask you to submit it in writing
8 afterwards because I need a map and I need a little
9 bit more description. But that's what we're here
10 for tonight.

11 The court reporter will take your
12 comments down. If you do want to make a comment, I
13 ask that you stand up, speak and spell your name,
14 and talk slower than I have tonight so the court
15 reporter can catch everything.

16 So does anybody want to have a comment or
17 an issue or something they want to say on the
18 record?

19 Don't be shy, we're all friends here.

20 Okay. Oh, are you thinking about it?

21 MS. CINDY SPARTZ: I just don't know if
22 it's a stupid question.

23 MR. STORM: There's no stupid questions.

24 MS. CINDY SPARTZ: My name is Cindy
25 Spartz.

1 MR. STORM: Spell your name, please.

2 MS. CINDY SPARTZ: S-P-A-R-T-Z,
3 C-I-N-D-Y.

4 My son was born a year -- a year before
5 my son was born we moved to that 118 Kimberly Place.
6 And the neighbors there, Gary Surla, they had lived
7 there way before us. So it was like 22 years with
8 him, and then the other place, and probably 30 or
9 better for them. And they said that the water lines
10 run under there. And that before they bought that
11 house, the guy one day walked out and it had kind of
12 collapsed there 'cause of water that goes under
13 there. So that's what I was wondering, if it's
14 going to involve digging, I'm not sure, you guys are
15 very thorough and you know where the water systems
16 go, but we had had property right by the mine road
17 tore up 'cause they put new water pipes in there
18 about five years ago.

19 So I was just wondering about the water
20 system underneath, if there's going to be digging
21 and if there's a possibility of collapsing like that
22 happened before.

23 MR. STORM: Okay. Before I turn it over
24 to the Applicant to give you detail, I will take the
25 comment from Janet down, and I'll make sure that we

1 include a description of what the infrastructure is
2 that's in that area where they're going to be
3 building. And we normally would have a description
4 of how the construction activities are and what kind
5 of digging they need.

6 I'll let MP talk about what they feel
7 they'll need for actually putting holes in the
8 ground and any information they have on the water
9 line now.

10 MR. McCOURTNEY: Okay. That's sort of a
11 good question.

12 We've been talking -- I've been talking
13 with Mike Wiskow, he's the Director of Public Works
14 in the City of Eveleth. He's aware of this project,
15 he's aware of what we're looking at doing. He
16 hasn't raised that as a concern of his, with this
17 line, as far as where we're looking to place it.

18 With that said, any time we put anything
19 in the ground we do do geo tech testing, that is not
20 only for soils, but to see what else we have down
21 there. So that is something that will be covered as
22 we move forward. Not to mention that we haven't had
23 any feedback from the city up to this point of an
24 issue.

25 Now, we have heard from the city that

1 there is a water line that comes through here, and
2 we're well aware of that and we're working with them
3 in regards to that. But as far as anything up
4 through here, we haven't had an issue.

5 MS. CINDY SPARTZ: Because I watched them
6 myself put the big round things in there.

7 MR. STORM: Okay. I'll make sure we
8 cover that in the EA, the discussion about the
9 infrastructure that is existing there and how the
10 construction around it may affect that.

11 Any other questions?

12 Please stand and state and spell your
13 name.

14 MS. JOANNE MANNIKKO: Joanne Mannikko,
15 J-O-A-N-N-E, M-A-N-N-I-K-K-O.

16 And the one concern I have would be, if
17 the power line goes to the north side of 101 and
18 they keep the brush down, 'cause now there's popple
19 trees and when it's really windy the highway gets
20 those -- it's dangerous for driving going on
21 Overlook Road. And right now the brush keeps --
22 it's like a berm for wind, and if you keep -- if you
23 have a power line there and it's cleared, is that
24 going to take away the -- what natural stuff that's
25 just coming up now that's been protecting our road?

1 Even with the last wind storm there was more from
2 when you're going down the top of the hill to the
3 first exit into west Eveleth.

4 MR. STORM: So this area here?

5 MS. JOANNE MANNIKKO: So up in here, but
6 right in here. And if they put the line in there,
7 'cause right now there's some popple trees and
8 underbrush, that if they're going to try and keep it
9 clean, 'cause you probably want it clean under the
10 power lines, that right now is stopping a lot of the
11 drifts, because it gets a lot of drift.

12 MR. STORM: I understand.

13 The utility, if they get a permit and
14 they get a permit for this route, even though it's a
15 500 foot route, and I know Dan spoke about this,
16 what they'll be permitted for is a 100 foot wide
17 easement to put that transmission line in. They
18 don't get this whole -- they don't get to build in
19 the whole 500 feet, they only get to build their 100
20 foot line along there. And they do have tree
21 clearing and maintenance within that 100 foot
22 right-of-way.

23 And, Dan, if you want to speak to -- we
24 do cover their tree clearing and tree maintenance
25 and vegetation maintenance, we do cover that in the

1 EA, how they do it, what type of trees are allowed,
2 so you get an idea of what the clearing will look
3 like. We can certainly add to that the potential
4 impact that that clearing would have on snow
5 drifting in the winter on that section of the road.
6 So we can do that.

7 Dan, do you want to speak to it at all?

8 MR. McCOURTNEY: I don't have any
9 comment.

10 MR. STORM: Okay. But I will cover that
11 in the EA. What I do -- once the comment period
12 closes and I have all these issues and I'm going
13 through them, and the ones I do carry forth, I will
14 then contact the utility and say, look, I need the
15 answers to this, this, and this. And we'll work
16 back and forth to get a narrative to describe the
17 potential impact and maybe a way to mitigate that
18 impact. Okay?

19 Anybody else?

20 Okay. With that, then, I'll turn it back
21 over to Tricia. Thank you.

22 And remember, March 11th, if you think of
23 something, get it to me, you know, so I can consider
24 it for the scoping decision.

25 Thank you.

1 MS. DEBLEECKERE: With that, I don't have
2 much else to add, unless if anybody has any
3 questions or comments. But with that, again, thank
4 you for coming, and we'll be around for a little
5 while if you have comments or questions off the
6 record.

7 So thanks for your input.

8 (Matter concluded.)
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