

**Minnesota to Iowa 345 kV Transmission Line
Advisory Task Force
First Meeting – June 21, 2013**

Meeting Notes

Welcome and introductions

The facilitators for the task force, Charlie Petersen and Kris Van Amber, State of Minnesota, Management Analysis & Development, welcomed task force members and all present. Charlie asked task force members to, in “around the table” fashion, introduce themselves and to relate one expectation that they had for the work of the advisory task force. Expectations included:

- Understand the process and get the best route possible with limited environmental impacts
- Provide a voice for farmers in the process
- Focus on the best interests of land owners
- Identify the best route possible with everything considered
- Learn what is happening, communicate information out to people, and get input to bring back to the group
- Gather input and go back to people to explain why the route(s) identified and reasoning for them
- Take care of the concerns of citizens and property owners

Why we are here

Charlie reviewed with the task force, the charge of the task force and a draft plan for accomplishing the charge over the course of three task force meetings. He described the role of facilitator and documenter for the task force’s work. He described the report which will be the product of the task force’s work and how it will be developed. Charlie also provided ground rules for meeting logistics. Questions by task force members were discussed and addressed.

Task force members discussed meeting dates and times for future meetings. Meetings will be held at the Fairmont City Hall (same location as meeting #1). Future meetings dates are:

- July 9, 2013, 12:00 Noon to 3:00 PM
- July 23, 2013, 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

State route permitting process

Ray Kirsch, Minnesota Department of Commerce, discussed the state’s permitting processes and the role of the advisory task force. He noted that the proposed Minnesota to Iowa project requires two approvals from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission – a certificate of need

and a route permit. Ray discussed the environmental review and hearing process for each of these approvals. Questions by task force members were discussed and addressed.

Project overview

Dick Coeur, ITC Midwest senior engineer, provided an overview of the proposed transmission line project and the process used by ITC Midwest to develop the proposed routes and substation location. He discussed the two transmission lines routes identified in the route permit application (routes A and B), including routing options near the city of Jackson airport, Fox Lake, Lake Charlotte, and the proposed Huntley substation.

Questions by task force members were discussed and addressed. Among the topics of discussion were:

- The type of structures proposed and the right-of-way needed for these structures.
- The expansion of the city of Jackson airport
- Assuming route A is selected by the Commission, what will happen to the existing 161 kV line?
- Why not cross Fox Lake and Lake Charlotte? What will happen with the existing structures across Fox Lake and Lake Charlotte?
- What is the thinking behind route B near the proposed Huntley substation?

Issues and impacts identified

Kris Van Amber led the task force through a small group discussion exercise to identify and categorize impacts and issues that should be considered in the environmental impact statement (EIS) for evaluation of proposed routes. The task force members responded to the question: *What impacts and issues should be analyzed by the Department of Commerce when it prepares the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Minnesota to Iowa transmission line project?* The task force identified seven impact and issue areas to be evaluated in the EIS. These issue areas and specific comments are included in the notes and table below.

The issues and impact areas identified were:

Communication

- Communication issues
- Interruption of communication and GPS from power lines

Planning for the future

- Correct size of transmission line to address future needs, wind energy, and other energy sources
- Needed for added wind power
- Possibility of future expansion, needs
- Needed for rural growth and development

Environmental

- Make sure to investigate impact on endangered vegetation
- Lake impacts: too close to lakes on the routes proposed (e.g., Kiester Lake)
- Destruction of wooded areas with easements
- Route proximity to wetlands

Health Issues – Human & Animal

- Stray voltage for residents
- Health issues from stray voltage for both people and animals

Economic Drivers

- Cost factor of project
- Location or colocation possibilities

Property Owner Concerns

- Least impact to adjacent land and land owner
- Impact on land owner-operator
- Least disruption for farmers/owners; drainage issues from pole placement, crop spraying aerial
- Follow property lines – do not go through middle of farmer’s fields, consider family owned farm acres
- Route proximity to: homes, wetlands, farmland, visual
- Residence proximity: play areas, front yards

Construction

- Agreements with local governments for road use and repair of any damage
- Construction: damage and repair

Minnesota to Iowa Advisory Task Force

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Identification of Impacts and Issues – *What impacts and issues should be analyzed by the Department of Commerce when it prepares the environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Minnesota to Iowa transmission line project?*

Communication	Planning for the future	Environmental	Health Issues – Human & Animal	Economic Drivers	Property Owner Concerns	Construction
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communication issues ▪ Interruption of communication and GPS from power lines 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Correct size of transmission line to address future needs, wind energy and other energy sources ▪ Needed for added wind power ▪ Possibility of future expansion, needs ▪ Needed for rural growth and development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make sure to investigate impact on endangered vegetation ▪ Lake impacts: too close to lakes on the routes proposed (e.g., Kiester Lake) ▪ Destruction of wooded areas with easements ▪ Route proximity to wetlands 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stray voltage for residents ▪ Health issues from stray voltage for both people and animals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cost factor of project ▪ Location or colocation possibilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Least impact to adjacent land and land owner ▪ Impact on land owner-operator ▪ Least disruption for farmers/owners; drainage issues from pole placement, crop spraying aerial ▪ Follow property lines – do not go through middle of farmer’s fields, consider family owned farm acres ▪ Route proximity to: homes, wetlands, farmland, visual ▪ Residence proximity: play areas, front yards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Agreements with local governments for road use and repair of any damage ▪ Construction: damage and repair

Next steps

Charlie reminded task force members that their homework for the next meeting was to come prepared to discuss and draw route alternatives that might address the impacts and issues identified in the first meeting. He also invited members to talk to neighbors and other interested parties for additional insight and input into the process.