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12-1163 SCOPING MEETING - THIEF RIVER FALLS
FEBRUARY 18, 2014 - 6:00 P.M.
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Request of Minnesota Power for a
Certificate of Need for the Great Northern Transmission
Line Project

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/CN-12-1163
OAH DOCKET NO. 2500-31196

Ralph Engelstad Arena
Imperial Room
525 Brooks Avenue North
Thief River Falls, Minnesota

February 18, 2014

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 MS. TRACY SMETANA: Thank you everyone
2 for coming out this evening.

3 My name is Tracy Smetana, I'm with the
4 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. And we're
5 here for the Public Information and Scoping Meeting
6 for the Certificate of Need for Minnesota Power's
7 Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project.

8 As I'm sure Bill mentioned on your way
9 in, there are two parts of this process. The first
10 is the need answers the question is the project
11 needed. Part two is, if it's needed, where is it
12 going to go. And we're dealing with part one, the
13 certificate of need, tonight.

14 So just a brief rundown of what you can
15 expect this evening. We'll do a little
16 introduction, talk about the roles and the process
17 for the certificate of need. I'll ask Minnesota
18 Power to provide a brief project summary, and they
19 also have some materials in the back of the room and
20 some folks available if you have questions. We'll
21 have Mr. Storm from the Department of Commerce talk
22 about the environmental review process and then, of
23 course, the main event is opening things up for your
24 comments and questions.

25 I always like to start with a little

1 information on who is the Public Utilities
2 Commission, 'cause if you're like me you might not
3 have heard of our agency before. In fact, I didn't
4 know such an agency existed until I applied for a
5 job there.

6 We regulate permitting for power plants,
7 transmission lines, pipelines. We also regulate
8 local and in-state long-distance telephone
9 companies, as well as rates and services for
10 investor-owned electric and natural gas utility
11 companies.

12 We have five commissioners appointed by
13 the governor and they serve staggered terms so they
14 don't all come in, a new batch, when we get a new
15 governor, so some are appointed by Governor Dayton
16 and we have some that have been appointed by
17 previous governors as well.

18 It is full-time employment for our
19 Commissioners, and we have about 50 staff, I'm one
20 of them, that helps the Commission gather
21 information, formulate the record and, ultimately,
22 they'll make a decision.

23 I also want to talk a little bit about
24 who is who in this process. As you can imagine,
25 there's some lingo and some terminology that we use

1 that wouldn't be familiar to folks that don't work
2 in this field every day.

3 So, first off, the term applicant.
4 That's what we call the company that's asking for
5 the certificate of need for this project. So in
6 this case that's Minnesota Power. So if anyone says
7 applicant, that's who they're talking about.

8 We also have the Department of Commerce.
9 They're involved in two different ways. The first
10 is the environmental review portion. And you met
11 Mr. Storm on your way in, he's with the Energy
12 Environmental Review and Analysis division, you
13 might see that abbreviated as EERA. The other part
14 of Commerce that participates in this process is the
15 Energy Regulation and Planning Unit, and they are
16 also, like I said, part of the Department of
17 Commerce, and their job is to represent the public
18 interest when utilities ask to change their rates,
19 services, facilities, and so on. So they'll conduct
20 analysis of financial issues and other things like
21 that.

22 Later on in the process we'll ask an
23 administrative law judge from the Office of
24 Administrative Hearings to get involved and help us
25 with collecting the facts for this record so that

1 the Commission can make the best decision and have
2 all of the facts before it when it does so. And so
3 the judge's job will be to hold some hearings, so
4 this fall the judge will be up here to hold
5 hearings. They will summarize the facts in the
6 record, both information from citizens, as well as
7 information from other parties, like the applicant,
8 Minnesota Power, other folks that have an interest
9 in this process. And ultimately will make a
10 recommendation to the Public Utilities Commission.

11 Now, at the Public Utilities Commission
12 there's two different folks that you might interact
13 with. The first is the public advisor, that's me,
14 and my job is to come out and talk with folks, help
15 you figure out what does this process mean to me,
16 how can I get involved, when can I get involved,
17 what kind of comments are you looking for, how can I
18 help this process.

19 My job is to be neutral, so I'm not going
20 to say, hey, don't put it on Joe's land, put it
21 somewhere else, or those types of things. My job is
22 to be a neutral party. I always like to say I
23 represent the rules. I don't give legal advice and,
24 again, I'm not an advocate for any party or position
25 in this process.

1 The other person that you might interact
2 with from our office, my counterpart, is a staff
3 analyst. They deal with more of the technical
4 aspects of the project, assist in building the
5 record, and help provide information to the
6 Commissioners on the various impacts of different
7 decisions that they could make. And they also are
8 neutral, they're not going to give you legal advice
9 and they're not going to advocate on behalf of any
10 one party or position.

11 And so this particular project meets the
12 state definition of a large energy facility. And
13 because that's true, the state requires a
14 certificate of need. So, again, it's going to
15 answer that question, is the project needed. And
16 that's what we're dealing with here tonight.

17 For your reference, I've also indicated
18 the statutes and rules that apply to this particular
19 proceeding. If you're looking for some really
20 bedtime reading you can look that up.

21 Now, question number two is, okay, if
22 it's needed, where is it going to go, and that's the
23 route permit. And in this case the company will
24 also need a route permit before it can build this
25 project. And that will be decided in a separate

1 process. So we're going to work on need first,
2 route second.

3 So what are the things that the Public
4 Utilities Commission has to look at when it
5 determines is this project needed? Well, we look at
6 what if the project isn't built, what would happen
7 to things like adequate, reliable, and efficient
8 service for Minnesota or neighboring states. Is
9 there a better solution, in terms of the size of the
10 project, the type of the project, the timing and so
11 on.

12 We also want to be concerned with the
13 environment. So if there is a need, does this
14 solution fix the problem and protect the environment
15 as much as possible. And when I say environment, I
16 don't just mean wildlife, I also mean human health,
17 social, economic factors and so forth.

18 And we also want to be certain that the
19 project meets other government requirements. The
20 Public Utilities Commission oversees the actual
21 permitting and the question of need for this
22 project, but some of the other issues that the
23 company might encounter with other agencies we don't
24 oversee. For example, there might be some permits
25 they need from DNR. We don't oversee that, but we'd

1 want to make certain the company is complying with
2 those requirements as well.

3 So if you like pictures, this is a
4 picture of what the process looks like. It's a
5 pretty high level view. There's a lot of other
6 steps that happen in between, but these are kind of
7 the basics that folks typically like to know about.

8 So this application accepted. A lot of
9 times people are confused. They say, well, if it's
10 already been accepted, what are we doing here? What
11 application accepted means is that it meets the
12 requirements to be called an application to begin
13 our review process. So that's really what kicks it
14 off. So, actually, before this chart even begins,
15 there should be a box that says application
16 submitted. So the company starts it off by
17 submitting the application, then we review it to
18 say, hey, did they give us everything we need to
19 start reviewing it. And that's when we get to
20 application accepted.

21 Then the next step is where we're at
22 today, public information and scoping meeting. So
23 you can see there's a lot of other steps that need
24 to happen before we get down to the bottom, the
25 decision. In this particular case, we're

1 anticipating 15 to 18 months from this top box to
2 the bottom one.

3 And you can also see there's a number of
4 ways that people can get involved. Either by
5 attending meetings like you are tonight, by
6 submitting comments into the record and so on
7 throughout the process.

8 Now, if you're a list person you'll like
9 this one better. I'm a list person so I like this
10 one better. You can see the application was filed
11 in October. We accepted it as complete in December.
12 So again, that just means, hey, we can kick off the
13 review process, we can start digging our teeth into
14 this thing.

15 Here we are today, the information and
16 scoping meeting. And then these other steps are yet
17 to come. And you'll note that it says estimated.
18 You know, we certainly try to put together the best
19 plan that we can, but things come up, as you might
20 expect, through the course of a project like this.
21 Some things might go faster, some things might move
22 more slowly than we anticipate. But at this point
23 we're expecting a decision by the Public Utilities
24 Commission in May of 2015. So you can see we've got
25 a ways to go.

1 Now, you might be thinking, hmm, this is
2 all really interesting stuff, how can I learn more.
3 So there's a few different ways you can do that.

4 The Department of Commerce maintains a
5 website specific to this project. So you can learn
6 about project milestones, there are links to
7 documents that you might find useful. It's a really
8 good way to kind of track what's happening in the
9 process.

10 You can also look at all documents that
11 have been filed. It can be a little overwhelming
12 because as the process moves on a lot of documents
13 will be in there. But sometimes, if you know
14 specifically what you're looking for, this can be a
15 useful tool.

16 We have what we call an eDocket system
17 where everything that happens in this case is
18 submitted into this electronic filing system. And
19 it's available online for folks to see.

20 So these are the steps that you would
21 take to look at the record, both for the certificate
22 of need, and I also put the information in there
23 about the route permit just because I know a lot of
24 folks, if they're interested in question number one,
25 they might also be interested in question number

1 two. At this point the company has not yet filed
2 the application for the route permit, so that second
3 one -- oops -- this 14-21, there's not likely to be
4 anything in there if you follow these steps to
5 search for it because they haven't filed it yet.

6 Now, if you want to stay informed without
7 having to remember, hey, I should go check that
8 every once in a while, we do keep a project mailing
9 list. And I know probably most of you signed up for
10 that when you came in on the sign-in sheets. What
11 that will do for you is provide you information when
12 we have opportunities for you to jump in.

13 So, for example, a meeting like this
14 that's happening, you would get a notice in the mail
15 about that. Or you could choose to get it by e-mail
16 if you like e-mail instead. If there are
17 opportunities to submit written comments, you would
18 receive information about that. When the
19 environmental report is published, you would receive
20 information about that. So it's not absolutely
21 everything that happens, but it's sort of the points
22 where you can jump in and offer input.

23 Now, if you feel like you want to know
24 about every little thing that happens, and some
25 folks do, we have an e-mail subscription service

1 that you can sign up for. You just follow these
2 steps. And I just put the subscription here for the
3 certificate of need since that's what we're focused
4 on tonight. But what this will do is send you an
5 e-mail every time something new comes in in this
6 case. And so for some folks it's way too much
7 e-mail, they don't want to receive all that, but for
8 some people who really like e-mail or, you know,
9 just want to make sure they don't miss anything,
10 this is the way to go. So there's a variety of
11 options to stay informed on the project.

12 There's also some additional information
13 on the websites listed here. The Department of
14 Commerce, the statutes and rules, which I referenced
15 earlier, and also on our website.

16 And the two contacts at the Public
17 Utilities Commission, again, I'm Tracy, the public
18 advisor. And my counterpart, Michael Kaluzniak, he
19 is the staff analyst for this project. If you have
20 any questions you are certainly welcome to call or
21 e-mail either one of us at any time and we'll be
22 happy to help you.

23 And with that, I'm going to turn it over
24 to Jim Atkinson with Minnesota Power.

25 MR. JIM ATKINSON: Thanks. Hi. I'm Jim

1 Atkinson with Minnesota Power, the environmental
2 siting and permitting manager.

3 Let's see. I'm here to talk about
4 Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line.
5 It's a very large facility. It would be a 500 kV
6 line, and it would be about 200 to 250 miles long,
7 depending upon which route we eventually are
8 granted. And it's intended to carry 750 megawatts
9 of electricity from Manitoba Hydro, hydropower, to
10 our transmission system in northeastern Minnesota.

11 It requires a right-of-way of about 200
12 feet wide. And the structures are spaced about 1450
13 feet apart at the widest and as little as maybe 1000
14 feet at the smallest. So it's very large. The
15 structures are far apart. And most noteworthy is we
16 are required to have this in service by June 1st,
17 2020 to meet the terms of our Power Purchase
18 Agreement with Manitoba Hydro. And that calls for
19 the purchase of 250 megawatts of power. And we also
20 have another Power Purchase Agreement in the works
21 for another 133 megawatts of power. The first one
22 has already been approved by the Public Utilities
23 Commission and the smaller one is yet to be
24 introduced and approved.

25 As you can see, the routes that we've --

1 that we're considering at this point all go to the
2 north and then down to the east side of Red Lake.
3 So just so there isn't any confusion in the room,
4 because we've been here three times already for
5 public open houses trying to help with preparing for
6 our route permit application, and at the time we had
7 several route segments on this side of Red Lake that
8 we were considering and Minnesota Power is no longer
9 considering those.

10 There's a few different reasons why we're
11 proposing this, but the main one is that we're
12 trying to change the way we make electricity. And
13 currently Minnesota Power makes most of it by
14 burning coal. And there's a lot of legislation that
15 is in play and potential new legislation that will
16 make that a lot more expensive, ultimately meaning a
17 big impact to our ratepayers who have to pay the
18 bills.

19 So as part of a much larger plan and just
20 one component of that plan, we're proposing to
21 supplement what we do with other sources, with more
22 Canadian hydropower. And that's where that 250
23 megawatt Power Purchase Agreement came in and why
24 we're looking at an additional 133 megawatts as
25 well. But we're also in the process of permitting

1 for converting some of our coal plants over to
2 burning gas, and we'll be looking at building new
3 gas plants and a lot of other things as well. So
4 this is just -- this is an important part, but it's
5 just one part of our overall strategy to transform
6 how we make energy.

7 At the same time that we're trying to
8 make energy differently, we're trying to make more
9 of it, or have more of it, at least. And that's
10 because we're seeing load growth on our system. And
11 that's a bit unusual in today's economy, most
12 utilities have not seen much if any load growth, but
13 we serve the Iron Range and the Iron Range continues
14 to expand. And we're seeing several projects
15 underway right now where we're having to build small
16 transmission lines to serve new taconite load. And
17 then there's also the prospect of having to serve
18 nonferrous mining. Many of you have probably heard
19 of Polymet and that's just one of those potential
20 customers as well.

21 Just some structure types. These are
22 guyed structures and those would be used in areas
23 where we are in the woods, in the middle of the
24 forested areas, or in wetland areas. The tallest
25 ones would be about 150 feet high. And then in

1 agricultural areas we would use self-supporting
2 towers that don't require any guys, and those would
3 be a little bit shorter, probably 140 feet on the
4 high end.

5 And we have ways to keep track of the
6 project as well. Probably the best one we have is
7 our website, greatnortherntransmissionline. We also
8 link to the MPUC's website as well. So that's
9 another place you can go to make comments or to find
10 the links to get to the areas that you want to make
11 comments. As well we have a hot line. And then
12 there's me, I can leave cards with anyone who wants
13 them, you can contact me directly for questions
14 about the permitting or the routing of the
15 transmission line any time you want.

16 And that's about all I have. Now I'll
17 give it to Bill.

18 MR. BILL STORM: Can you hear me without
19 the mic? Everybody can hear me? I'll do it without
20 the mic.

21 You met me as you were coming in the
22 door. My name is Bill Storm, I work for the
23 Department of Commerce in the unit that's called the
24 Energy Environmental Review and Analysis Unit. And
25 while we're here tonight to talk about the need

1 docket, I'd just like to go over a little bit what I
2 went over at the table with you in the front.

3 Is that when a utility comes and wants to
4 build a large energy facility in Minnesota, they
5 need to get two approvals from the Public Utilities
6 Commission. The first approval is need, the second
7 approval is route or site.

8 In the need approval, which is the docket
9 we're dealing with tonight, the question before the
10 Public Utilities Commission, who are the ultimate
11 decision-makers, is do they agree with Minnesota
12 Power that the power is needed, and do they agree
13 that a transmission line is the way to meet that
14 need.

15 In the routing docket, in the routing
16 process, the question before the Commission is,
17 should the Commission issue a route permit to the
18 utility, what route should that permit specify, and
19 what conditions should that permit specify for
20 building along that route.

21 The EERA unit in the Department of
22 Commerce, the way we service the Public Utilities
23 Commission is we provide environmental review. We
24 do that for both a need docket and a routing docket.
25 Both dockets include scoping meetings, which is

1 where we come out to the public and we ask the
2 public what would they like to see from an issues,
3 impacts, or alternatives in the environmental
4 report. Then they both process an environmental
5 document. In the need docket the environmental
6 review document is termed an environmental report.
7 In the routing docket the environmental review
8 document is termed an environmental impact
9 statement. Both processes then have public hearings
10 and then both processes would go to the Commission
11 for a final decision.

12 So, as I said, in the need docket I am
13 tasked with producing the environmental report. The
14 environmental report must contain the information on
15 the human and environmental impacts of the proposed
16 project. And since this is a need docket, I'm
17 looking at those impacts relative to the size, type,
18 timing of the project, system configuration, and
19 voltage.

20 This is a wall of words, I know, but the
21 statute and the rules specify items that I have to
22 cover in the environmental report. And they would
23 be a general description of the proposed project and
24 associated facilities, they would be a description
25 of alternatives to the proposed project, and the

1 rules specify you will look at these alternatives,
2 but through scoping, the public, other agencies,
3 other interested groups can put alternatives on the
4 table also for me to consider. And that's one of
5 the things I'm here to seek tonight, does the public
6 have any alternatives.

7 Next is an analysis of the human and
8 environmental impacts of the project proposed and
9 the alternatives that were proposed, analysis of
10 potential impacts. Analysis of how to mitigate
11 those impacts, not only identify the impacts but now
12 how could we mitigate those impacts to lessen them.

13 A list of downstream permits. If the
14 utility is successful in getting a certificate of
15 need and then they are successful in getting a route
16 permit from the Public Utilities Commission, there
17 are also downstream agencies that need to permit the
18 project for them to build it. An example would be,
19 if they want to cross a highway, they need MnDOT
20 approval. If they want to cross public waters or a
21 wetland, they need DNR permits and such.

22 Part of what we're doing tonight is
23 scoping. And we're scoping -- you can look at two
24 ways of scoping. One is impacts, what impacts would
25 the public or the other state agencies or local

1 units of government, what impacts would you like me
2 to include in my environmental report. What things
3 do you want me to consider. The other is
4 alternatives to the project.

5 And for alternatives to the project, a
6 person desiring to look at -- desiring a need to
7 look at a particular alternative, the rules say that
8 they have to identify the alternatives or the
9 impacts that they want me to look at in the
10 environmental report. Two, they have to provide an
11 explanation of why they want that alternative or
12 impact looked at. And three, they need to provide
13 whatever supporting information they want me to
14 consider when I'm developing my recommendation to my
15 commissioner on what should be in the environmental
16 report.

17 As I said, the Department of Commerce is
18 responsible for doing environmental review. The PUC
19 is responsible for making the ultimate decision.
20 Part of environmental review is scoping the
21 environmental document. Basically, the table of
22 contents, what's going to be in that environmental
23 document.

24 So one thing I'm here tonight for is to
25 solicit from you are there alternatives to the

1 project you want me to consider or are there impacts
2 you want me to consider.

3 Now, the commissioner of the Department
4 of Commerce, the person responsible for deciding
5 what will be in the environmental report, he can
6 exclude from analysis any alternative put forth by
7 the public or local unit of government that does not
8 meet the underlying need for the project, that isn't
9 likely to have a significant benefit compared to the
10 project, or if there's another alternative that
11 has -- that meets a similar need but has less
12 environmental concern. The Department of Commerce,
13 who does the environmental report, we also will
14 include any impacts or alternatives that the PUC
15 identifies for inclusion in the document.

16 If you remember from the table, there's
17 this little handout I gave at the table that sort of
18 explains what environmental review is all about.
19 And on page 6 of that table, of that sheet, it shows
20 you what I'm planning on putting in the
21 environmental report. There are broad categories of
22 the issues that I will be discussing and evaluating
23 in the environmental report. And what I'm asking
24 the public to provide input on is what impacts you
25 would you like me to look at. This -- I put this up

1 here as an example to help you get there.

2 If you can see from the page 6, where it
3 has basically a table of contents of the
4 environmental report, as I see it as we're moving
5 through the process here, you can see item 4.5, the
6 general category of health and safety. Okay. There
7 are many things that fall under that category of
8 health and safety. What I'm asking the public to do
9 is is there something in that category that you
10 would like me to consider, make sure I cover that
11 you're interested in. An example would be, under
12 health and safety, a lot of people have concerns
13 about electric and magnetic fields. So I'm trying
14 to solicit input from the public, is that something
15 you want me to cover. It's a standard item, I'm
16 going to cover it, but this is to give you an idea
17 of how I go from a broad category, how I try to get
18 the public to help me fill in the details. Another
19 example under 4.5 is stray voltage or induced
20 voltage, things that the public may be concerned
21 about.

22 The second part of what I'm looking for
23 is alternatives. And I struggle a little bit when I
24 do the need docket on alternatives, because when I
25 compare that to when I'm out here doing a routing

1 docket and I ask people for alternatives, they
2 understand that's where the rubber meets the road.
3 Bill, there's a line on the map where Minnesota
4 Power says they want to go, and they have it going
5 down the north side of, you know, ABC Lane, and I
6 think, for whatever reason, they should go down the
7 south side of ABC Lane. Those are sort of the
8 alternatives when it comes to routing. When it
9 comes to need, the alternatives, we're looking at
10 size, type, timing, system configuration, voltage,
11 larger issues.

12 And I always struggle about how to
13 present this to the public, but here's an example.
14 You can see from that page 6 again, under section 3,
15 the alternatives that I'm going to look at. And
16 some of these come from that wall of words that I
17 showed you a few slides ago, the rules say I have to
18 look at a no-build alternative. The rules say I
19 have to look at demand-side management. The rules
20 say I have to look at upgrading existing facilities,
21 to evaluate are those alternatives to this project.

22 An example of what I'm asking the public
23 for is are there other alternatives that you can
24 think of that meet that size, type, system
25 configuration, voltage narrative in there. Here's

1 an example. If you look at 3.6, facilities of a
2 different size. Now, you may look at Minnesota
3 Power's proposal, they want to build a 500 kV line,
4 you may be of the thought, well, have they looked at
5 building a 765 line? Why not over build it a little
6 bit? What are the environmental impacts of that,
7 you know? Or you may go the other way and say I
8 think a 230 line would fit their need, I want to
9 make sure you look at that. So this is my best shot
10 at trying to help the public understand what
11 alternatives mean in a need proceeding when we're
12 dealing with size, type, timing, system
13 configuration.

14 When we get to the routing come May, is
15 what I'm figuring when I'm back up here talking to
16 you about routing, it will be that this alternative
17 section will be so much easier for you to
18 understand, because there will be a line in the map
19 and you'll know that that line is crossing an area
20 that I'm concerned about. A deer wintering area,
21 it's crossing an old growth of cedar, some local
22 knowledge you have that you're concerned about, and
23 then you can come -- then we can work out, okay,
24 what's an alternative that we can evaluate to avoid
25 that impact. But that's when we get to routing.

1 So that's basically what environmental
2 review is inside the need docket. I'll be
3 soliciting input from the public, local units of
4 government and interested parties until March 14th.
5 So if you do have an issue that you want to make
6 sure I cover, an example is EMF, or you have an
7 alternative to the proposed project that you want me
8 to evaluate, an example being build the line bigger,
9 I need to get your input by March 14th.

10 And you can e-mail me your input, you can
11 snail mail me your input. And if you need help
12 formulating the words or you just need help, Bill, I
13 want to put an alternative on the table or I have an
14 impact that I'm concerned about but I'm not sure how
15 to do it, give me a call and we can walk through how
16 you structure that request. But remember, it's got
17 to be done by March 14th.

18 And I noticed, when the main part here
19 tonight is to solicit, ask the public, what impacts
20 do you want me to cover or what alternatives do you
21 want me to evaluate from an environmental standpoint
22 in this need docket, I noticed when people came in
23 nobody signed the I want to speak column. But I
24 always give people an opportunity at the end of a
25 show of hands, there's something I might have said

1 that might have been unclear and you might want
2 clarification on that, or you might want to ask
3 Minnesota Power a question. So we do have a court
4 reporter here. I'll ask just a show of hands, like
5 we're in school, if you want to speak. If you do
6 want to speak, I'll ask you stand up, face the court
7 reporter, state and spell your name, and try to
8 speak slower than I do.

9 Anybody want to -- want to ask a comment,
10 want to ask a question, make a comment, rant?

11 Okay. Remember, there are two processes.
12 This is the need process. I'll be back up here when
13 we do the routing process.

14 And I'm going to go one little further.
15 I know, and Jim mentioned it, and I sent some people
16 over to Jim when they first came in who had routing
17 questions, and a year and a half ago when Minnesota
18 Power was first coming up with this idea and they
19 were looking at how to approach this need, they were
20 first talking about -- they document two routes when
21 they do the routing process, and they were talking
22 about one coming in north and one coming in south of
23 Red Lake. And since then it looks like -- they
24 haven't filed it yet, but it looks like they're
25 having both of those routes, again, the alternative

1 and preferred, both of the routes being north of Red
2 Lake.

3 I want to emphasize to people that if you
4 see in the paper when the notice comes out for the
5 routing meeting and you see the proposed routes,
6 don't say, ah, they're going up there, I don't have
7 to worry about it. Because just like we're doing
8 tonight with the alternatives on size, type, and
9 timing for the need, I'll be asking that same
10 question when I'm here for the routing alternatives.
11 And I can guarantee you, somebody will give me a
12 route that goes south of Red Lake. And that route
13 may then get considered. So if you blew it off
14 because of what you saw in the paper, you might not
15 find out until the scoping decision comes out that
16 says here is what I'm going to do with the
17 environmental report, you may say, oh, wait, now
18 they're coming across my property.

19 So I encourage you to participate in the
20 process from the very beginning even if you don't
21 think it might come against you. Because in the
22 routing process, people can put alternatives on the
23 table, and if you miss that step, you might be
24 playing catch up then down the road trying to get
25 your input into that alternative route.

1 But, anyway, I'll give you one more
2 chance. Anybody want to speak to need tonight?

3 Okay. I do appreciate you coming out,
4 it's important that we participate, and I'm sure
5 when I get out here for the routing that things will
6 be a little bit more exciting from the public's
7 standpoint.

8 I do appreciate you coming out. Thank
9 you. Remember March 14th and, also, give me a call
10 any time you have a question.

11 Thank you, folks.

12 (Meeting concluded at 6:40 p.m.)

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