

From: [Jason Dahl](#)
To: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Public Utilities Commission (PUC) Docket Number: E-015/CN-12-1163
Date: Saturday, March 15, 2014 12:10:38 PM

Dear Mr. Storm,

I am writing you in regards to the Great Northern Transmission Line (Public Utilities Commission Docket Number: E-015/CN-12-1163). My family and I are landowners and residents of Falun Township, Roseau County. Our land and residences lie along one of the proposed routes for the Great Northern Transmission Line. We are strongly opposed to the route through Falun Township, Roseau County, Minnesota for the following reasons:

Natural Resources Concerns

Transmission line corridors in northern Minnesota see heavy use for both snowmobile and ATV traffic. The proposed route through Falun Township also leads the power line directly into an area of Beltrami Island State Forest that has been designated a No Motorized Vehicle Area by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. The MN DNR fought some hard battles to establish these areas in an effort to protect areas sensitive to disruption. Many of these battles were fought right here in Roseau County. If the transmission line is allowed to go through this area, the the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources will be obligated to open the area to motorized vehicle access. The power company will need to have motorized access during construction, and will require continued access thereafter for monitoring and maintenance. This open corridor would greatly increase access to and disruption of this area, and make enforcement of motorized vehicle restrictions by the MN DNR all but impossible.

Additionally, this proposed route goes past and through 2 major waterfowl habitats - the Cole Slough in Beltrami Island State Forest and a water retention pod built by Lyle Roseen. Each year hundreds of thousands of ducks and geese use these waterways during the spring, summer and migration. The proximity of the lines to these waterways would be a hazard for these waterfowl. The Cole Slough, in particular, is a sensitive habitat that would be disrupted during construction, and suffer as a result of the increased motor vehicle traffic described above.

As an alternative, we favor the construction of the line along the alternate, northern route.

That route runs along an existing transmission line, and new impacts to natural areas would be minimized.

Scenic Considerations

We feel that line will be a visual eyesore. This is a concern not only for the residents for Falun Township who will be confronted with the line on a daily basis, but for area residents and outdoorsmen in general. The transmission line will adversely affect the scenic view of and from Beltrami Island State Forest. Falun Township is the only place in Roseau County where you can see the Beltrami Island State Forest ridgeline. This is the only real elevation scenic view in Roseau County and Northwest Minnesota. This power line will disrupt this view.

Also, looking down from the popular Bemis Hill day use area in Beltrami Island State Forest, you look out over Falun Township. This vista would be marred if the transmission line were constructed here.

Again, as an alternative, we favor the construction of the line along the alternate, northern route. That route runs along an existing transmission line, and new visual impacts to would be minimized.

Agricultural and Economic Considerations

The route through Falun Township runs primarily across working agricultural lands. We are a farming community and this power line will break up agricultural land making it harder and more costly to farm.

Also it will take valuable farm land out of production, both during construction and perpetually afterward, presenting a real financial hardship to our family and neighbors.. Additionally, these lands are often wet, and require the aerial application of agricultural chemicals, these power lines will hamper any agricultural aerial spraying.

Again, as an alternative, we favor the construction of the line along the alternate, northern route. That route runs along an existing transmission line, and new agricultural impacts to would be minimized.

Lifestyle Considerations and Landowner Preferences

One of the reasons the residents of Falun Township live where they do is to be away from civilization a little. Construction of this transmission line would be yet another encroachment on that rural way of life. We don't want it here.

For all of these reasons, we strongly oppose the permitting of the Great Northern Transmission Line through Falun Township, and urge the routing of the line along the existing, northern route.

Best regards,
Jason M. Dahl
Stakeholder in land at 42833 510th Ave, Salol, MN 56756

P.S. I apologize if you got an earlier, unfinished draft of this letter. -JD