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14-21 - INFORMATION & SCOPING MEETING - KELLIHER  
JULY 23, 2014 - 11:00 A.M.  
FOR THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION,  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE,  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a  
Route Permit for the Great Northern High-Voltage  
Transmission Line Project from Manitoba, Canada -  
Minnesota Border to the Blackberry Substation near Grand  
Rapids, Minnesota

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21

Kelliher Public School  
345 4th Street NW  
Kelliher, Minnesota

July 23, 2014

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

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1 MR. MICHAEL KALUZNIAK: Good morning. My  
2 name is Michael Kaluzniak, I am a staff member with  
3 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

4 The Public Utilities Commission will be  
5 making a determination on the route permit for this  
6 line. This project is a power line coming down from  
7 Manitoba, a 220-mile, 500 kilovolt line crossing the  
8 Manitoba/Minnesota border in the northwest portion  
9 of the state near Roseau, terminating near the  
10 Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids.

11 We're here for a public information and  
12 scoping meeting. Largely we're here to listen to  
13 your comments and collect input on the project and  
14 solicit information about what you think is  
15 important that we consider during the process. I  
16 have a rather large slide presentation here, I'm  
17 going to try to go through this as quick as  
18 possible. There are copies of it in the back, feel  
19 free to interrupt if you have a question. It's a  
20 pretty small crowd.

21 It's important to note that there are  
22 separate permits required for the project itself.  
23 Because of the project crosses an international  
24 border, a presidential permit from the U.S. State  
25 Department, and the Department of Energy being the

1 lead for them, are required to do an analysis and  
2 issue a presidential permit. We'll have a  
3 representative from DOE here to talk about that  
4 shortly.

5 As I said, I'm with the Public Utilities  
6 Commission. We're a small organization, we're about  
7 50 people. We regulate power facilities in  
8 Minnesota. In addition to typical utility  
9 functions, such as ratemaking, we regulate the  
10 installation of energy facilities such as pipelines,  
11 transmission lines, wind farms, power plants, and so  
12 forth. We have 50 staff and five commissioners that  
13 are appointed by the governor. They're not  
14 political, they act as judges in this process.

15 Just to clarify who is here today.  
16 Minnesota Power is the applicant for the project  
17 itself. The Department of Commerce is here. The  
18 Department of Commerce is doing the environmental  
19 impact statement jointly with the Department of  
20 Energy for the project.

21 From the Commission's perspective, we  
22 have a process that that leads into. We refer the  
23 matter to an administrative law judge from the  
24 Office of Administrative Hearings, which is another  
25 state agency, who will develop an evidentiary

1 proceeding and write a summary of the proceedings  
2 with recommendation for the Commission's  
3 consideration. And I take that back to our folks  
4 and keep the Commissioners abreast of the progress  
5 in the project and help them analyze the docket  
6 record.

7 When the Commission does its work, we do  
8 things as transparently and inclusively as possible.  
9 We appreciate you showing up. We do listen to  
10 everything you say, we take all these comments into  
11 consideration, and we do take that very seriously.  
12 We do appreciate your being here.

13 We also have a public advisor who usually  
14 does this schpiel here, does the introductory  
15 remarks, but she's not available so I'm doing it for  
16 her. I'm the planner within the energy facilities  
17 unit.

18 As I said, this project requires a route  
19 permit from the Commission. Here's some statutory  
20 language if you care to look at that.

21 There's also a certificate of need for  
22 the process -- excuse me, for the project. When the  
23 Commission has a large project there are two phases,  
24 two separate approvals that are required. The first  
25 is called a certificate of need and that relates to

1           whether the project is needed and in the public  
2           interest. It also determines the size, type, and  
3           timing of the project itself using an econometric  
4           analysis. And that's a separate process, we have a  
5           separate docket for that, we have separate  
6           proceedings going on, additional public meetings and  
7           so forth. If you have information you'd like to  
8           give on that, just let me know.

9                        There are many factors the Commission  
10           considers in making its decisions and so those are  
11           listed here.

12                      And it's important to note that the route  
13           permit itself is not only an approval for the line  
14           itself, it primarily locates the line, determines  
15           where the line will be, and also establishes permit  
16           conditions for the construction, operation and  
17           maintenance of the facility itself.

18                      As the Commission establishes the  
19           right-of-way for a project, it starts out doing a  
20           study area. Minnesota Power will speak to their  
21           process and how they came to arrive at the location  
22           for the proposed project.

23                      If the Commission grants a permit for the  
24           project, a route permit, they will establish a  
25           corridor somewhere between one and three thousand

1 feet in which the line can be sited. There's a  
2 current anticipated alignment which speaks to where  
3 we would generally think it goes. However, it's not  
4 over until it's over. It's important to note that,  
5 that based on information from the public,  
6 information in the field, engineering considerations  
7 and so forth, we would then modify the alignment  
8 within that permitted corridor prior to its  
9 construction.

10 This is some information on acquisition  
11 of easements and eminent domain and so forth and  
12 I'll let you read through that if you care to.

13 This is a general schematic algorithm of  
14 the permitting process for route permits by the  
15 Commission. We are currently at the public  
16 information and scoping meetings. We're early in  
17 the project. This is not your only bite at the  
18 apple, but it's probably your best bite at the apple  
19 in terms of establishing route permit conditions and  
20 input into the process. Because at this point the  
21 information that we collect is analyzed and included  
22 as we move forward. It becomes a little more  
23 difficult if you come in six to 12 months from now  
24 and say, well, you know, what I'd like to see is  
25 something else. This is the time at which we want

1 your input on if there's route alternatives, if  
2 there's specific conditions that we need to know  
3 about, for example. Bill will go through some of  
4 the conditions that we have where you have to move a  
5 line, but we would like to know about any particular  
6 unique features within your area that might be  
7 affected by the project so that we can work around  
8 those if possible.

9 As I said, we go through these public  
10 hearings. On your right-hand side of the screen  
11 here you see the development of the environmental  
12 impact statement. As I mentioned, that is done  
13 jointly with the Department of Energy and the  
14 Department of Commerce. That information is then  
15 forwarded to the public, filed, and we will hold  
16 another series of public hearings on the matter.

17 Public hearings are when the  
18 administrative law judge gets involved and we'll  
19 have another stenographer here to take notes, and  
20 it's more of an official proceeding from the  
21 Commission's perspective. It is the time at which  
22 the comments on the record as a whole are entered.  
23 So we have comments on materials that are discovered  
24 during the environmental impact statement and where  
25 the project sits, you can provide impact at that

1 time.

2 After that goes on there's a series of  
3 evidentiary hearings that will go on. This is  
4 conducted by the administrative law judge also, and  
5 it's more along the lines of a mock trial, if you  
6 will. It's an administrative process. And there  
7 will be prefiled testimony, there will be witnesses  
8 available for cross-examination and generally  
9 available for answering questions.

10 We try to allow public questions during  
11 this process and that is possible during the  
12 evidentiary hearings as well, but generally speaking  
13 we try to have your questions early in the process  
14 as it helps us make our decision.

15 This is an estimated project timeline.  
16 It's very estimated. And I think it's been changed  
17 since we had a meeting on Monday to discuss these  
18 items, so these are subject to change. And if you'd  
19 like some more information there will be a filing  
20 entered into the Commission's record shortly,  
21 probably by the end of the week, maybe next week,  
22 that will lay out specific dates that we anticipate  
23 these things happening. These are not set in stone.  
24 Things often change based on what happens during  
25 discovery of the EIS and public hearings and

1 coordination between agencies and the like. And  
2 especially in relation to coordinating a project  
3 with the federal government, that creates a  
4 challenge between all these agencies.

5 We issue notices like this one that was  
6 done on the application previously. And if you sign  
7 up for the project list back there, the orange  
8 cards, we can be sure you get the notices when they  
9 come out. We prefer to communicate in e-mail, if  
10 possible, let us know, but we can accommodate any  
11 way you like. If you want to use snail mail, faxes,  
12 if you need special assistance, we're available for  
13 that, too.

14 Our website has changed recently. We are  
15 now mn.gov, forward slash, PUC. And there are two  
16 numbers listed there. For the route permit the  
17 docket number is 14-21, the year 14, it is the 21st  
18 docket. The certificate of need was filed in 2012,  
19 12 is the prefix, and it was the 1163rd docket  
20 established that year.

21 We're here to answer your questions.  
22 Feel free to stop and contact any of us, all of us.  
23 We have a couple GIS systems, stations set up for  
24 you to look at your property or look up any  
25 properties you care to and they can help you

1 identify some of the features there, and Bill will  
2 speak to that in a little bit.

3 You can subscribe to the eDockets itself  
4 if you want to receive each and every notification.  
5 A lot of these are legal filings and changes of  
6 counsel and representation. There's notices of  
7 appearances and lots of things that probably are not  
8 of great interest to the public, but if you care to  
9 receive each and every document, it often runs into  
10 the hundreds, thousands of documents, depending on  
11 the project, you're welcome to do so. And this is  
12 what it will look like when you enter the docket  
13 14-21, sign up, create a list.

14 Again, I'm here, Tracy is here. We have  
15 additional meetings going on in Bigfork tonight and  
16 we'll be in Grand Rapids tomorrow at 11:00 and 6:00  
17 p.m.

18 Also with us is, as I mentioned, the  
19 Department of Energy. Julie Ann Smith will be up  
20 next to talk about the federal process and how it  
21 relates to our work.

22 Thank you very much.

23 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Hello and good  
24 morning. Can you all hear me?

25 My name is Julie Ann Smith, I work for

1 the United States Department of Energy. I'm with  
2 the Office of Electricity -- let me start this over.  
3 I'm with the Office of Electricity Delivery and  
4 Energy Reliability.

5 I would like to thank you very much for  
6 taking the time out of your day to attend this  
7 meeting. Your participation and input are  
8 absolutely vital to a robust public participation  
9 process.

10 This is a scoping meeting in our  
11 environmental review process, which means this is  
12 about me, or the DOE, listening and learning from  
13 you. The Department of Energy needs to hear what  
14 issues you think that we should consider when we  
15 conduct our environmental analysis.

16 The reason we are here is that Minnesota  
17 Power is proposing to construct the Great Northern  
18 Transmission Line project, an international  
19 transmission line, and Minnesota Power has asked the  
20 Department of Energy for a permit to cross the  
21 U.S./Canadian border. Minnesota Power submitted  
22 their presidential permit application to the  
23 Department of Energy in April of 2014.

24 Before any electric energy transmission  
25 facility can be built across a U.S. international

1 border, the project proponent or applicant must  
2 obtain a presidential permit from the U.S.  
3 Department of Energy. A Department of Energy  
4 presidential permit authorizes a company to  
5 construct, operate, maintain and connect electric  
6 transmission facilities at the border.

7 The Department of Energy is involved in  
8 this proceeding for one reason. The proposed  
9 transmission line would cross the international  
10 border. If this line did not cross the border, the  
11 Department of Energy would not be here with you  
12 today.

13 The DOE has no authority to site this  
14 line. Only the State of Minnesota, specifically the  
15 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, has that  
16 authority. The DOE does not convey the right of  
17 eminent domain with presidential permits nor can the  
18 Department of Energy address the issue of  
19 compensation for land that would be impacted by the  
20 Great Northern project.

21 For our process, before the Department of  
22 Energy can issue this kind of permit, we must comply  
23 with the National Environmental Policy Act, or what  
24 we call NEPA. NEPA is the federal law that serves  
25 as the nation's basic charter for environmental

1 protection. It requires all federal agencies to  
2 consider the potential impacts, environmental  
3 impacts of their proposed actions.

4 NEPA is based on a set of principles.  
5 The first being full disclosure and public  
6 participation that enhances our understanding, your  
7 understanding and, quite frankly, is the reason why  
8 we're here today.

9 The second principle is that we need to  
10 explore alternatives to the action that is proposed,  
11 including a no-action alternative. What that would  
12 mean for DOE is that we would not issue a  
13 presidential permit.

14 We have to assess potential impacts with  
15 rigor and with analyses across -- that are apples to  
16 apples across all alternatives. We have to consider  
17 mitigation or ways to reduce or avoid impacts. And  
18 we have to weigh options and explain those positions  
19 clearly so that the reader of the document  
20 understands.

21 NEPA essentially is intended to promote  
22 better informed agency decision-making and provides  
23 you the opportunity to learn firsthand what the  
24 federal agency's proposed action is and to provide  
25 timely information and comments about our federally

1 proposed actions.

2 In terms of process, NEPA has been  
3 referred to as an umbrella statute, in that it  
4 allows agencies and developers to comply with  
5 numerous individual environmental, health and safety  
6 related laws for which we're responsible. We  
7 analyze potential effects for federal agency actions  
8 to numerous resource types, natural resources, and  
9 those that include human issues like environmental  
10 justice. And this all happens in one analytical  
11 document. We are going to be -- as Mike indicated,  
12 we are preparing the environmental impact statement  
13 with the State of Minnesota so that there will be  
14 one document considering the impacts.

15 For this proposed project, the Department  
16 of Energy determined that an environmental impact  
17 statement is the appropriate level of analysis.  
18 From our point of view, an EIS essentially tells the  
19 story of the project. The Great Northern EIS will  
20 analyze the foreseeable environmental impacts that  
21 might flow from DOE granting the presidential  
22 permit. The EIS will also identify steps that might  
23 be needed to mitigate environmental impacts.

24 Other federal agencies involved in this  
25 environmental analysis include the U.S. Army Corps

1 Engineers, St. Paul District, and the U.S. Fish and  
2 Wildlife Service. They have permitting or oversight  
3 authority for proposed facilities within their  
4 jurisdictions. The Army Corps of Engineers is a  
5 cooperating agency with the Department of Energy in  
6 the preparation of this EIS.

7 So, once again, we are here to listen and  
8 to get your comments and suggestions for the issues  
9 that we should be addressing in the environmental  
10 impact statement. We would also like to know about  
11 alternative routes or route segments for the  
12 proposed project. And Bill Storm from the  
13 Department of Commerce will go into a little bit  
14 more information about how that's done.

15 So, quickly, we are at the blue circle,  
16 so we are in scoping period. Once the scoping  
17 period closes in the middle of August, we will get  
18 to work on preparing the draft environmental impact  
19 statement. That will take us several months.

20 Once the draft is completed, it will be  
21 made public and will be posted on the PUC website,  
22 on an EIS website that I will show you later, as  
23 well as the Department of Commerce website. And it  
24 will be distributed to anyone that is on the mailing  
25 list. If you want to be on the mailing list, you

1 can sign up at the table if you haven't already by  
2 filling out one of the yellowish, orange cards or  
3 using the sign-up sheet on the website.

4 There will be at least a 45-day comment  
5 period for you to review the draft environmental  
6 impact statement and to submit comments. During the  
7 comment period on the draft EIS you'll be able to  
8 submit comments in writing or by e-mail. We will  
9 also -- I will be coming back to Minnesota, as well  
10 as some of my colleagues, to hold public hearings to  
11 receive oral comments directly from you on the draft  
12 EIS at that time.

13 After the close of the comment period on  
14 the draft EIS, we will prepare the final EIS. Every  
15 comment received on the draft EIS will be included  
16 in the final EIS and we will respond in the document  
17 to every comment that we receive.

18 When the final EIS is completed it will  
19 be sent to everyone on the mailing list again, on  
20 the distribution list, and will again be posted  
21 publicly on the various websites.

22 By law, the Department of Energy may not  
23 make a final decision about the Great Northern  
24 Transmission Line presidential permit application  
25 until 30 days after publication of the final EIS.

1           And that represents the bottom box, which would be  
2           our record of decision.

3                       At the completion of this process, the  
4           Department of Energy may or may not issue the  
5           presidential permit. If the DOE were to issue the  
6           presidential permit, the transmission line and  
7           associated facilities could not be built unless and  
8           until all other state and federal permits are  
9           obtained.

10                      For this meeting we have a court reporter  
11           that is here to accurately write down and record  
12           what it is that you're saying during your comments.  
13           Whether you choose to speak or not today, you are  
14           invited to send us written comments. All comments,  
15           whether written or oral, are treated the same and  
16           have equal weight. We will accept comments until  
17           the middle of August. We will also consider your  
18           comments submitted after that time to the extent  
19           that's practicable.

20                      If you have any specific questions about  
21           the project itself, as was indicated, we have  
22           representatives from Minnesota Power here to answer  
23           those questions, as well as mapping stations to help  
24           you with visual aids and answering the questions  
25           that you may have. So please take advantage of

1           these resources.

2                       Once again, thank you very much for  
3 coming. Here is the EIS website address. You will  
4 see, whether you comment on our website or the PUC  
5 website or the Department of Commerce website, all  
6 of your comments will be collected and you'll only  
7 have to make your comment once. We are sharing all  
8 this information so you don't need to feel that you  
9 have to comment in each place. But we thank you for  
10 your input and look forward to what you have to say.

11                      And now David Moeller from Minnesota  
12 Power. Sorry, David.

13                      MR. DAVID MOELLER: Good morning. My  
14 name is David Moeller, I'm an attorney for Minnesota  
15 Power. We're a utility based in Duluth, Minnesota,  
16 we serve areas throughout northern Minnesota,  
17 including along the Iron Range, I Falls, Little  
18 Falls, Park Rapids, and other areas, but not  
19 directly here.

20                      With me are other people from Minnesota  
21 Power, including Jim Atkinson, who is our primary  
22 routing and siting person for the project. And if  
23 you have questions specific on the route, please  
24 talk with Jim either now or after the presentations.  
25 And as Julie mentioned, we also have GIS mapping

1 stations where you can get additional details about  
2 if you have property that's affected by a potential  
3 route or if you want to look at different  
4 alternatives. We'd be happy to have those folks  
5 help you with that.

6 For Minnesota Power the Great Northern  
7 Transmission Line is part of a larger plan. It's  
8 not just a transmission line to provide for  
9 hydroelectricity for our customers and for the  
10 region, but it's part of, as Minnesota Power looks  
11 to diversify, it's generation to diversify its  
12 resource mix.

13 This slide doesn't show it great, but  
14 when we started and when I started at the company in  
15 2005 we were about 95 percent coal. Today we're 80  
16 percent coal, 20 percent renewables, wind and  
17 existing hydro and other renewable facilities in  
18 North Dakota and Minnesota. And in the long term  
19 our goal is to be a third renewable, a third coal,  
20 and a third natural gas. And we consider Manitoba  
21 under the renewable bucket based on its renewable  
22 characteristics.

23 We also see the resource as an important  
24 resource because it's not just available when the  
25 water -- you know, unlike wind or solar, it's

1 available all the time, it's a baseload resource  
2 that we can count on for our customers.

3 Part of the need for this line is that  
4 diversity, it's to get more resource diversity in  
5 our generation mix as we file resource plans at the  
6 Minnesota Public Utilities Commission as we have  
7 other ways to lessen our dependency on coal.

8 We also see, as we have increasing demand  
9 from our customers throughout northern Minnesota,  
10 that this is the way to meet those increasing  
11 demands, not only for Minnesota Power but for the  
12 region as a whole. And we see the need for  
13 additional reliability, having another 500 kV source  
14 between Manitoba and Minnesota would provide  
15 additional reliability, not just for Minnesota Power  
16 customers but for the region as a whole.

17 As we developed the project we took -- we  
18 had to go through many steps to where we are today.  
19 Starting, as the list says, we had a siting and  
20 permitting strategy that went through these steps.  
21 First with what is our critical path, how do we get  
22 from A to B for our line. And the second part was  
23 are there any fatal flaws, areas that we can't go or  
24 places that won't work for siting and routing a  
25 transmission line.

1           We also had to define the study area.  
2           Like where are we looking, and we'll show a map in a  
3           second which is what that study area ended up being.  
4           And then we also had to engage stakeholders,  
5           landowners, members of the public, state and federal  
6           agencies, local planning officials, multiple times.  
7           We've been in Kelliher, as the maps will show, a  
8           couple times for open houses, but also in other  
9           areas throughout this area and in northern Minnesota  
10          overall. And it determined a range of alternatives,  
11          what are the best ways to get a transmission line  
12          through, or from the border to the Blackberry  
13          Substation in Grand Rapids.

14                 And then applied for permits, which we  
15          did on April 15th, 2014, where we applied for a  
16          state route permit, as Mike mentioned, and then the  
17          federal presidential permit at the Department of  
18          Energy, as Julie mentioned.

19                 When we were developing these range of  
20          alternatives we had to look at both the  
21          opportunities and the constraints. And I apologize  
22          for the size of the font on this, but as you can see  
23          there's a lot more constraints than there are  
24          opportunities for where to route a transmission  
25          line. And we had to take these into consideration

1 in developing our regional alternatives. And then  
2 do stakeholder outreach, which is critical and an  
3 important piece of this process.

4 I'll just page through these quickly. It  
5 shows the different routes where we had meetings and  
6 open houses.

7 Then ultimately we came up with route  
8 alternatives. The blue and the orange routes,  
9 there's some additional segments as well, but these  
10 are the two primary routes that we're proposing.  
11 The blue is our preferred route, which under state  
12 statute we have to provide a preference between the  
13 two, but we think both routes would work from a  
14 feasibility standpoint.

15 And as -- this slide just shows how the  
16 process is narrowed down from the study area, which  
17 is over 19,000 square miles, down to different route  
18 options and route alternatives. And, finally, when  
19 we ultimately build the project, the right-of-way  
20 that we will impact is only eight square miles, 200  
21 feet of right-of-way for a 500 kV line. This is  
22 where we would have to acquire easements from  
23 landowners or licenses from state agencies, but  
24 ultimately it's just eight square miles.

25 This is just a summary of the different

1 open houses and workshops that we had, as well as  
2 the agency outreach that we've done throughout this  
3 two-year process leading up to filing for permits  
4 and now starting the official state and federal  
5 processes.

6 Also, we were here, not in Kelliher, but  
7 in other areas in February for scoping for the  
8 environmental report for the state certificate of  
9 need. As Mike mentioned, we have it on a parallel  
10 track, we have to obtain a certificate of need from  
11 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, so there  
12 was scoping for that on a much higher level as far  
13 as what the environmental review is there.

14 So in addition to the route permit and  
15 the presidential permit that we're here to talk  
16 about today, we also need a certificate of need from  
17 the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, and we  
18 need other major permits, including a section 404  
19 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and  
20 we'll need a license from the Minnesota Department  
21 of Natural Resources to cross state lands. There's  
22 other permits that we'll have to obtain through this  
23 process, but these are the five major permits.

24 Once again, thank you for coming. As  
25 Julie and Mike both mentioned, having public

1 participation is a very important part of this  
2 process. So we appreciate that and look forward to  
3 hearing your comments.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thanks, Dave.

5 Good afternoon -- good morning, I guess  
6 it is.

7 My name is Bill Storm and I'm with the  
8 Department of Commerce. The Department of  
9 Commerce's role in large energy projects that come  
10 before the Public Utilities Commission is we  
11 facilitate the environmental review. That is, we  
12 do -- we scope the environmental document, what's  
13 going to be in the document, and then we prepare the  
14 environmental document. That's our role.

15 The Public Utilities Commission, they are  
16 the final decision-makers. In the end of this  
17 process they will be making a decision and their  
18 decision will have basically three parts. One, is  
19 the EIS adequate, and that means does the EIS  
20 adequately address all the items that are in the  
21 scope, the scope of the document. Two, should the  
22 line be permitted. Three, where should that line be  
23 built and what conditions should be attached to that  
24 line, that permit that authorizes them to construct  
25 that line.

1           Both Mike, Jules, and Dave spoke about  
2           the schedules. This is just another slide that  
3           shows what the schedule is like. We are here, we  
4           are at the public meeting, the scoping meeting.  
5           What we're here to do tonight -- for the most part  
6           to do tonight is, one, present the project to the  
7           public since the official start of the regulatory  
8           clock and, two, to solicit from the public what  
9           items, issues, or alternatives do you want me to  
10          make sure make it into the scope of the  
11          environmental impact statement and therefore are  
12          carried through to the document and evaluated.

13                 In Minnesota, these large transmission  
14          line projects that come before the PUC have two  
15          types of processes that can be run. There's a full  
16          and alternative process. The alternative process is  
17          a shorter process, a little smaller in scope,  
18          basically designed for small projects. The full  
19          process, which this project has to undergo, is a  
20          larger project and it's a 12-month project. But  
21          both processes include many similar steps. Both  
22          have a public scoping meeting and comment period,  
23          and that's what we're here to do tonight. Both have  
24          a scoping decision, and that is basically the table  
25          of contents of the environmental impact statement,

1 the issues and alternatives that are going to be  
2 considered in the environmental impact statement.  
3 Both have an environmental review document. In the  
4 full process the environmental review document is a  
5 full EIS. In the alternative process it's an EA, a  
6 little bit scaled down in scope. Both have public  
7 meetings and a public comment period on the  
8 environmental document.

9 So after we have our public meetings, the  
10 comment period closes, and I make a recommendation  
11 to my commissioner, it's the Commissioner of the  
12 Department of Commerce who decides the scope of the  
13 environmental document, the table of contents, if  
14 you would. Once I make that recommendation to my  
15 commissioner and once he releases the scope, then we  
16 start working on the environmental document. And as  
17 Julie said, since there's a federal component to  
18 this, we are doing a joint document with the feds.

19 Once that document is complete, it comes  
20 out as a draft and I come back up here and do  
21 another road show with a court reporter and take  
22 your comments on the draft. Your comments may be,  
23 you know, Bill, you didn't include an item that I  
24 wanted you to include, or, Bill, I have additional  
25 data I want you to consider. You know, that sort of

1 thing.

2           Once the comment period closes for the  
3 draft environmental impact statement, we begin  
4 working on the final environmental impact statement.  
5 And the final environmental impact statement is the  
6 draft EIS with an attached volume to it that lists  
7 every comment we receive and our response to that  
8 comment. And the response may be we revised section  
9 so and so of the draft EIS, go back and look at  
10 that. And that would be bolded, striked out and  
11 underlined so you will be able to see what was there  
12 and what corrections were made based on the comments  
13 received. A response to one of your comments may  
14 just be acknowledgement of your comment, it doesn't  
15 need to be revised, we're just acknowledging that  
16 you're commenting on it.

17           While that work is going on toward the  
18 final EIS, there will also be public hearings up  
19 here where you will be able to come up, there will  
20 be an administrative law judge presiding over those  
21 hearings. We'll do a road show with him -- with  
22 her, and you'll be able to comment on the project as  
23 a whole. What issues you think really need to be  
24 addressed in the permit, what conditions you may  
25 want attached to the permit. So that's basically

1 the process.

2 As I said, scoping, the purpose of  
3 scoping the EIS, the purpose of why I'm here is to  
4 provide you, the public, and local units of  
5 government, an opportunity to participate in the  
6 development of the scope. Help me assemble the  
7 table of contents for this environmental document.  
8 And you do this by a couple ways. One, by  
9 suggesting alternative routes or route segments that  
10 you want me to consider in my document. If you're  
11 aware of a feature that's within a route, you know,  
12 the 3,000-foot route that they're requesting to put  
13 their right-of-way through, the 200-foot  
14 right-of-way through, if you are aware of a feature,  
15 whether it's on your property or not, maybe there's  
16 an old growth of cedar that you know the deer use  
17 for wintering, or there's a fen that has some  
18 endangered species or something that you think is  
19 rare that should be considered, this is your  
20 opportunity to say, Bill, I want to make sure the  
21 EIS captures that, to show the potential impact that  
22 this project may have on that.

23 You may also think, I don't think you  
24 can, through construction practices, mitigate  
25 damages to that thing that I'm concerned about, so I

1 think the solution is an alternative route and you  
2 can put an alternative route on the table. We do  
3 have a GIS station here, two of them there. If you  
4 want to look at, and almost in real-time, real-time  
5 is not the right word, but if you want to look at  
6 the layers of data and the aerial photos of that  
7 area you're concerned about and want to make a  
8 comment about it or want to put an alternative route  
9 segment on the table, they'll help you do that. And  
10 I certainly will, too, during the comment period.

11 So that's the two things on -- the three  
12 things that scoping is trying to do. We're trying  
13 to get the public to give us information on issues,  
14 concerns that should be in the environmental  
15 document, and any alternative routes or route  
16 segments you think should be considered.

17 By rule, the scoping decision must  
18 identify alternative routes, if any, to be evaluated  
19 in the EIS. So if you bring a route to me, a route  
20 alternative to me and my commissioner accepts it and  
21 it makes it into the scope, the scope has to  
22 identify it, these are the routes that are going to  
23 be considered in the environmental document. It  
24 also has to specify what potential impacts we're  
25 going to address. Biological, water, air,

1 archeological, all the impacts that we're going to  
2 address, and then it also has to provide a schedule  
3 so the people have an idea of when the draft is  
4 going to come out.

5 The environmental impact statement, Julie  
6 touched on this a little bit. It's basically a  
7 written document that describes the human and  
8 environmental impacts of a transmission project, and  
9 the alternatives that make it through scope, and the  
10 methods to mitigate those impacts. So it will  
11 evaluate, this is what we think -- this is the  
12 impact we think this line will have on the ground,  
13 these are the things that could be done to mitigate,  
14 avoid, and reduce those impacts.

15 When you came in today, on the table  
16 there was a document called a draft scoping  
17 document. This document basically outlines what is  
18 environmental review under the state process and how  
19 to participate in that review. But the one thing it  
20 does that I want to point out is on page 5 and  
21 continuing on to page 6. It provides a generic or a  
22 draft scope of the environmental document. This is  
23 basically my thought of these are the high  
24 elevation, the big category of the issues that I am  
25 going to cover in the environmental document.

1                   What I'm asking the public to do is help  
2 me fill in the details here. An example would be,  
3 if you look at this document and you go to 5.13,  
4 natural environment, that's a pretty big category,  
5 pretty broad category, you go down to flora, plants,  
6 that's another huge category, I'm asking you to fill  
7 in the data. Do you know something with your local  
8 knowledge that's in that right-of-way that you want  
9 me to make sure I assess and evaluate the potential  
10 impact this project may have to it. And here an  
11 example is, there's a Lapland buttercup that's up  
12 here, that previous citizens have been concerned  
13 about, it was growing in a right-of-way. They were  
14 concerned about it, so I'm asking you to help me  
15 fill that in. And I will evaluate those issues and  
16 items that you're concerned about.

17                   The second thing is the alternative  
18 routes. This is where, as I said before, you have  
19 an issue or a concern that's within the route that  
20 you don't think can be mitigated through best  
21 management practice, through construction in the  
22 winter, through all the various practices that they  
23 can utilize during construction to avoid impacting  
24 this thing that you're concerned about. So you  
25 think, well, the only way to mitigate that is to

1           avoid it through an alternative route.

2                         And, again, if you look at the draft  
3 document, you can see section 4 that talks about  
4 alternative routes or route segments. And this is  
5 where I want you to help me develop that. Help  
6 bring that to the forefront so that can be  
7 considered in the scope and therefore evaluated in  
8 the environmental document. Again, the GIS people  
9 can help you with that and I can certainly help you  
10 with it through the comment period.

11                        But I think that is sort of the hardest  
12 concept for people to wrap heads around. I want to  
13 talk a little bit more about putting an alternative  
14 on the table.

15                        The rules say if you want to put an  
16 alternative on the table, you need to explain to me  
17 what you're trying to mitigate, what are you trying  
18 to avoid with that. And it has to be mitigated. It  
19 can't be -- or you can make whatever comment you  
20 want and put whatever route segment you want on the  
21 table, but if you're putting it on the table because  
22 I don't want it, I don't want the route on my  
23 property so let's put it on Joe's property, to me  
24 that doesn't carry much weight because you're not  
25 mitigating, you're just moving the problem from your

1 property to Joe's property. But if there's  
2 something unique about your property, I have an old  
3 cedar stand that's utilized as a deer wintering  
4 habitat and you think therefore the route should be  
5 around that, move the route over, that could be a  
6 valid concern. But I'd also want supporting  
7 information. I talked to the DNR about it and this  
8 is something we should be concerned about. Or any  
9 information you think would help me evaluate whether  
10 that alternative route should make it through the  
11 scope.

12 And because it's sort of a complex issue,  
13 I've worked through a couple examples that I've done  
14 in the past so that you can see them and maybe help  
15 clarify the issue a little bit.

16 This is a transmission line -- I'm going  
17 to move to the other side, if that's all right.

18 This is a transmission line that was  
19 proposed to go from Tower to Embarrass. A 115 kV  
20 line, new line. It was going to be built -- it was  
21 proposed to go along the east side of 135, okay. I  
22 went up there, just what I'm doing now, had scoping  
23 meetings, met with the public. And there was a  
24 group of landowners in this area here who did not  
25 want the transmission line going between their

1 houses, basically across their driveways, between  
2 their houses and the road. The houses are set back  
3 a little bit, not too far back because there would  
4 be a lot of snow to remove, but set back a little  
5 bit. And they'd like, you know, they didn't  
6 appreciate the fact, I guess, that it was going to  
7 be run across their driveways.

8 They also had local knowledge that this  
9 block of land behind them was all tax-forfeited  
10 land. It was public land. So they came to me with  
11 an argument -- not an argument, Bill, we don't want  
12 this on our property, they couched their argument  
13 in, Bill, we think it's better to use public  
14 property rather than private property if that option  
15 is available.

16 And that made sense to me, that was a  
17 valid argument. Okay, let's look at what are the  
18 impacts of using this large chunk of public land as  
19 opposed to the private land. I thought it was  
20 justified. I recommended it to my commissioner to  
21 be in the scope. It made it into the scope and  
22 therefore it was evaluated in the environmental  
23 document.

24 It went -- from the environmental  
25 document it went to the public hearing, from the

1 public hearing it went to the final decision at the  
2 PUC, and at the end the PUC did issue a permit that  
3 did require the utility to build it on that public  
4 land.

5 Next example. This is down in Chaska in  
6 Minnesota. This is a rebuild. A utility wanted to  
7 rebuild a 69 kV line, the purple line there, up to a  
8 115. So jumping from a 69 to a 115, poles are going  
9 to be a little bigger, the line is going to carry a  
10 little bit more power. The alignment they wanted  
11 was the original line, the 69 line now, they gave a  
12 route width of 500 or so feet, that's this light  
13 color here. Some citizens were concerned about a  
14 property located right here, which happened to be a  
15 historic property. They felt that the bigger poles,  
16 the little bit wider easement would impact on the  
17 historic nature of that property. And they came to  
18 me with two alternative. One was an alternative  
19 route segment. They said let's bring the line down  
20 here and follow this old railroad bed and join it  
21 back up here and that way we'll avoid this historic  
22 property. They put a second one on the table, and  
23 they gave me one alignment modification. They said,  
24 okay, Bill, if we can't get this, how about if we  
25 push it across the street, you know.

1           Both those, because of the nature of the  
2 historic property, that made sense to me to be  
3 evaluated. I recommended that they be incorporated  
4 into the scope, they were incorporated into the  
5 scope, they were evaluated in the environmental  
6 document, they went through the public hearing and  
7 they went to the PUC for a final decision. When the  
8 PUC had all the facts laid out before them, the  
9 environmental work, the public hearing testimony,  
10 they did not feel that the impact to the historic  
11 property would be significant, so they issued a  
12 permit to the utility to build that 115 line right  
13 where it was proposed to go.

14           Another example. This is, I think, down  
15 near Floodwood. This is a 115 line that was going  
16 to be built along the south part of that county  
17 road. And it goes on further than this, so it's  
18 more significant than this, it goes on for a while.  
19 But the landowners down here who have homes along  
20 the road, obviously people aren't crazy about having  
21 a transmission line on their property, but they also  
22 were aware that all this property all the way down  
23 the road to the north side of that road was all  
24 corporate, Blandin paper type property. And they  
25 felt that it was reasonable to say, look, Bill, we

1 think it's reasonable to move it to the corporate  
2 property rather than have it on private property  
3 where people have their homes.

4 That made sense to me. I recommended  
5 that to my commissioner in scope. It made it into  
6 the scoping decision and therefore it was evaluated  
7 in the environmental document, went through the  
8 public hearing, and went to the final decision to  
9 the PUC. And at the final decision the PUC issued a  
10 permit that required that transmission line to be  
11 built on the north side of that road. They felt  
12 that was justified.

13 Another example. This is -- I think this  
14 is again near Floodwood. This is a 115 line, it was  
15 going to be a rebuild of a 69. It was a 69 line  
16 that runs up this county road, on the west side of  
17 the county road. The utility wanted to upgrade that  
18 to a 115, which required some taller poles, bigger  
19 capacity conductor, and a little bit wider  
20 right-of-way. Well, there was a family here that  
21 had a memorial service (sic) just outside the  
22 right-of-way of the existing 69 kV line. They were  
23 concerned that this new line would impact negatively  
24 that memorial service (sic). Okay, that made sense  
25 to me in the fact that we should at least look into

1           that.

2                       So what we did was I recommended in the  
3           scope that we evaluate putting the transmission line  
4           on the east side of the road. I recommended it to  
5           my commissioner for scope, it made it into the  
6           scope, it was evaluated in the environmental  
7           document, went to public hearing, and then went  
8           through the final decision for the PUC.

9                       The PUC, once they looked at all the  
10          data, the measurements, the photographic renderings  
11          that we did in that area, they felt the impact was  
12          not significant and they permitted the line along  
13          the west side of the road just as the utility  
14          requested.

15                      UNIDENTIFIED: Can you define what a  
16          memorial service is?

17                      MR. BILL STORM: They had a tragedy that  
18          happened in their family and they had a monument and  
19          a sitting thing in an area.

20                      UNIDENTIFIED: On their private property?

21                      MR. BILL STORM: On their private  
22          property.

23                      UNIDENTIFIED: Okay, thank you.

24                      MR. BILL STORM: Okay. This is another  
25          one where -- this is in like the Glencoe area, or

1           Waconia, somewhere around there. This is another  
2           rebuild of a 69 line to a 115 line. The utility  
3           wanted to rebuild this existing 69 line, they wanted  
4           to rebuild it to a 115 line. Again, a little wider  
5           right-of-way, power poles, more capacity. But the  
6           history in this area was that originally this county  
7           road that comes here, that county road was  
8           originally down here. When that transmission line  
9           was built, that 69 kV line was built, that line was  
10          built within the right-of-way of that county road,  
11          along the right-of-way of that county road. The  
12          landowners here asked me if -- and then since then  
13          the county road had been readjusted, had been moved  
14          up years later. The landowners along this county  
15          road asked, well, as long as you're going to rebuild  
16          it, can we realign it back to the right-of-way of  
17          the county road.

18                        That made sense to me, I recommended it  
19                        go into my scope. It made it into my scope, it was  
20                        therefore evaluated in the environmental document,  
21                        was carried through the public hearing and went to  
22                        the Commission for a final decision.

23                        And the Commission did issue a permit and  
24                        they did think that that made sense and they carried  
25                        that transmission line along the right-of-way of the

1 realigned county road there.

2 So that's just an idea of what I mean  
3 when I'm asking for alternatives. You know, what  
4 I'm trying to get from the public to help me as we  
5 look at this long transmission line.

6 Another point I want to make is I don't  
7 work in isolation. Especially in this case when I'm  
8 working with the DOE because they have their report  
9 and we're doing it jointly. But normally now and  
10 even normally I work with all the other agencies.  
11 Dave showed you the example of downstream permits.  
12 The DNR for public waters, public land crossings.  
13 The PCA for, you know, erosion control, that sort of  
14 thing. The DOT if you're going to cross a DOT  
15 jurisdiction road, you need a permit from them.

16 So all these downstream agencies are  
17 required by statute to work in the process, to work  
18 with me. And this is just a representation of that  
19 to show you that I'm not working alone. I'm seeking  
20 information not only from the citizens and the local  
21 units of government, and I'm actively seeking help  
22 from my downstream agencies. Mike already -- Dave  
23 already went over some of the downstream permits.

24 Information. Mike talked a little bit  
25 about how can you get information, Jules talked a



1 mention is, the DOE and the DOC, we're sharing the  
2 comments. So you can make your comments to me and  
3 to Julie, or you can make them to just one of us.  
4 If you make a comment to one of us, it will get  
5 shared because we're sharing those comments because  
6 we're working on this docket together.

7 And then this is the point where I turn  
8 to the public to seek some information, to ask for  
9 alternatives or to answer your questions. And what  
10 I normally do, many times I'll have 400 people in  
11 the room so I use these cards. I think we have five  
12 in here now. But I do have one card filled out.

13 I will ask David Leonhardt, please step  
14 to the mic, state and spell your name for the court  
15 reporter, and then you can -- if you ask a question  
16 I will direct that question to I think the person  
17 appropriate to answer it. If it can't be answered  
18 tonight we'll just put it in the record and we'll  
19 make sure it gets answered. And if you have a  
20 comment, leave a comment.

21 MR. DAVID LEONHARDT: All right. My name  
22 is David Leonhardt, L-E-O-N-H-A-R-D-T. I can take  
23 this out of here.

24 My interest in this here came about, I'm  
25 on the Waskish Township Board, and the other aspect

1 was I'm also chairman of the Citizen Advisory  
2 Committee for the Big Bog State Recreation Area.  
3 And at the beginning of this our concern as far as  
4 coming through Waskish Township, part of the  
5 proposed area would place the power line in between  
6 the Waskish airport and most of the farmland that  
7 utilizes a cropduster very extensively. And so that  
8 would have been a hazard for the cropduster, to have  
9 to fly up over a power line every time he headed out  
10 to the field. But now with the revised route that  
11 they have now, the route that passes to the -- I'm  
12 sorry, to the east of a concern, that I think  
13 there's only one rice bed that's east of the power  
14 line now, so that pretty well alleviated that  
15 problem.

16 But the problem that maybe is more  
17 concerning is the one connected with the Big Bog  
18 State Recreation Area. And that is, we have our --  
19 the area that's been set aside for the state park up  
20 at Ludlow Island, just south of the Lake of the  
21 Woods/Beltrami County line. And, anyway, we have a  
22 one-mile-long boardwalk up there. And the way that  
23 they've added some of the things in there, that's  
24 made it difficult to maneuver up there a little bit.  
25 There's certain areas that have been set aside out

1           there as scientific and natural areas, and I knew  
2           the one existed off on the west side of the highway,  
3           but once we started the power line request they had  
4           a map of the scientific and natural areas and, lo  
5           and behold, they extended it. And there's another  
6           big one on the east side of the highway now, and so  
7           that leaves a very narrow lane for them to be able  
8           to cross the highway and stay out of that scientific  
9           and natural area.

10                         Well, as would have it, that area where  
11           they would have to cross the highway would be in  
12           full view of the terminus of our mile-long  
13           boardwalk. And, of course, that's one of the things  
14           that we selected out there, was the pristine view,  
15           unobstructed view that we had from that area, it was  
16           just totally a wilderness view from out there. And  
17           so this would degrade that somewhat by having all of  
18           a sudden a whole row of power line poles sticking up  
19           above the trees there that would be in full view of  
20           that terminus.

21                         And I guess the question that I wanted to  
22           raise on this thing is where did all these  
23           scientific and natural areas come from? Who is the  
24           one that -- who was it that designated these areas?  
25           And on what authority did they do it? 'Cause,

1           actually, the power line that's out there now that  
2           currently exists goes through this scientific and  
3           natural area on the east side of the highway. And  
4           our suggestion, or my suggestion is, is that they --  
5           that this route would be the most efficient and most  
6           easily done by following the corridor of the  
7           existing power line that's there. But now, with  
8           adding this scientific and natural area in there,  
9           now the power companies are not allowed to enter  
10          into that so they can't follow that route that's  
11          already there.

12                        So I would think that there would be some  
13          effort that should be looked into to try and see if  
14          there wouldn't be some way, some kind of variance  
15          that we could get so that they could continue to  
16          follow the other power line route, which they do on  
17          the west side of the highway to a fair extent. And  
18          so that was our -- that's our concern there.

19                        Let's see. Did I have anything else? I  
20          guess that about covers my main concerns. And so I  
21          thank you.

22                        MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Dave.

23                        Okay. I only had one card filled out.  
24          I'll go to asking a show of hands. Does anybody  
25          want to speak, ask a question on the record?

1 I'll ask you to step to the mic and state  
2 and spell your name and then I'll direct your  
3 comment.

4 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: My name is Tim  
5 Williamson, W-I-L-L-I-A-M-S-O-N.

6 My first question is, within the EIS  
7 process will there be a visualization analysis?  
8 Will that be under number 6, the aesthetics, or the  
9 recreation or -- 'cause that answers your point,  
10 then, is that analysis in?

11 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yes, there will be  
12 additional analysis. And obviously this is part of  
13 the scoping, and how do we treat that, and whether  
14 it's aesthetics or recreation, and particularly the  
15 Big Bog resource area, you know, that's essentially  
16 the same thing, that could be one of the same  
17 things. So we will be doing the visual analysis.

18 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: I'd like you to look  
19 at the tower, that that also be looked at at the  
20 same location, at the Big Bog State Recreation Area.

21 UNIDENTIFIED: You can see the existing  
22 power line right now if you look at certain days.  
23 But that power line that goes through where it's at  
24 now, you can claim the tower and it'll stick out  
25 like a sore thumb.

1                   MR. BILL STORM: Is the tower open to the  
2 public?

3                   UNIDENTIFIED: Yes, it is, the park  
4 hours, 4:30, probably 9:00 to 4:30.

5                   MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: And the reason for  
6 the tower question would be because of certain times  
7 of the year with the weather, one tower isn't  
8 visible and other days it is, it would be closer, I  
9 believe so we want that looked at. And so, Bill,  
10 you sort of stated before, in some personal terms,  
11 will visualization aesthetics be given any credit  
12 and credence in questions that the public comes up  
13 with?

14                   MR. BILL STORM: I'll give you my view of  
15 it, not my commissioner's view. Aesthetics, visual  
16 view shed aesthetics under normal circumstances,  
17 when compared to the other factors, have less weight  
18 for me. The only caveat I would make for that is if  
19 the feature was designed, funded, established for  
20 that purpose, then that elevates that to a whole new  
21 realm. If it's just somebody who, from my opinion,  
22 it is going near my backyard, I don't want to see  
23 it, you know, it's not on my property but I don't  
24 want to see it, that is pretty low weight in my  
25 mind. But if it's a highway scenic overlook, a

1 scenic overlook on the Iron Range, the Big Bog  
2 maybe, that would certainly be something that I'd  
3 want to flesh out and would carry more weight, you  
4 know.

5 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: And then this is a  
6 question to the PUC. If we send a comment into  
7 there, does it make it to Commerce and the  
8 Department of Energy? So one comment to one makes  
9 it to all three entities?

10 MR. BILL STORM: I would prefer that if  
11 you're going to send a comment, that you go to  
12 either me or Jules. If you inadvertently send a  
13 comment to the PUC, it'll get to me, but I can't --  
14 that's a little less [sic] tenuous.

15 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: Because I realize  
16 the route permit was the -- the route permit is what  
17 the PUC is here for, and the EIS is what Commerce  
18 and DOE is here for?

19 MR. BILL STORM: Yes. What I would say  
20 is the PUC is the authority that makes the decisions  
21 on should a permit be granted, where should it go,  
22 what conditions should be on that permit. The  
23 Department of Commerce, and now with the DOE, we're  
24 responsible for scoping the environmental document  
25 and conducting the environmental review. What we're

1 here to do now is we're taking comments on that  
2 environmental review. So it's appropriate that your  
3 comments come to me or Julie.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yeah, either one of  
5 us.

6 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: So the permit  
7 question just goes back to the PUC, then.

8 This question is for Minnesota Power. Is  
9 this project -- in your presentation you stated you  
10 already met 20 percent renewable energy requirement,  
11 so this project, I know we're not here for the need  
12 question, but if wasn't approved you'd still have  
13 your 20 by '20?

14 MR. DAVID MOELLER: David Moeller from  
15 Minnesota Power. Actually, our requirement is 25  
16 percent by 2025.

17 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: But it's layered,  
18 though, you have to meet certain by --

19 MR. DAVID MOELLER: There are certain  
20 milestones for certain years as well. Manitoba  
21 Hydro, for the most part, does not count towards the  
22 Minnesota requirement because of the size of the  
23 hydro facilities in Manitoba. But we do -- but it  
24 is a carbon-free resource, so there's other  
25 renewable aspects of it that would count, as well as

1 in Wisconsin, new hydro facilities count towards  
2 their requirements. So if a utility in Wisconsin  
3 was purchasing it, it would count towards their  
4 requirements.

5 MR. JIM ATKINSON: Just to add that not  
6 only does it allow us to diversify how we make our  
7 energy, but it also has a great synergy with our  
8 resources that we build. So there's more reasons  
9 than just the Minnesota renewable standard.

10 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: I just wanted to  
11 ask.

12 And then a power line of this magnitude  
13 of some level, what is the regular -- because with  
14 your permit you'll get regular maintenance that will  
15 need to be done, how much regular maintenance needs  
16 to be done on a transmission line like this?

17 MR. JIM ATKINSON: You know, I think it's  
18 actually kind of sparse. I think the normal tree  
19 clearing or vegetation management would happen in  
20 probably five- to seven-year intervals. It might be  
21 considerably less in a black spruce bog where things  
22 don't grow very fast.

23 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: And then it's 200  
24 feet and not 300 feet?

25 MR. BILL STORM: The right-of-way is 200

1 feet.

2 MR. TIM WILLIAMSON: Thank you.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anybody else have  
4 any questions, comments?

5 MR. DAVID LEONHARDT: Again, Dave  
6 Leonhardt. I was going to mention this first. I  
7 guess in an ideal situation what I would like to see  
8 is for this country to be developing our own  
9 resources in energy. That would seem to me would  
10 make the most sense. Although I've got to  
11 compliment the Canadians on their foresight in  
12 building these facilities. They took advantage of a  
13 very good situation there to be able to make these  
14 generating stations. And it's nice that we're able  
15 to participate. But I would prefer to see our  
16 country using our own resources for doing this.

17 Thank you.

18 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Dave.

19 Okay. I want to give an opportunity to  
20 anybody who wants to speak. Anybody have something  
21 they want to say?

22 I appreciate you coming out. This whole  
23 process is all about having you participate so that  
24 we can get the best record that we can get. If you  
25 have -- remember, you've got until August 15th to

1 get your comments or your issues or your  
2 alternatives in to me. And during that period of  
3 time, if you want to submit a comment and you're  
4 having trouble writing it or you're working on an  
5 alternative and you want some assistance, give me a  
6 call or e-mail me.

7 I really appreciate you coming out here.  
8 Thank you.

9 (Meeting concluded at 12:11 p.m.)  
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