

To whom it may concern,

As a landowner in northern Roseau County, I am writing to express my opposition to the route Minnesota Power is proposing for bringing the Great Northern Transmission Line into Minnesota.

The route being proposed is adjacent to the eastern border of Roseau River Wildlife Management Area. This is troubling on several levels.

Besides the loss of aesthetics that will result from routing a massive power line adjacent to one of the largest WMAs in the state (the eyesore will be impossible to miss from Roseau River WMA headquarters), the potential impact on migratory birds such as ducks, geese and sandhill cranes — not to mention the numerous shorebird species that use the WMA pools — could be substantial.

The power line route as it's presently proposed lies in the direct path of corridors migratory waterfowl use to access the WMA lands, including a unique moist soils project just south of refuge headquarters. People visit Roseau River WMA for its remoteness and the opportunities it provides to experience both forest and prairie/wetland ecosystems. Those of us who live or own property in the area value that remoteness. A power line the scope of the Great Northern Transmission Line would drastically degrade that experience and also cut through productive farmland near the WMA. We're not talking about traditional wooden REA poles here, after all.

It also is my understanding that Minnesota Power's so-called "preferred route" lies within the right-of-way of a planned expansion to the Piney-Pinecreek Airport that calls for constructing an east-west "cross runway." To me, it seems putting these massive power lines so close to a runway is just asking for trouble.

The proposed route also stands to have an extremely negative impact on area farmers, including one who will have to give up parts of two sides of one of his largest fields to make room for the power line. When there are other, more sensible routes for the power line to be sited, asking people who depend on this land for their livelihoods to give up so much for so little is heartless and short-sighted, if not downright ignorant.

This project provides absolutely no benefits for the people who will be affected the most, and it certainly won't benefit the waterfowl, hunters and tourists who visit the WMA.

Please deny Minnesota Power's request to site the power line as outlined in their "preferred alternative" route. Siting the power line farther east, where the eyesore will be out of sight and yet still function as intended, seems a safer, more logical option.

It seems obvious that Minnesota Power chose this route because it's in a sparsely populated area. That's poor judgment, in my opinion.

Respectfully,
Brad Dokken
Concerned Roseau County landowner
218-779-6196