

14-21

P.O. Box 16
Warroad, MN 56763
May 4, 2014

Burl Haar, Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101-2147

I am writing in regard to the route of the new 500 kV transmission line that will be built from the Canadian border of Minnesota to the Blackberry substation near Grand Rapids. I am very concerned, disappointed and upset that this new line may either cross my property or go very near my property in Lake of the Woods County in Minnesota. I purchased this property many years ago and have enhanced the property, investing countless hours and money to have a wilderness retreat and deer hunting area. I hope to pass this on to my heirs. My property and the public state land that is immediately adjacent to my property to the south makes it a very unique area of wilderness. A power line on or near my property will certainly lower the value of this wilderness area. It my well end my personal use of the property.

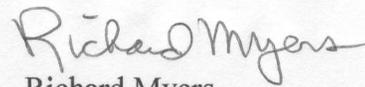
I also have a pacemaker and cardiologists I have received treatment from have informed me of the potential danger of prolonged exposure to magnetic fields which are produced by high voltage lines. I know there are studies that will refute this fact, underwritten by power companies, but I have a letter from Minnesota Power, Great Northern, dated December 13, 2013 acknowledging the fact that electric and magnetic field can affect pacemakers.

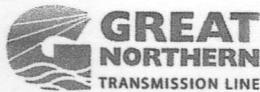
There is a 500 kV about one half mile west of my property that was built many years ago. Although this older line does not end the same place as the new line, at the point of my property the route is the same as the line already in place, and remains the same route until the new line is much further south of my property. Why can't this new line parallel the older line? It would seem this would be a logical route, one that is already established, and the new line would not have to disrupt additional private property and wilderness. I know an individual has really no say in the route the power company decides to build the line. I urge you to consider my situation and route the line in routes away from my property.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

May I please hear from you.

Sincerely,


Richard Myers



December 13, 2013

Richard Myers
PO Box 16
Warroad, MN 56763-0016

RE: Great Northern Transmission Line Response to Mailed Comment

Dear Mr. Myers,

Thank you for your comment dated November 21, 2013. We appreciate your participation in the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. In your comment, you stated your preference for the Project to follow existing corridors instead of establishing a new corridor and suggested that the Project parallel the 230 kV line to the north of your property. You also stated that you have concerns about health impacts due to high voltage transmission lines, and in particular, impacts to pacemakers.

We have enclosed a map of your property relative to the nearest Route Alternatives. The long, straight stretches of Route Alternatives on this map are 1,000 to 3,000 feet wide. However, the final route's right-of-way will only be 200 feet wide.

Throughout the Project, Minnesota Power has made routing decisions based on State routing guidelines, industry best-practice routing criteria, engineering and environmental considerations, along with stakeholder and landowner feedback like yours. In order to minimize impacts to the extent practicable, we are trying to follow existing features such as transmission lines, roadways, and divisions of land such as property lines, section lines, and ditches. Minnesota Power is reviewing data and feedback received at our most recent public meetings as well, and could make adjustments to the Route Alternatives shown on the attached map prior to filing their Route Permit Application. In early 2014, Minnesota Power anticipates submitting two or more Final Routes in a Route Permit Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission/Department of Commerce and in a Presidential Permit Application to the United States Department of Energy. Those agencies will review the applications, complete environmental evaluations, and make final decisions on the route.

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) have been known to interfere with some pacemakers and other implanted medical devices, causing them to inappropriately trigger. Transmission lines are only one of a number of sources of electromagnetic interference (EMI). Sources of EMI documented by medical personnel include radio-controlled model cars, slot machines, car engines, digital cellular phones, anti-theft security systems, radiation therapy, and high voltage electrical systems and devices. Medical studies have been limited, but research shows a wide range of responses for the threshold at which pacemakers and other implanted devices responded to an external EMI source. The results for each unit depended on

P.O. Box 16
Warroad, MN. 56763
May 6, 2014

Mr. Bill Storm
Environmental Review Manager
Minnesota Department of Commerce
85 7th Place East, Suite 500
St. Paul, MN. 55101

Today I was driving between St Paul and Duluth on highway 35 when I noticed a large billboard erected by Minnesota Power.

It showed an employee of Minnesota Power and basically said, "As an employee of Minnesota power my concern is, Protecting the Environment" I certainly applaud this idea but this certainly is not the concept being followed with the route being considered by Minnesota Power planners for the new 500 kW line.

The route being considered will open a whole new right of way of clear cutting in the pristine north woods, destroying many miles of wilderness.

If the route for the new line followed the same route as the present 500 kV line far south into the state it would not disrupt new wilderness, only widen the present right of way for much of the route.

I urge you to, "Protect the Environment" and require Minnesota Power to parallel the present 500 kV line.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Richard Myers

P O Box 16
Warroad MN 56763
May 27, 2014

Mr. Dave Thomas
Regional Forestry Director
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
2115 Birchmont Beach Rd.
Bemidji, MN. 56601

Dear Dave,

I moved to Warroad in 1973 and in 1975 I was able to purchase land south of Williams in Lake of the Woods County, where I established a deer camp. Over the years I have added more land and have developed it for hunting. While I have enjoyed the land with friends and family, like most fathers my goal has been to provide a place for my children and my grandchildren to hunt and enjoy the wilderness. I have often remarked that the place is truly my pride and joy.

Roughly 30 years ago a 500 Kv power line going to the Iron Range area was built along a right of way about half a mile west of my land. From there this line proceeds southeast on state land for many miles. In the area of the present line west of my property the right of way does not impact private activity on the mostly forested or swamp land.

Now Minnesota Power of Duluth is in the process of building another 500 Kv line, called the Great Northern Transmission Line, in the same area as the initial line, coming out of Manitoba and ending up in the Grand Rapids area. I am sending you a right of way map of the two proposed routes for the new line. As you can see rather than paralleling the present line where they would only have to widen the present right of way, the route across my property or directly adjacent to my property would have to open an entirely new corridor of clear cutting and ecologically destroying another whole area of wilderness. Until the new line goes many miles south of my property it comes from Canada and is a "sister" to the present line and will end up west, not east of the present line.

One of my biggest concerns is I have a pacemaker. By Minnesota Power's own admission (see the enclosed letter) the electric and magnetic fields created by a transmission line are known to interfere with pacemakers. I have been warned by my cardiologists that extended exposure to a power line could interfere with my pacemaker. If the new line takes the route on or near my property I could feasibly not use my own land or close adjacent public land.

I am asking for your help with Minnesota Power to make the sensible decision and have this new Great Northern line parallel the existing line. Ecologically the new line paralleling only makes sense. I know the DNR forestry personnel in the Lake of the

Woods County area recommended that the new line parallel the existing line. Please help in keeping it off or directly adjacent to our land.

Thank you for your consideration and help in this matter. I would appreciate hearing from you.

Personal Regards,