

From: apache@web.lmic.state.mn.us
To: [Storm, Bill \(COMM\)](#)
Subject: Oveson Sat Aug 9 09:43:39 2014 14-21
Date: Saturday, August 09, 2014 9:43:48 AM

This public comment has been sent via the form at: mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/publicComments.html

You are receiving it because you are listed as the contact for this project.

Project Name: Minnesota Power Great Northern Transmission Line Project (Routing)

Docket number: 14-21

User Name: Robert Oveson

County:

City: Flagstaff

Email: Robertcharityr@gmail.com

Phone: 928 600 1926

Impact: The affected area addressed in my comments is in Koochiching County near the Lindford cemetery. Our property is at 7714 UT94, very near to the November 2013 route that is no longer being proposed. The change to the currently supported Blue route will reduce the impacts described in a letter of request submitted to the Koochiching County Commissioners. The letter will be forwarded to Bill Storm as there are no means of attaching materials to this web page. The area residents and recreationists (the 'Lindford Group') is concerned that the November 2013 route could be brought back into the process by unknown factors. Reference comments/petition submitted by Joane Cockrum, LITTLEFORK MN.

Mitigation: Minnesota power participated in the creation of the Bigfork River Plan

In crossing the bigfork river, consider the information contained in the Bigfork River Plan 1992, re-issued and updated on 27 September, 2005, include:

<http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Environmental%20Services/Documents/BigforkRiverPlan.pdf>

- Goal of Bigfork River Planning (pg 7) "...quality, character, and the aesthetic values of the river."
- Natural Resource Areas (pg 12) "To preserve the Big Fork River's present natural character, including scenery, geology, vegetation, and wildlife."
- Historic and Archeological Sites (pgs 39-42)

Submission date: Sat Aug 9 09:43:39 2014

This information has also been entered into a centralized database for

future analysis.

For questions about the database or the functioning of this tool, contact:

Andrew Koebrick
andrew.koebrick@state.mn.us

Purpose

This letter describes concerns regarding the negative affects introduced by the November 2013 proposed Minnesota Power Transmission Line Route (referred to as the powerline”, from this point forward) to areas along the Bigfork River.

It is acknowledged that the powerline is likely to be routed through Pine Island State Forest and across the Bigfork River. This letter requests your support in finding the best possible route that will mitigate the harmful scenic and physical affects on the Bigfork River for recreationalists and Lindford, MN area private residences.

Background

We have been in contact with a Minnesota Power representative, Jim Atkinson, and acknowledge his timely responses. At the time of this correspondence, these responses are without substance as we have no documentation of Minnesota Power’s interest in a more appropriate route for the powerline. Jim has been made aware of the significant conflicts between the 1992 and 2005 Big Fork River Development Plan and the powerline. Also of note is the fact that Minnesota Power is amongst the listed funders of the Big Fork River Plan (reference the introductory page).

The proposed alternative route through Pine Island State Forest parallels the Bigfork River, running adjacent to a large peninsula in the county Road UT 93/ 94 area (see maps on pages 3 & 4). This area has several public access points that enable recreational use, therefore increasing the exposure to the scenic detriments presented by the 150 foot tall towers (see tower images on page 5) that would be visible for up to 5 miles. The local tree canopy height of Balsam, Aspen, and Spruce forests is 25-65 feet (see page 6) and varies as parcels are logged. Minnesota Power has not made a commitment that even larger, lighted towers would not be proposed in future phases beyond those currently under consideration.

Relevant portions from the Big Fork River Plan, re-issued and updated on 27 September, 2005, include:
<http://www.co.itasca.mn.us/Home/Departments/Environmental%20Services/Documents/BigforkRiverPlan.pdf>

- Goal of Bigfork River Planning (pg 7) “...quality, character, and the aesthetic values of the river.”
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The November 14th article in the Daily Journal titled *Another Route Proposed for Transmission Line* describes additional concerns (http://www.ifallsjournal.com/news/county_news/another-route-proposed-for-transmission-line/article_029313e3-b9b7-5e1d-bd19-b63960a88026.html).

Specific Requests

Commissioner's support for a documented direct route through Pine Island State Forest and a right angle Bigfork River crossing resulting in the following:

- Minimize the negative scenic affects on the Bigfork River, disruption of archeological and grave sites
- A five mile buffer between the powerline and private residences

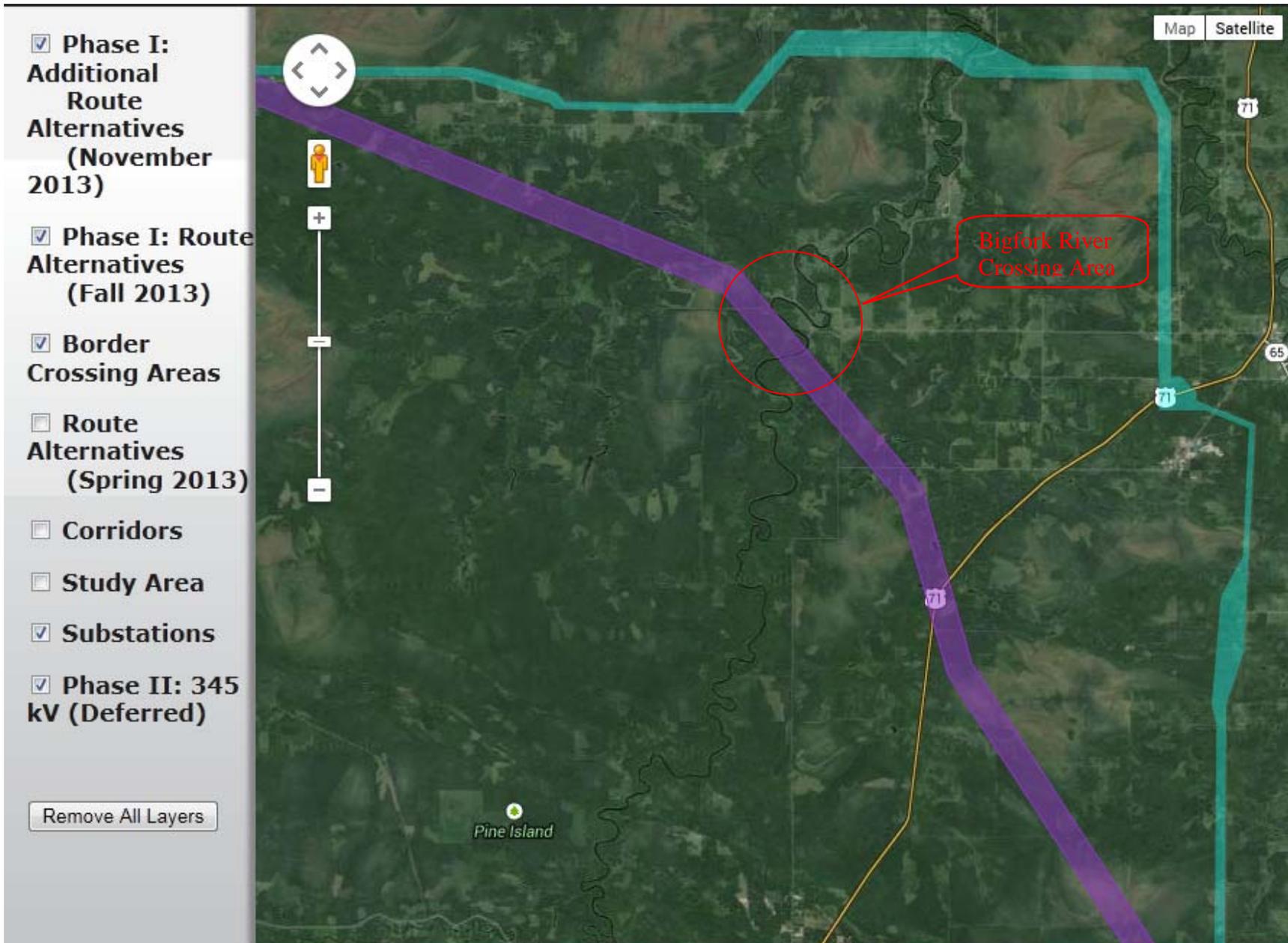
Thanks for your time in considering this request. Feel free to contact any of the following persons for more information:

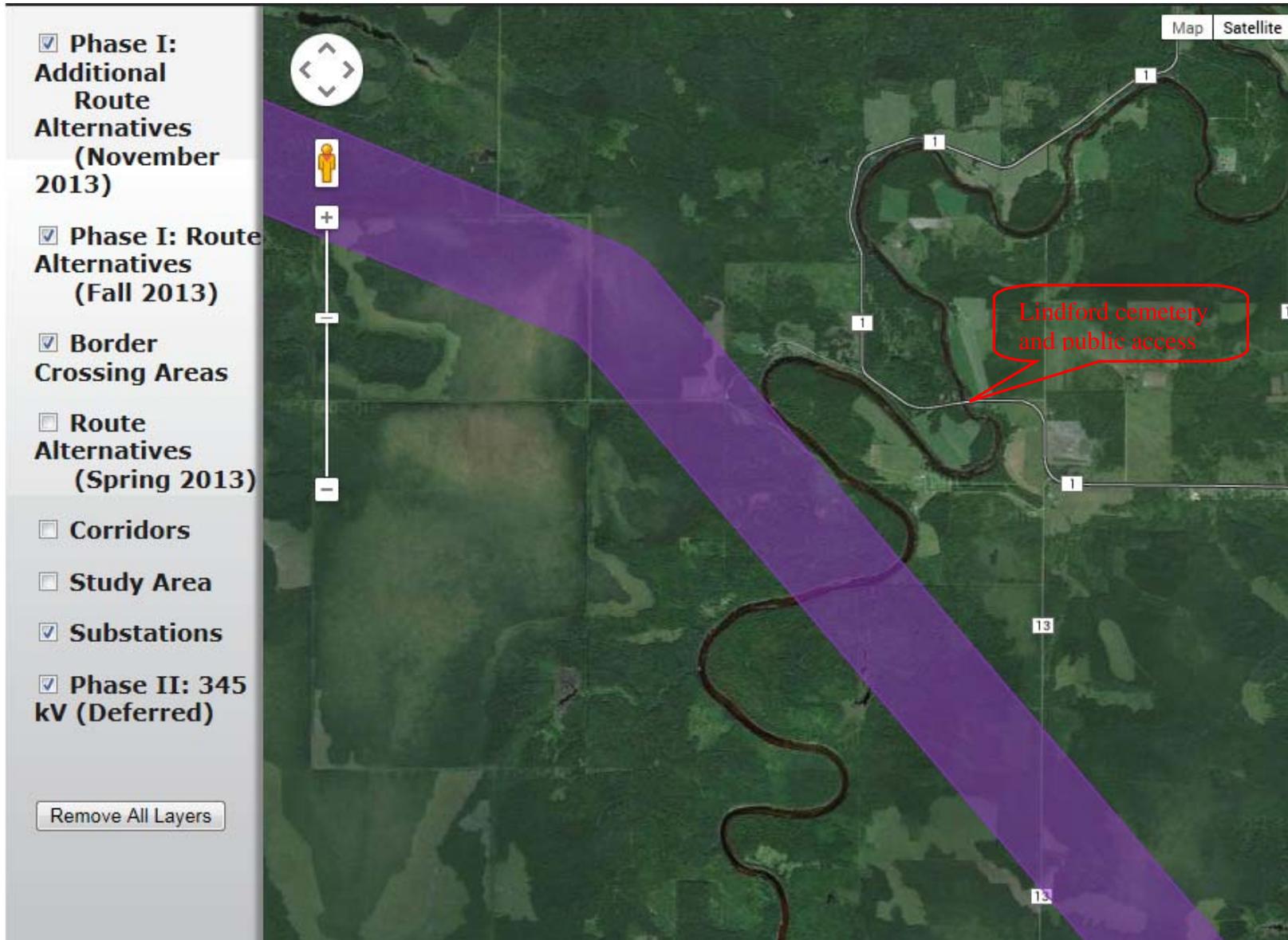
Rob Oveson, 928 526 9695 County Road, UT 94

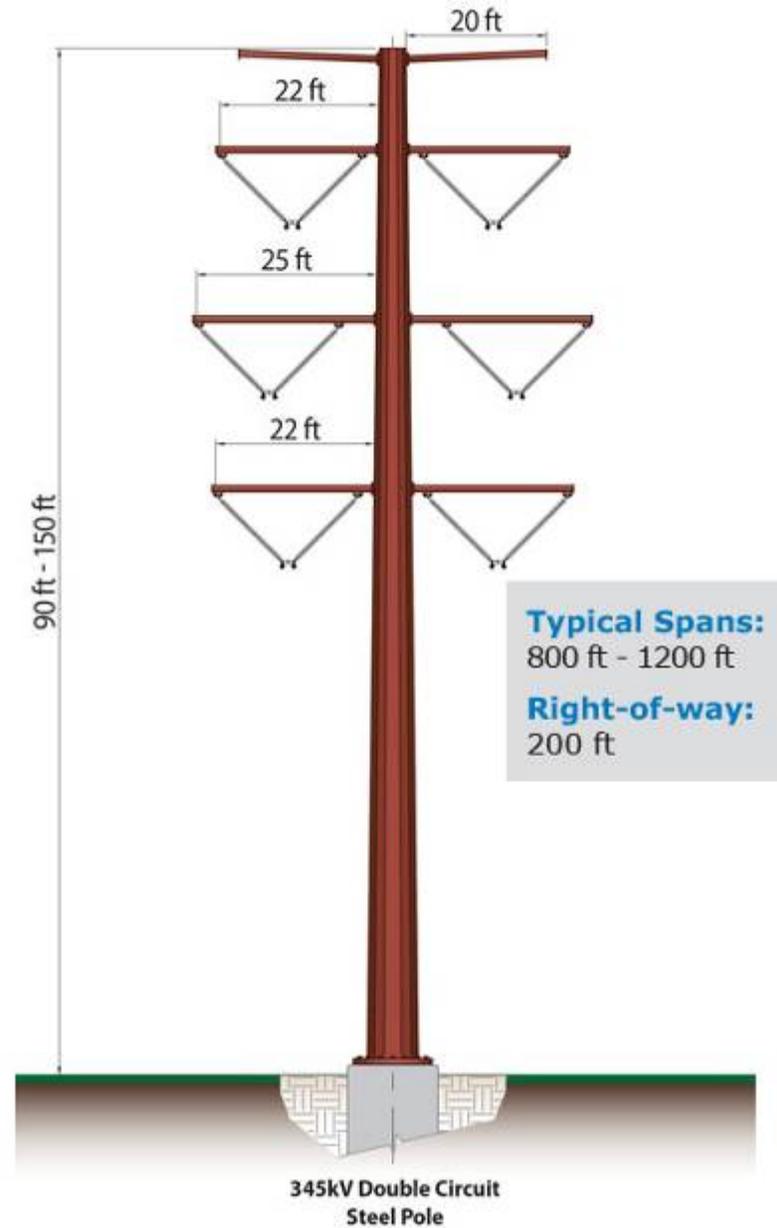
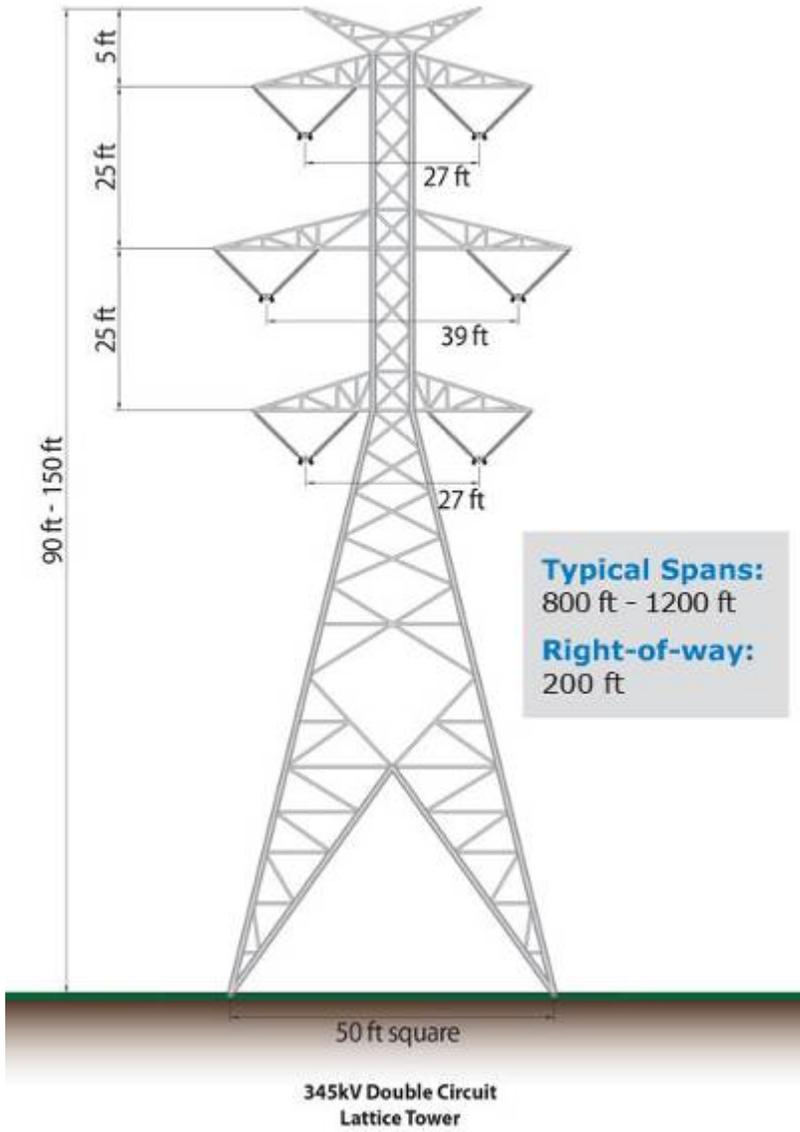
Joanne Cockrum, 218 278 4421 County Road, UT 93

Charity Oveson, 928 522 3409 County Road, UT 94

Bruce and Robin Trask, 218-278-4114 County Road, UT 94







Black Spruce

Location: Found mainly in the northern and northeastern parts of Minnesota, as far south as northern Anoka County.

Wood Properties: Yellowish-white; light; soft; medium strong

Uses: Used more extensively for paper pulp than any other tree. Also used extensively for Christmas trees.

Full Size: 25-65 feet in height; 6-12 inches in diameter; small to medium-size tree; Black Spruce is the most important pulpwood species in Canada and is also commercially important in the Lake States, especially Minnesota



C

Trembling (Quaking) Aspen

Location: Northeastern U.S., Rockies, Lake States. (In Minnesota, aspen are found in sandy or rich soils that are moist. It is common except in southwestern and northeastern parts of the state.)

Wood Properties: fine, uniform texture; straight grain; light; soft; low in strength; easily worked; at least 500 organisms from deer and beaver to insects, fungi and viruses feed upon Quaking Aspen

Uses: one of the most used species in Minnesota; used for lumber pallets; crates; pulpwood; particleboard

Full Size: 50-60 feet in height, 10-20 inches in diameter



L

Balsam Fir

Location: Northeastern U.S., Lake States; Canada. (In Minnesota, balsam fir can be found in the northern part of the state and a few scattered locations in the southeastern corner.)

Wood Properties: medium texture; moderately uneven to even grain; weak, soft and brittle

Uses: lightweight construction lumber; pulpwood; packing cases; especially important as Christmas trees

Full Size: 40-60 feet in height, 12-18 inches in diameter, small to medium-size tree



B