

## Appendix Y

### Comments and Responses

## **Appendix Y**

### **Comment Response Document**

#### ***Great Northern Transmission Line***

#### ***Environmental Impact Statement***

Prepared for  
U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
Washington, DC 20585

Minnesota Department of Commerce  
Energy Environmental Review and Analysis  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

Cooperating Agencies:  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota

October 2015

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Attachment C	Example Newspaper NOA
Attachment D	Response to All Comments on the Draft EIS

## Acronyms and Abbreviations

AC	Alternating Current
ALJ	Administrative Law Judge
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DOC-EERA	Minnesota Department of Commerce–Energy Environmental Review and Analysis
DOE	U.S. Department of Energy
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMF	electric and magnetic fields
EO	Executive Order
kV	kilovolt
MW	megawatt
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MN PUC	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NERC	North American Electric Reliability Corporation
NOA	Notice of Availability
NOI	Notice of Intent
PPSA	Power Plant Siting Act
ROW	Right-of-way
SWPPP	Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan
USACE	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
USEPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
WMA	Wildlife Management Area

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 Overview

On April 15, 2014, Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc. (the Applicant), submitted an application to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project (proposed Project). Following this initial submission, on October 29, 2014, the Applicant submitted an amendment to their Presidential permit and Route Permit applications to both DOE and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC), respectively. The amended Presidential permit application changed the initial location of the proposed international border crossing under DOE's consideration to cross the U.S. / Canadian border at latitude 49 00 00.00 N and longitude 95 54 50.49 W, which is approximately 2.9 miles east of Highway 89 in Roseau County.

An application for a Presidential permit is evaluated in accordance with Executive Order (EO) 10485, as amended by EO 12038, and the regulations codified at 10 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 205.320 et seq. (2000), "Application for Presidential Permit Authorizing the Construction, Connection, Operation and Maintenance of Facilities for Transmission of Electric Energy at International Boundaries." The DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, National Electricity Delivery Division (OE-20) is responsible for issuing Presidential permits. The Presidential permit for Minnesota Power (OE Docket Number PP-398) if issued, would authorize the Applicant to construct, operate maintain and connect the U.S. portion of the proposed Project.

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), when considering an application for a Presidential permit, the DOE must take into account possible environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and associated facilities before making a final decision. DOE is using the NEPA process to involve federal, state, and local agencies; tribal governments; and the public in the environmental review of the proposed Project and alternatives. DOE has determined that the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the proposed Project would constitute a major Federal action and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate level of review under NEPA. DOE issued its Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EIS and to conduct public scoping for the proposed Federal Action in June 2014 (79 FR 36493). This EIS is prepared in compliance with the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and DOE's NEPA regulations (10 CFR Part 1021), and other applicable federal laws.

In order to avoid duplication, DOE and the Minnesota Department of Commerce–Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC–EERA) will prepare a single EIS to comply with environmental review requirements under NEPA and the Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA). DOE will act as federal joint lead agency with DOC–EERA acting as state joint lead agency per 40 CFR 1501.5(b). DOC–EERA prepares EISs for proposed high-voltage transmission lines pursuant to Minnesota Statute Section 216E.03, Subdivision 5.

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The proposed Project would include construction, operation, and maintenance of an approximately 220-mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) overhead, single-circuit, alternating current (AC) electric transmission line that would cross the international border from the Canadian Province of Manitoba into the United States in Roseau County, Minnesota. After crossing the border, the transmission line would connect into the proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation that would be located adjacent to the existing Blackberry 230 kV/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. The presentation of the analysis in the EIS divided the proposed Project into three geographic sections: West Section, Central Section, and East Section.

The proposed Project would typically be located on all new 200-foot wide right-of-way (ROW) with a wider area required for certain spans at angle and corner structures, for guyed structures, or for areas where special design requirements are dictated by topography. The transmission towers would be steel lattice structures for the majority of the route, with the exact type of structure in any given location dependent on land type, land use, and potential effect on the surrounding landscape. Tower heights would range from approximately 100 feet to about 170 feet. In some instances, taller structures would be required. As part of the proposed Project, the Applicant to construct a new Iron Range 500 kV Substation, a new 500 kV series compensation station, regeneration stations, permanent access roads, temporary access roads, laydown areas, and fly-in sites.

Figure Y-1 of this Comment Response Document shows the three geographic sections, the proposed international border crossing, the two major route alternatives proposed by the Applicant, and other alternatives considered in this EIS. Responses to individual comments received on the Draft EIS may be found in Attachment D of this document.

This document constitutes the Comment Response Document on the *Great Northern Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement*. All comment documents are available from the following websites:

- DOE/DOC project website at: <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>,
- MN PUC e-dockets website at: (<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/edockets/searchDocuments.do?method=showeDocketsSearch&showEdocket=true>), docket number E015/TL-14-21)
- DOC-EERA website at: (<http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/#ui-tabs-3>, docket number 14-21)
- The Applicant's website at: <http://greatnortherntransmissionline.com>

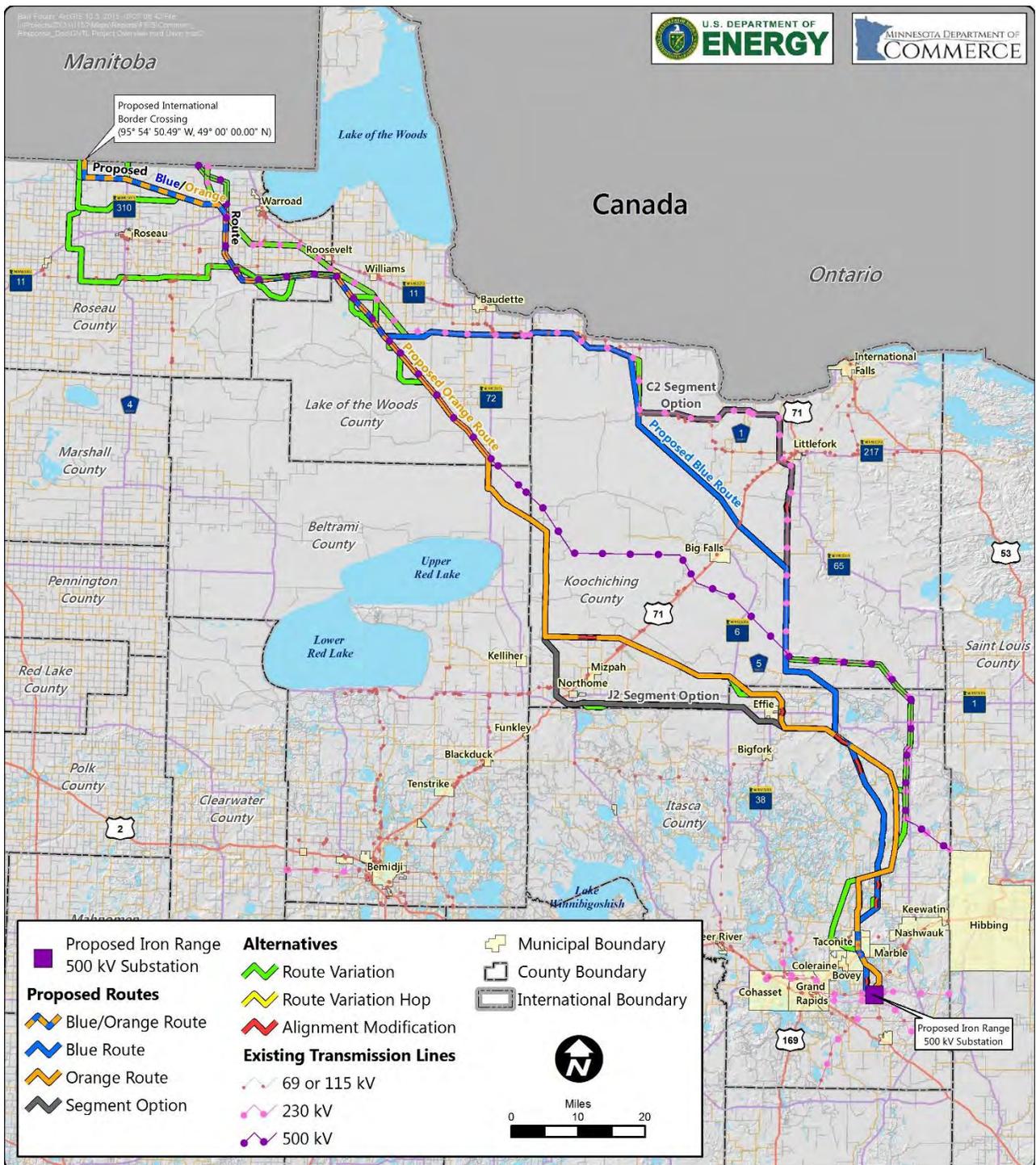


Figure Y-1 Proposed Project Alternatives Map

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## 1.2 History of Public Outreach and Comment Process

On June 20, 2014, MN PUC issued a Notice of Public Information and EIS Scoping Meeting. The notice described the proposed Project and provided an overview of the MN PUC process and opportunities for public comment. The notification lists for the notice included individuals on the MN PUC's general service list and MN PUC's project contact list for the proposed GNTL Project (Minnesota Rules, part 7850.2100, subpart 1). Per Minnesota Rule 78520.2300 Subpart 2, notice of the public meeting was provided by the Applicant on MN PUC's behalf via advertisements in 11 local and regional newspapers along the proposed Project routes (Table Y-1). Issuance of the notice commenced the state public scoping period that ended on August 15, 2014. The Applicant also provided the notice to its landowner list of potentially affected landowners. On June 27, 2014, DOE published in the *Federal Register* its NOI to Prepare an EIS and to Conduct Public Scoping Meetings; Notice of Floodplains and Wetlands Involvement for the Great Northern Transmission Line (79 FR 36493). The NOI, provided in Attachment A, explained that DOE would be assessing potential environmental impacts and issues associated with the proposed Project and the no-action alternative. The NOI was sent to interested parties including federal, state, and local officials; agency representatives; stakeholder organizations; local libraries, newspapers, and radio and TV stations; and private individuals in the vicinity of the proposed transmission line. Issuance of the NOI commenced a 45-day public scoping period that ended on August 11, 2014; however, DOE continued to accept scoping comments through August 15, 2014, in order to align the federal and state scoping period. (The state scoping period ended on August 15, 2014.) Late scoping comments were considered.

During the public scoping period, DOE and DOC-EERA conducted eight joint scoping meetings/hearings. A summary of the joint scoping process and associated public and agency comments are in the EIS Scoping Summary Report, the body of which is provided in Attachment D of the EIS. In short, five border crossing alternatives were suggested by the public and agencies for detailed study in the EIS during the public scoping period. Four of these border crossing alternatives were determined by DOE as potentially reasonable alternatives and are analyzed in the EIS.

In addition, the MN PUC requested the DOC-EERA to conduct a minimum of two citizen Workgroup meetings and consult directly with local government units within the project area. The purpose of the Workgroup was primarily to provide an additional opportunity for local government representatives to discuss their concerns, develop potential alternative route segments, review potential zoning conflicts, and ensure local input necessary for informed decision-making. The DOC-EERA held two four-hour Workgroup meetings in Grand Rapids, Minnesota, on September 30 and October 29, 2014. In addition to the two meetings, Workgroup members were provided a scoping questionnaire designed to assist Workgroup members in identifying ordinances, land use planning, or zoning issues. The major issues identified by the Workgroup included concern about impacts to human settlement and private property use (particularly agricultural), the Big Bog State Recreation Area, outstanding natural resources and SNAs, and mining resources. They also identified the benefits of following existing transmission corridors to minimize impacts and suggested minor adjustments to alternative route segments or alignment modifications proposed during the scoping period to minimize overall impacts to residents of the proposed Project area.

The MN PUC must determine whether there is a need for a transmission line, and establish the size, type, and required end points of the proposed Project. The Applicant filed its certificate of need application for the proposed Project with the MN PUC on October 22, 2013. Following a formal contested case hearing, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued her report on March 31, 2015, which concluded that the Applicant satisfied the certificate of need requirements and recommended the MN PUC grant a certificate of need to the Applicant for the construction of the proposed Project and associated facilities. On June 30, 2015, the MN PUC granted the certificate of need to the Applicant for the proposed Project.

A public comment period on the Draft EIS was initiated following publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (USEPA’s) NOA in the *Federal Register* on June 26, 2015 (Attachment A of this Comment Response Document). The DOC–EERA issued a NOA of Draft EIS, State Public Information Meetings, and Federal Public Hearings on June 19, 2015 (Attachment B of this Comment Response Document). DOE and DOC–EERA provided a 45-day review period starting June 26, 2015 and ending August 10, 2015. The NOA was sent to local newspapers and mailed to persons in the vicinity of the proposed Project. The NOA was published in 11 Minnesota newspapers (Table Y-1; Attachment C of this Comment Response Document). Copies of the Draft EIS were publicly available at public libraries located in the proposed Project area (Table Y-2).

**Table Y-1 Newspaper Publication Dates and Area of Distribution for Draft EIS**

<b>Newspaper</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Publication Date(s)<sup>1</sup></b>
The American	Blackduck, MN – Beltrami County	July 3, 2015
Anishinaabeg Today	White Earth, MN – Becker County	Not available
The Bemidji Pioneer	Bemidji, MN – Beltrami County	July 3, 2015
Bois Forte News	Lilydale, MN – Dakota County	Not available
Grand Rapids Herald Review	Grand Rapids, MN – Itasca County	July 1, 2015
The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Hibbing, MN – St. Louis County	July 1, 2015
International Falls Journal	International Falls, MN – Koochiching County	June 27, 2015 July 1, 2015
The Littlefork Times	Littlefork, MN – Koochiching County	July 1, 2015
Northern Light Region	Baudette, MN – Lake of the Woods County	July 1, 2015
Northome Area News	Northome, MN – Koochiching County	July 2, 2015
Red Lake Nation News	Red Lake, MN – Red Lake County	Not available
Roseau Times-Region	Roseau, MN – Roseau County	July 4, 2015
Scenic Range News Forum	Bovey, MN – Itasca County	July 2, 2015
Warroad Pioneer	Warroad, MN – Roseau County	June 30, 2015
Western Itasca Review	Deer River, MN – Itasca County	July 2, 2015

<sup>1</sup> Publication dates for newspapers that did not provide an affidavit of publication are listed as “not available.”

**Table Y-2 Public Libraries where Draft EIS was Available during the Public Comment Period**

<b>Library Name</b>	<b>Location</b>
Baudette Library	110 1st Street Southwest, Baudette, MN 56623
Blackduck Public Library	72 1st Street Southeast, Blackduck, MN 56630
Bovey Public Library	402 2nd Street, Bovey, MN 55709
Calumet Library	932 Gary Street, Calumet, MN 55716
Coleraine Public Library	203 Cole Street, Coleraine, MN 55722
Duluth Public Library	520 W Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55802
Grand Rapids Public Library	140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Greenbush Branch Library	214 Main Street, Greenbush, MN 56726
International Falls Public Library	750 4th Street, International Falls, MN 56649
Marble Public Library	302 Alice Avenue, Marble, MN 55764
Northome Public Library	12064 Main Street, Northome, MN 56661
Roseau Public Library	121Center Street East, Suite 100, Roseau, MN 56751
Warroad Public Library	202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad, MN 56763

During the 45-day public comment period for the Draft EIS, DOE and DOC–EERA held nine federal public hearings/state information meetings on the Draft EIS, as shown in Table Y-3: in Red Lake, Minnesota on July 14, 2015; Roseau and Baudette, Minnesota on July 15, 2015; Littlefork and International Falls, Minnesota on July 16, 2015; Kelliher and Bigfork, Minnesota on July 21, 2015; and two meetings in Grand Rapids, Minnesota on July 22, 2015. Notice of these federal public hearings/state information meetings were published in local newspapers (Table Y-1; Attachment C of this Comment Response Document) and mailed to persons in the vicinity of the proposed Project. Notice of the federal public hearing/state information meeting held on Red Lake Reservation was provided by the Band to its community members.

In preparing this Final EIS, DOE and DOC–EERA considered comments received during the scoping period (June 27, 2014 through August 11, 2014) and public comment period on the Draft EIS (June 26, 2015 through August 10, 2015). DOE and DOC–EERA also considered comments and input from its cooperating agencies (See Section 1.3 of this Appendix) in the preparation of the Final EIS. Any comments on the Draft EIS that were received or postmarked after August 10, 2015 were considered to the extent practicable.

**Table Y-3 Dates and Locations of Public Hearings/Information Meetings on the Draft EIS**

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Number of Attendees</b>	<b>Number of Commenters</b>
July 13, 2015	Seven Clans Casino, Red Lake, MN	4	3
July 15, 2015	Roseau Civic Center, Roseau, MN	44	2
July 15, 2015	Lake of the Woods School, Baudette, MN	13	3
July 16, 2015	Littlefork Community Center, Littlefork, MN	12	1
July 16, 2015	AmericInn, International Falls, MN	9	5
July 21, 2015	Kelliher Old School Center, Kelliher, MN	15	4
July 21, 2015	Bigfork School, Bigfork, MN	25	5
July 22, 2015 Morning Session	Timber Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN	24	6
July 22, 2015 Evening Session	Timber Lake Lodge, Grand Rapids, MN	11	2
Total		157	31

The federal public hearings/state information meetings provided the public with the opportunity to learn more about the project and to provide comments on potential environmental issues associated with the project. A total of 157 people attended the nine federal public hearings/state information meetings. A total of 31 people gave oral comments at the federal public hearings/state information meetings, and their comments were transcribed by a court stenographer.

DOE and DOC-EERA received comments on the Draft EIS in the form of 208 written letters, emails, or website submittals from private citizens, government agencies, and nongovernmental organizations. The comment letters received during the open comment period on the Draft EIS and written materials submitted for the record at the public hearings/information meetings are provided in Attachment D of this Comment Response Document.

### **1.3 Cooperating Agencies**

DOE invited several federal agencies and tribes to participate as cooperating agencies in the preparation of the EIS to ensure that the EIS meets the NEPA and other regulatory requirements of those agencies and engage agencies' specialized expertise. The cooperating agencies include U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District (USACE), Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) – Twin Cities Ecological Field Office (USFWS), and the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota. The following outlines each agency's requirements and/or specialized expertise for this EIS:

**USACE.** USACE will use this EIS in their decision making for the permits that would be required under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. In accordance

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with 33 CFR Part 325 Appendix B (8)(c), USACE will coordinate with DOE to ensure this EIS supports USACE's decision-making requirements on the Applicant's Section 10 and Section 404 permit application.

**EPA.** Under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to review and publicly comment on the environmental impacts of major federal actions. EPA also has responsibilities under the Clean Water Act. In addition, the EPA administers various statutes and regulations, including, but not limited to, the Safe Drinking Water Act; the Pollution Prevention Act; the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act; and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act.

EPA involvement as a cooperating agency will include: 1) participation in relevant project meetings and calls and 2) review and comment on preliminary documents to the extent that staff resources allow. However, EPA will exercise its independent review and comment authorities on the Draft and Final EISs consistent with EPA responsibilities under NEPA and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

**USFWS.** USFWS's role includes evaluating general environmental impacts on fish and wildlife. They will also evaluate potential environmental impacts on federally-listed threatened and endangered species and designated critical habitat, and may issue a Biological Opinion based on a BA prepared for the proposed Project, as appropriate. USFWS may issue an incidental take statement (along with reasonable and prudent measures) if appropriate. USFWS also has responsibility for enforcing the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Coordination for any necessary eagle permits will be conducted with USFWS. USFWS will also coordinate any special use permit if ROW access is requested and granted on USFWS interest properties. USFWS provides a recommended route that avoids USFWS Interest Lands and is described in their August 10, 2015 comment letter in Appendix U of this EIS.

**Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota.** The Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota's role as a cooperator in the preparation of this EIS is to provide specialized expertise in the identification of resources of concern to the tribe and the evaluation of general environmental impacts on resources of concern to the tribe. The tribe's involvement as a cooperating agency includes: 1) participation in relevant project meetings and calls, 2) identification of resources of concern to the tribe that may be potentially impacted, including, but not necessarily limited to, natural resources (such as water resources), biological resources (such as wildlife, including game species, fish, and plants), cultural resources (such as archaeological sites, properties of traditional religious and cultural importance, and traditional cultural properties), and socioeconomic resources (such as environmental justice or game species such as walleye), and 3) review and comment on preliminary documents. Separately, the tribe is exercising its independent review and comment responsibilities as a consulting party to DOE's compliance process for Section 106 of the NHPA.

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## 2.0 Agency and Public Comments on the Draft EIS

A variety of issues and concerns were raised during the public review comment period on the Draft EIS. DOE and DOC–EERA considered all comments, including late comments, in preparing the Final EIS. This section presents all these comments as well as transcripts of comments provided during the public hearings on the Draft EIS. The comments (whether written or oral) are presented in chronological order of receipt (Table Y-4). Table Y-5 provides an alphabetized index of individual comments based on the last name of the commenter in order to assist the reader. Each comment within a comment document is delineated (i.e., bracketed). Each discrete comment within a comment document is marked by a vertical bar in the margin and a unique comment number. For example, 200-01, is the first comment within comment document 200. Responses to the delineated individual comments are displayed in the margin to the right of the comment.

DOE and DOC–EERA responded to written and verbal comments from 208 comment documents. This included five comments from federal government officials or agencies, seven from federally recognized tribes, 12 from state government officials or agencies, 21 from local government officials, agencies, or planning boards, one from a non-governmental organization, 12 from commercial companies, four from the Applicant, one from a Manitoba Justice, and 145 from private citizens (Table Y-3). Comment numbers were assigned based on the order in which the comments were received. DOE and DOC–EERA responded to those comments that are within the scope of and relevant to the analysis in this EIS.

A list of examples of major representative issues submitted during the Draft EIS public comment period, cataloged by general resource type, are provided in Table Y-6. In addition, Table Y-7 provides the substantive revisions made from the Draft EIS to the Final EIS based on agency and public comments. All comments received during the Draft EIS public comment period, including late comments, along with DOE and DOC–EERA’s responses are provided in Attachment D of this Comment Response Document.

**Table Y-4 Draft EIS Commenters Presented Chronologically**

<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
1	James L. Johnson	Private Citizen
2	Linda Johnson	Private Citizen
3	Terry, Carol, Tim, and Jessica Kveen	Private Citizen
4	Gary Slater	Private Citizen
6	Lynn Lewis	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS
7	Andrew Brunner	Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review
9	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
10	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
11	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
12	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
13	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
14	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
15	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
16	Robert Burbie	Private Citizen
17	David Christenson	Private Citizen
18	Anne Marguerite Coyle	Private Citizen
19	William Gray	Private Citizen
20	Mike Handzus	Private Citizen
21	Mary Lou Hufnagle	Private Citizen
22	Mike Hughes	Private Citizen
23	John Kannas	Private Citizen
24	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
25	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
26	Ronald Lindner	Private Citizen
27	Todd Lund	Private Citizen
28	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
29	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
30	Alan Muller	Private Citizen
31	Marshall Nelson	Private Citizen
32	Charles Olson	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
33	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
34	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
35	Denny Pavek	Private Citizen

<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
36	Joe Plumer	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
37	Daniel Sigfrid	Private Citizen
38	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
39	Chris Viere	Private Citizen
41	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
42	Lorris and Elsie Erickson	Private Citizen
43	Janet Foster	Private Citizen
44	Linda Johnson	Private Citizen
46	Susan Lisell	Private Citizen
47	Joanna and Susan Lisell	Private Citizen
48	John Lund	Private Citizen
49	Keeley Todd	Private Citizen
51	Shannon Johnson	Manitoba Hydro
52	Larry Sullivan	Private Citizen
53	Gale Olson	Private Citizen
54	Gerry Reed	Private Citizen
55	Norman and Allayn Kveen	Private Citizen
56	Richard W. Myers	Private Citizen
57	Richard Stacy	Private Citizen
58	Karen L. Stacy	Private Citizen
59	Gary and Ione Olson	Private Citizen
60	Marie Johnson	Private Citizen
61	Daryll Dahlquist	Private Citizen
62	Greg Grahm	Private Citizen
63	Gerry Grahm	Private Citizen
64	Michael Grahm	Private Citizen
65	Willard Comstock	Private Citizen
66	Blair Comstock	Private Citizen
67	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
68	John Gaukerud	Private Citizen
69	Gordon Hannon	General Counsel, Manitoba Justice
70	Shannon Johnson	Manitoba Hydro
71	Jeff Pelowski	Coordinator, Roseau County
72	Marlin Elton	Clerk of Dieter Township
73	Dan Fabian	Minnesota House of Representatives
74	Rod Skoe	Minnesota State Senator

<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
75	Ann Rest	Minnesota State Senator
76	LeRoy Stumpf	Minnesota State Senator
77	Lorene Hanson	Auditor/Treasurer, Lake of the Woods County
78	Teresa Briggs	Board Clerk, Koochiching County Board
79	Jerry Adam	Private Citizen
80	Karen Adam	Private Citizen
81	Curtis and Carol Amundson	Private Citizen
82	Ben Bless	Private Citizen
83	Ben Bless	Private Citizen
85	Janet Delich	Private Citizen
86	Lorella Fulton	Private Citizen
87	Audrey Horne	Private Citizen
88	Bonnie Horne	Private Citizen
89	Duane Jaenicke	Private Citizen
90	Cavour Johnson	Private Citizen
91	Jon Johnson	Private Citizen
92	John E. Johnson	Private Citizen
93	Raymond Johnson	Private Citizen
94	John Kannas	Private Citizen
95	John Kannas	Private Citizen
96	Jon Keener	Sterling Lumber
97	Tony Kellin	Private Citizen
98	Thomas King	Private Citizen
99	Barb Kirk	Private Citizen
100	Scott Kofstad	Private Citizen
101	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
102	Arthur Krahn	Private Citizen
103	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
104	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
105	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
106	Mark Lofgren	Private Citizen
107	Karen Lucachick	Private Citizen
108	Annie and Tom Lund	Private Citizen
109	Tom Micheletti	Excelsior Energy Inc.
110	Dan Money	Two Rivers Watershed District, MN
111	Brian Moody	Private Citizen

<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
112	Donna Muirhead	Private Citizen
113	Kari Olson	Private Citizen
115	Colin Pearson	Private Citizen
115	Jeff Pelowski	Coordinator, Roseau County
116	Bruce Sampson	Private Citizen
117	Brad Springer	Private Citizen
118	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
119	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
121	Rod Tuomi	Private Citizen
123	Frank Weber	Private Citizen
124	Roger Weber	Private Citizen
125	Robert Anderson	Mayor, City of International Falls, MN
126	David Dahlgren	Supervisor, Stafford Township
127	Justin Howell	Supervisor, Stokes Township
128	Scott Johnson	Chairman, Town of Falun
129	Jon Johnson	Supervisor, Ross Township
130	Steve Lee	Supervisor, Dieter Township
131	Tom Johnson	Private Citizen
132	Coleen Lofgren	Private Citizen
133	Gerald Krahn	Private Citizen
134	Mike Handzus	Private Citizen
135	Mark Cass	Private Citizen
136	Charles and Scott Habstritt	Private Citizen
137	Terry Kveen	Private Citizen
138	Jessica Kveen	Private Citizen
139	Gary Johnson	Private Citizen
140	John and Janile Hiatt	Private Citizen
141	John Wahlberg	Private Citizen
142	Karen Lucachick	Private Citizen
145	Patricia Kveen Beaumont	Private Citizen
149	David Lund	Private Citizen
152	Justin Howell	Supervisor, Stokes Township
159	Midwestern Governors	Midwestern Governors
160	Douglas Shaw	Assistant Chapter Director, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
161	Carol Avelsgaard	Private Citizen
162	Erwin Berglund	Private Citizen

<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
163	David Christenson	Private Citizen
165	Stephen Fahlman	Private Citizen
167	Kevin Peterson	Private Citizen
168	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
169	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
170	Mark Meester	Private Citizen
171	Norman Nystrom	Private Citizen
173	Cheryl Adams	Forest Resources Manager, Blandin Paper Company
174	Chris Viere	Private Citizen
175	R.D. Learmont	Coordinator, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board
177	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
178	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
179	Richard Libbey	Private Citizen
180	Ron Berglund	Private Citizen
181	James and Patricia Schaffran	Private Citizen
182	Yufna Soldier Wolf	Director, Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office
183	Patrice Jensen	Planner Principal, Environmental Review Unit, Resource Management and Assistance Division, MPCA
184	Kenneth Westlake	Chief of NEPA Implementation, EPA
185	Laura Imax	Private Citizen
186	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.
187	Stacy Kotch	Utility Transmission Route Coordinator, MnDOT
188	Lynn Lewis	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS
190	Minnesota Power	Applicant
191	Minnesota Power	Applicant
192	Minnesota Power	Applicant
193	Minnesota Power	Applicant
194	Lori Dowling-Hanson	Regional Director, MnDNR, Northeast Region
195	Kade Ferris	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota
198	Terry Kveen	Private Citizen
199	Mark Meester	Private Citizen
200	John Hoshal	Private Citizen
202	Kathy Krook	Private Citizen
203	Anne Marguerite Coyle	Private Citizen
204	Carol Kveen	Private Citizen
205	Tim Kveen	Private Citizen

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<b>Comment Number<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Commenter Name</b>	<b>Commenter Agency or Organization</b>
206	Bill Latady	Bois Forte Band
207	Jason, Greg, and Maynard Braaten	Private Citizen
208	Carol Overland	Legalelectric, Inc.

<sup>1</sup>Comment numbers are consecutive; however, some comment letters were submitted multiple times. Therefore, in the sequence, missing numbers represent duplicate comment letters.

**Table Y-5 Draft EIS Commenters Presented Alphabetically**

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Adam	Jerry	Private Citizen	79	263
Adam	Karen	Private Citizen	80	264
Adams	Cheryl	Forest Resources Manager, Blandin Paper Company	173	405
Amundson	Curtis and Carol	Private Citizen	81	265
Anderson	Robert	Mayor, City of International Falls, MN	125	324
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	15	61
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	41	190
Avelsgaard	Carol	Private Citizen	161	392
Beaumont	Patricia Kveen	Private Citizen	145	374
Berglund	Erwin	Private Citizen	162	393
Berglund	Ron	Private Citizen	180	417
Bleess	Ben	Private Citizen	82	267
Bleess	Ben	Private Citizen	83	268
Braaten	Jason, Greg, and Maynard	Private Citizen	207	909
Briggs	Teresa	Board Clerk, Koochiching County Board	78	262
Brunner	Andrew	Environmental Specialist, Federal Highway Administration, Office of Project Development and Environmental Review	7	34
Burbie	Robert	Private Citizen	16	65
Cass	Mark	Private Citizen	135	363
Christenson	David	Private Citizen	17	68
Christenson	David	Private Citizen	163	395
Comstock	Willard	Private Citizen	65	232
Comstock	Blair	Private Citizen	66	234
Coyle	Anne Marguerite	Private Citizen	18	71
Coyle	Anne Marguerite	Private Citizen	203	833
Dahlgren	David	Supervisor, Stafford Township	126	325
Dahlquist	Daryll	Private Citizen	61	224
Delich	Janet	Private Citizen	85	269
Dowling-Hanson	Lori	Regional Director, MnDNR, Northeast Region	194	780
Elton	Marlin	Clerk of Dieter Township	72	254
Erickson	Lorris and Elsie	Private Citizen	42	192
Fabian	Dan	Minnesota House of Representatives	73	255

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Fahlman	Stephen	Private Citizen	165	397
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	33	154
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	34	164
Ferris	Kade	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	195	820
Foster	Janet	Private Citizen	43	194
Fulton	Lorella	Private Citizen	86	270
Gaukerud	John	Private Citizen	68	238
Grahn	Greg	Private Citizen	62	226
Grahn	Gerry	Private Citizen	63	228
Grahn	Michael	Private Citizen	64	230
Gray	William	Private Citizen	19	76
Habstritt	Charles and Scott	Private Citizen	136	364
Handzus	Mike	Private Citizen	20	80
Handzus	Mike	Private Citizen	134	340
Hannon	Gordon	General Counsel, Manitoba Justice	69	239
Hanson	Lorene	Auditor/Treasurer, Lake of the Woods County	77	260
Hiatt	John and Janile	Private Citizen	140	368
Horne	Audrey	Private Citizen	87	272
Horne	Bonnie	Private Citizen	88	273
Hoshal	John	Private Citizen	200	828
Howell	Justin	Supervisor, Stokes Township	127	327
Hufnagle	Mary Lou	Private Citizen	21	84
Hughes	Mike	Private Citizen	22	87
Imax	Laura	Private Citizen	185	434
Jaenicke	Duane	Private Citizen	89	274
Jensen	Patrice	Planner Principal, Environmental Review Unit, Resource Management and Assistance Division, MPCA	183	422
Johnson	James L.	Private Citizen	1	1
Johnson	Linda	Private Citizen	2	3
Johnson	Linda	Private Citizen	44	195
Johnson	Shannon	Manitoba Hydro	51	203
Johnson	Marie	Private Citizen	60	223
Johnson	Shannon	Manitoba Hydro	70	249

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Johnson	Cavour	Private Citizen	90	275
Johnson	Jon	Private Citizen	91	277
Johnson	John E.	Private Citizen	92	278
Johnson	Raymond	Private Citizen	93	280
Johnson	Scott	Chairman, Town of Falun	128	330
Johnson	Jon	Supervisor, Ross Township	129	332
Johnson	Tom	Private Citizen	131	337
Johnson	Gary	Private Citizen	139	367
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	23	90
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	94	281
Kannas	John	Private Citizen	95	282
Keener	Jon	Sterling Lumber	96	284
Kellin	Tony	Private Citizen	97	285
King	Thomas	Private Citizen	98	287
Kirk	Barb	Private Citizen	99	289
Kofstad	Scott	Private Citizen	100	290
Kotch	Stacy	Utility Transmission Route Coordinator, MnDOT	187	509
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	67	237
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	101	293
Krahn	Arthur	Private Citizen	0102	294
Krahn	Gerald	Private Citizen	133	339
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	24	93
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	168	400
Krook	Kathy	Private Citizen	202	830
Kveen	Terry, Carol, Tim, and Jessica	Private Citizen	3	4
Kveen	Norman and Allayn	Private Citizen	55	213
Kveen	Terry	Private Citizen	137	365
Kveen	Jessica	Private Citizen	0138	366
Kveen	Terry	Private Citizen	198	825
Kveen	Carol	Private Citizen	204	835
Kveen	Tim	Private Citizen	205	836
Lacachick	Karen	Private Citizen	107	302
Latady	Bill	Bois Forte Band	206	837

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Learmont	R.D.	Coordinator, Western Mesabi Mine Planning Board	175	410
Lee	Steve	Supervisor, Dieter Township	130	334
Lewis	Lynn	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS	6	6
Lewis	Lynn	Assistant Regional Director, USFWS	188	521
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	25	96
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	169	402
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	177	412
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	178	413
Libbey	Richard	Private Citizen	179	414
Lindner	Ronald	Private Citizen	26	108
Lisell	Susan	Private Citizen	46	196
Lisell	Joanna and Susan	Private Citizen	47	198
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	103	295
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	104	296
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	105	298
Lofgren	Mark	Private Citizen	106	300
Lofgren	Coleen	Private Citizen	132	338
Lucachick	Karen	Private Citizen	142	371
Lund	Todd	Private Citizen	27	114
Lund	John	Private Citizen	48	200
Lund	Annie and Tom	Private Citizen	108	303
Lund	David	Private Citizen	149	376
Meester	Mark	Private Citizen	170	403
Meester	Mark	Private Citizen	199	826
Micheletti	Tom	Excelsior Energy Inc.	109	304
Midwestern Governors	---	Midwestern Governors Association	379	380
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	190	575
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	191	666
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	192	720
Minnesota Power	---	Applicant	193	774
Money	Dan	Two Rivers Watershed District, MN	110	305
Moody	Brian	Private Citizen	111	308
Muirhead	Donna	Private Citizen	112	309
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	28	118

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	29	125
Muller	Alan	Private Citizen	30	131
Myers	Richard W.	Private Citizen	56	215
Nelson	Marshall	Private Citizen	31	138
Nystrom	Norman	Private Citizen	171	404
Olson	Charles	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	32	151
Olson	Gale	Private Citizen	53	207
Olson	Gary and Ione	Private Citizen	59	221
Olson	Kari	Private Citizen	113	311
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	9	38
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	10	45
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	11	49
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	12	51
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	13	55
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	14	58
Overland	Carol	Legalelectric, Inc.	186	438
Overland	Carol	Private Citizen	208	915
Pavek	Denny	Private Citizen	35	170
Pearson	Colin	Private Citizen	115	313
Pelowski	Jeff	Coordinator, Roseau County	71	252
Pelowski	Jeff	Coordinator, Roseau County	115	314
Peterson	Kevin	Private Citizen	167	399
Plumer	Joe	Red Lake Band of Chippewa, Minnesota	36	173
Reed	Gerry	Private Citizen	54	209
Rest	Ann	Minnesota State Senator	75	257
Sampson	Bruce	Private Citizen	116	316
Schaffran	James and Patricia	Private Citizen	181	419
Shaw	Douglas	Assistant Chapter Director, The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota	160	387
Sigfrid	Daniel	Private Citizen	37	177
Skoe	Rod	Minnesota State Senator	74	256
Slater	Gary	Private Citizen	4	5
Soldier Wolf	Yufna	Director, Northern Arapaho Tribal Historic Preservation Office	182	421
Springer	Brad	Private Citizen	117	317

Commenter Name		Commenter Agency or Organization	Comment Number	Page Number in Attachment D
Last Name	First Name			
Stacy	Richard	Private Citizen	57	217
Stacy	Karen L.	Private Citizen	58	219
Stumpf	LeRoy	Minnesota State Senator	76	258
Sullivan	Larry	Private Citizen	52	205
Todd	Keeley	Private Citizen	49	201
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	38	184
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	118	318
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	119	319
Tuomi	Rod	Private Citizen	121	320
Viere	Chris	Private Citizen	39	187
Viere	Chris	Private Citizen	174	406
Wahlberg	John	Private Citizen	141	370
Weber	Frank	Private Citizen	123	322
Weber	Roger	Private Citizen	124	323
Westlake	Kenneth	Chief of NEPA Implementation, EPA	184	424

**Table Y-6 Summary of Agency and Public Comments on the Draft EIS**

Subject Area	Comment Summary
<b>EIS Summary</b>	No comments were received on the EIS Summary.
<b>Regulatory Process/Public Involvement</b>	<p><b>Wind Generating Option.</b> Several comments suggested that the proposed Project may not have any influence on the development of North Dakota wind projects.</p> <p><b>Record of Decision.</b> One comment noted that the record of decision needed to be coordinated between the federal and state processes. Another comment noted that the release date for the ROD is uncertain.</p> <p><b>Buy the Farm Option.</b> Several comments noted that landowners affected by the proposed Project have the option to use the "Buy the Farm" law.</p> <p><b>Route Selection Process.</b> Several comments expressed concern that the routing decision would more likely be influenced by the Applicant rather than an individual and questioned whether their opinions were considered. A comment expressed concern that it was difficult to be included in the Work Group during the Scoping process and therefore their comments were not taken into consideration in that process.</p> <p><b>Notification of Landowners.</b> Several comments noted that some landowners did not receive any of the public notifications regarding the proposed Project and therefore questioned the notification process.</p> <p><b>Certificate of Need.</b> One comment noted that the need for the proposed Project may change as a result depending on the economy and changes in fuel sources.</p> <p><b>Canadian Environmental Review Process.</b> One comment noted that Canada's environmental review process only considers the Applicant's proposed border crossing so the proposed Project will not be built if an alternative border crossing is selected. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Project would have environmental impacts in Canada due to dams.</p> <p><b>Presidential permit.</b> One comment expressed concern that it is not feasible to resubmit a Presidential permit at this stage in the environmental review if an alternative border crossing were selected, since the revised schedule would not allow for the proposed 2020 in-service date required by the power purchase agreement between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant. One comment questioned the legal criteria for the issuance of a Presidential permit for a border crossing facility and the Applicant's legal burden to demonstrate that a permit should be issued.</p> <p><b>Assessment of Potential Impacts.</b> One comment expressed concern that the discussion of corridor sharing, based on Minnesota Rules, did not account for the environmental benefits that different corridors may offer and did not feel that the Applicant considered corridor sharing when developing routes.</p> <p><b>Relative Merits.</b> One comment expressed concern that the relative merit tables did not adequately present the information that the MN PUC would need to make a route decision, and therefore provided a version of the relative merit tables for each variation area.</p> <p><b>Role of Cooperating Agencies.</b> One comment expressed concern that the description of the USFWS role in the proposed Project was too limited and should include coordination of a special use permit that would be required to cross USFWS Interest Lands.</p>
<b>Applicant's Objectives and Needs</b>	<b>Alternatives.</b> One comment noted that the Roseau Lake WMA variations

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>violate the Applicant's purposes for the proposed Project because they would not have a positive impact on human settlement.</p> <p><b>Determination of Need.</b> One comment expressed concern that need for the proposed Project should be addressed in the EIS because it should be part of the DOE environmental review. One comment noted that there has not been an EIS for the certificate of need. One comment noted that the need for 250 MW capacity has not been determined and expressed concern that no cost benefit analysis was provided. One comment expressed concern that it is not clear in the EIS that the expected power transfer capacity, power purchase agreement, and the actual capacity of the proposed Project meet the Applicant's stated purpose and need for the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>System Reliability.</b> One comment expressed concern that system reliability benefits are not clearly stated and it is implied that the existing transmission grid is not reliable.</p> <p><b>Statement of Purpose and Need.</b> One comment stated that the EIS should cite the Applicant's statement of need verbatim.</p>
Project Description	<p><b>Electrical System Reliability.</b> One comment noted that the transmission grid has systems built into it that can compensate for loss of transmission lines, bringing in power from other systems, or the ability to isolate areas of the grid. The comment also requested that more information be provided regarding how to make the transmission lines more robust so that it could parallel two other transmission lines.</p> <p><b>Long-range Planning.</b> One comment stated the need for long-term planning for renewable sources of power by utilities to minimize the need for additional transmission lines. One comment noted that the focus should be on smaller and local energy production such as solar panels on residential and business roof tops.</p> <p><b>Construction and Maintenance.</b> One comment noted that the location of proposed Project access roads is an important consideration because adverse impacts in remote areas that were not previously accessible to the public could occur. One comment noted that herbicides are used to kill vegetation within the ROW and this could mean that their farm could not be certified as organic.</p> <p><b>Construction Inspector.</b> One comment noted that a third party independent inspector or monitor should be used during construction of the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Capacity.</b> One comment noted that the capacity of the proposed Project as designed should be reported, the capacity of a triple-bundled 500 kV transmission line should be verified, the quantification of the planned use of capacity should be more clearly described, and the capacity of the proposed Project should be consistent with MISO and the Presidential permit.</p> <p><b>Compensation Station.</b> One comment noted the EIS should identify whether the proposed location of the Series Compensation Station is on state or private land. One comment noted that selecting an alternative other than the Proposed Blue Route or Proposed Orange Route could require selection of a new location for the Series Compensation Station.</p> <p><b>Transmission Line Separation Distance.</b> One comment noted that there is not a consistent 250-foot separation between the existing 230 kV or 500 kV transmission lines; therefore, the environmental analysis for human settlement is incorrect.</p> <p><b>Existing Substations.</b> One comment noted that the location of the existing</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>high-voltage transmission line substations would render the Cedar Bend WMA Variation as infeasible.</p> <p><b>Variation Areas.</b> One comment noted that since the alternatives within the variation areas do not always have a common start and end point, it is not possible to make comparisons with the Proposed Blue Route and Proposed Orange Route.</p> <p><b>Construction Cost.</b> One comment provided updated construction cost estimates for the alternatives. One comment noted the cost of the proposed Project could increase depending on the alternatives that are selected and this will have an effect on taxpayers.</p> <p><b>Construction Cost and Electrical System Reliability.</b> One comment provided figures and notes about the alternatives in each variation area regarding starting and ending points, required crossings of existing transmission lines, and construction costs.</p>
Project Design	<p><b>USFWS Interest Lands.</b> One comment stated that the proposed Project should avoid all USFWS Interest Lands, which includes building structures on USFWS Interest Lands, transmission lines crossing USFWS Interest Lands, any changes to USFWS Interest Lands required to gain access to the proposed Project area, or any land use change that may affect USFWS Interest Lands.</p> <p><b>Construction.</b> Several comments requested that the location of all proposed Project components (e.g., access roads) be identified and that all adverse impacts from those proposed Project components should be identified in the EIS.</p> <p><b>Construction Schedule.</b> One comment recommended that surveys be conducted to avoid impacts to nesting birds and to avoid impacts to active nest sites of sensitive species. In addition requested that appropriate construction windows be identified to avoid impacts on species such as bald eagle, goshawk, migratory birds, and bats.</p> <p><b>Interphase Spacers.</b> One comment noted that if interphase spacers will be used for the proposed Project, the timing of use and locations should be identified in the EIS.</p>
Alternatives	<p><b>No Action Alternative.</b> Several comments expressed concern that the "No Action" alternative was not adequately discussed based on brevity of the chapter, minimal explanation, and flawed interpretation of Minnesota law.</p> <p><b>Adequacy.</b> One comment expressed concern that the alternatives were inadequate because they did not present a completely new route, only alternatives to the Applicant's proposed routes. In addition, the comment noted that no alternatives were considered in the case that the Presidential permit was not granted and there were no system alternatives considered.</p> <p><b>Cost Effective.</b> One comment noted the Balsam Variation is not cost effective compared to the Proposed Blue Route because it zig-zags rather than following a straight line.</p> <p><b>Border Crossing.</b> One comment noted that the border crossing was selected in Canada after an analysis of routes and all potential border crossings using a process based on the EPRI-GTC Overhead Electric Transmission Line Siting Methodology. One comment noted that only the federal government has the authority to select the location of the border crossing so the proposed border crossing alternative should be the only one considered. Several comments noted that Manitoba Hydro completed a thorough environmental evaluation and determined only the proposed border crossing was feasible. Several comments supported the Applicant's proposed border crossing</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>location and opposed the Roseau Lake WMA variations due to potential impacts on agricultural land and human settlement.</p> <p><b>Case Law.</b> One comment stated that the EIS is inadequate on the federal and state levels based on case law because it does not cover an adequate range of alternatives.</p> <p><b>Other Alternatives.</b> One comment proposed a new alternative in Itasca County that was not evaluated in the EIS. Several comments expressed concern that the alternatives should have considered paralleling existing highways.</p> <p><b>Alternatives.</b> One comment expressed concern that the alternatives proposed by state and federal agencies were not vetted by private landowners in Roseau County who are opposed to selection of these alternatives. One comment expressed concern that the Applicant's proposed routes avoided opposition and areas where there would be difficulty meeting the schedule if the proposed Project crossed agricultural lands and that the routing neglected to consider the trees and birds.</p> <p><b>Aggregate Sources.</b> One comment expressed concern that the Northome Variation in Koochiching County will cross a private gravel pit.</p>
General	<p><b>Public Hearings.</b> One comment noted that the public hearings were incorrectly called public meetings and requested clarity on the format of the public hearings.</p> <p><b>NEPA Advisor.</b> One comment expressed concern that the NEPA advisor for the EIS was potentially biased.</p> <p><b>Maintenance.</b> One comment questioned if the proposed Project would use Canadian or U.S. citizens to conduct maintenance.</p> <p><b>Energy Demand.</b> One comment requested that more information be provided as to whether the industrial energy demand load is increasing in Minnesota.</p> <p><b>Presidential permit.</b> One comment requested additional information on how many Presidential permits are processed by DOE, how many permits are granted, and how many permits are denied.</p> <p><b>Peer Review.</b> One comment requested that the EIS be peer reviewed by parties who are involved in opposing transmission lines and advocating for alternatives.</p> <p><b>Contested Case Hearings.</b> One comment noted that the contested case hearings would be the next step in the public process.</p> <p><b>Construction Cost.</b> One comment expressed concern that the alternatives should only be compared on a total cost basis, not a cost-per-mile basis.</p> <p><b>Wildfire Response Plan.</b> One comment requested that a wildfire response plan be prepared for the proposed Project.</p>
Human Settlement	<p><b>Private Property:</b> Several comments expressed concern for displacement and impacts to private farmland and homes near proposed routes and variations. Several comments expressed a preference for the proposed Project to utilize public lands instead of private property.</p> <p><b>Community Spaces:</b> Comments expressed concerns about the proximity of community spaces, such as fire departments, churches, and parks, to proposed routes and variations.</p> <p><b>Residential Designations:</b> Several comments noted that some residences were incorrectly listed as non-residential structures in the EIS and on maps.</p>
Noise and Vibration	<p><b>Noise.</b> Several comments expressed concern regarding audible noise from operation of the proposed Project, including noise from corona discharges.</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	Another comment requested that the predicted noise levels for the 500 kV Series Compensation Station be provided in the EIS along with a discussion of infrasound and explanation of whether additional modeling is necessary. One comment provided additional noise modeling for operation of the proposed Project.
<b>Air Quality</b>	<b>Air Quality.</b> A comment requested that the EIS include an estimate of total emissions from construction, operation, maintenance, and emergency repair of the proposed Project and that the Applicant pursue more opportunities to use clean diesel equipment and other emission reduction strategies.
<b>Greenhouse Gases</b>	<b>Greenhouse Gases.</b> A comment requested clarification on the method and time frame for carbon sink calculations. Comments also requested that the EIS address mitigation of the loss of forest as a carbon sink and evaluate carbon sink changes resulting from the clearing of trees for the dam in Canada where the hydropower is generated, in addition to the clearing of trees for the ROW.
<b>Land Transportation and Traffic</b>	<b>Air Navigation.</b> Several comments expressed concern that transmission lines in close proximity to airstrips and public airports could pose potential hazards to take-off and landings. <b>State Transportation Network.</b> MnDOT expressed interest in continued cooperation with the Applicant to ensure that proposed Project would not negatively impact the safety or free flow of the state's transportation system. This includes following policies and procedures in the MnDOT Utility Accommodation and Coordination Manual, obtaining permits from MnDOT for any construction, or maintenance work in a trunk highway right of way, and coordinating vegetation trimming activities accessed from highway ROW. <b>Railroads.</b> One comment requested that the Applicant coordinate with rail companies to avoid negative impacts on railroads.
<b>Public Services and Utilities</b>	<b>Public Services and Utilities.</b> One comment provided information on the Protocol Among Midwestern Governors Regarding the Permitting and Siting of Interstate Electric Transmission Lines in the Midwestern United States and Manitoba, Canada.
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	No comments received on Environmental Justice.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	<b>Property Taxes.</b> One comment requested information about the value of property taxes generated by the proposed Project during operation. <b>Project Cost-sharing.</b> Two comments requested information about cost-sharing between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant. <b>Property Values.</b> Several comments expressed concern about the proposed Project's potential negative impacts on property values and requested more information. Two comments expressed concern about the validity of the property value impact analysis in the EIS. <b>Compensation and Condemnation.</b> One comment expressed concern that compensation of traversed properties would be inadequate and suggested the "Buy the Farm" provision would not lead to fair compensation to landowners. One comment requested that the EIS address compensation for condemned land and for the assumed decrease in value of properties near or adjacent to the proposed Project. <b>Cost-Benefit Analysis.</b> One comment expressed concern that the cost-benefit analysis was not sufficiently specific and that the benefits claimed in

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	the EIS were not truly benefits.
<b>Recreation and Tourism</b>	<b>Recreation and Tourism.</b> Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project would negatively impact recreation and tourism activities such as hunting. One comment expressed concerns that if the Cedar Bend WMA Variation is selected, a recreational business could be affected.
<b>Public Safety</b>	<p><b>Public Safety.</b> One comment expressed concern that the EIS incorrectly assessed the potential for hunters to accidentally shoot the transmission line insulators or conductors. One comment expressed concern for the use of heavy construction equipment near public roadways.</p> <p><b>Induced and Stray Voltage.</b> Several comments expressed concern regarding the impacts of induced voltage on workers and recreational hunting. One comment expressed concern that the effects of induced voltage were incorrectly reflected in the EIS.</p> <p><b>Human Health.</b> Several comments expressed concern for high voltage transmission lines and the unknown potential effects on humans. A comment also expressed concern regarding the potential effect of the proposed Project on implantable medical devices. One comment expressed concern if the proposed Project is in proximity to gravel pits, that corona discharges could result in the Henshaw effect, affecting human health. Several comments expressed concern for health impacts due to EMF. One comment provided updated magnetic field calculations for the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>Radio Interference.</b> A comment expressed concern for the proposed Project distorting radio waves and affecting communication devices.</p>
<b>Environmental Contamination</b>	<b>Environmental Contamination.</b> One comment expressed concern for the use of herbicides for vegetation management within the ROW during construction and operation of the proposed Project. Another comment expressed concern for the potential of contamination to be unexpectedly discovered during construction of the proposed Project.
<b>Aesthetics</b>	<b>Aesthetics.</b> One comment requested viewshed maps be prepared and viewshed analyses be conducted for Bass Lake Park, Larson Lake Campground, Wolf Lake-Wasson Lake Bog, and established campgrounds and trails in these areas. A few comments expressed concern for the adequacy of using the 1,500-foot distance for the buffer for the ROI to assess aesthetic impacts. One comment requested analyses of visual impacts at each proposed crossing of a scenic byway, identification of any specific mitigation to reduce visual impacts, and investigation of any scenic easements in the vicinity of scenic byways.
<b>Land Use and Ownership</b>	<p><b>Private Land.</b> Comments expressed general concerns about the amount of private land impacted by the proposed Project routes and variations and the evaluation of those impacts. Other comments expressed concern about potential impacts on existing uses and potential future uses of private land. One comment expressed concern that the ROW and access roads would increase the availability of areas for recreational activities that would be a nuisance to property owners (e.g., snowmobiling, four-wheeling).</p> <p><b>Sensitive Lands.</b> Several comments expressed preference for avoiding conservation lands and USFWS Interest Lands. One comment requested that all impacts to USFWS Interest Lands be avoided or minimized by selecting a route that does not impact USFWS Interest Lands, using other areas within the ROW to avoid USFWS Interest Lands, and alternative routes be investigated to avoid impacts to USFWS Interest Lands, and after a thorough</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	evaluation, if USFWS Interest Lands are impacted, unavoidable impacts to USFWS Interest Lands may require mitigation.
<b>Agricultural Resources and Soil</b>	<p><b>Farming.</b> Several comments expressed concern regarding potential impacts to agricultural land and farming operations including those outside the ROW. One comment requested that an Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) be included as part of the EIS.</p> <p><b>Aerial spraying.</b> Several comments expressed concern for potential proposed Project impacts to aerial spraying operations.</p> <p><b>Precision farming.</b> One comment expressed concern that the EIS is contradictory in the conclusion regarding potential impacts to precision farming.</p>
<b>Mining Resources</b>	<p><b>Mineral resources.</b> One comment expressed concern that the EIS overstates the risk of mineral resource/transmission line co-location in areas having little certainty of mineral occurrence and understates risk of mineral resource/transmission line co-location in areas containing known mineral occurrence. One comment requested several mineral resources terminology changes to be made in the EIS. One comment expressed concern that there are active mine permits in the Balsam Variation ROW, thereby making that alternative infeasible.</p>
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	<p><b>Cultural Resources and Historic Properties.</b> Comments requested that cultural resources investigations are conducted for all disturbance areas for the proposed Project and that cultural resources and historic properties are evaluated with respect to effects from the proposed project. A copy of the executed Programmatic Agreement prepared for the proposed Project as part of the Section 106 compliance process was also requested to be provided in the EIS.</p> <p><b>Federally Recognized Indian Tribes.</b> Comments requested that DOE considered the perspectives of federally recognized Indian tribes and included traditional cultural properties (TCPs) when conducting cultural resources investigations and involve federally recognized Indian tribes in the identification and evaluation efforts of TCPs, as well as consulting with federally recognized Indian tribes to ensure that visual impacts on visually sensitive lands owned by the tribes are mitigated adequately or measures are taken to reduce those visual impacts. A comment also notified DOE of a recent legal decision returning ceded lands in the vicinity of the proposed Project to a federally recognized Indian tribe, which may require further coordination.</p>
<b>Water Quality and Hydrology</b>	<p><b>Surface hydrology.</b> A few comments expressed concern that the proposed Project could impact water resources. One comment requested that streams be avoided as well as the buffers that surround them. One comment expressed concern that the presence of flood control impoundments in the vicinity of the Project area could potentially affect the proposed Project. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Blue Route crosses a large amount of the watershed that drains to the chain of lakes.</p> <p><b>Water quality.</b> A few comments noted the importance of wetlands to improve water quality and therefore expressed concern regarding the adverse effects from the proposed Project if wetlands are impacted.</p>
<b>Wetlands</b>	<p><b>Wetlands.</b> Several comments requested that the proposed Project avoid wetland impacts and another comment suggest that the proposed Project span wetlands where possible. A few comments requested that the Applicant</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>develop a wetland mitigation plan. One comment noted the presence of a wetland easement on a portion of the proposed Project. One comment expressed concern as to whether a riparian buffer zone would be left around lakes and wetlands during clearing. One comment requested that the EIS identify how many acres of wetland will be directly affected by the discharge of fill material, as well as how many acres will be converted from one wetland type to another. One comment expressed concern that the proposed Project would require conversion of forested wetland into a less valuable type of wetland. One comment expressed concern that the EIS does not discuss access to wetlands using matting and low ground pressure equipment during frozen conditions. One comment noted that the East Bear Lake Variation was developed to avoid the Bear-Wolf Peatland, but expressed concern because the boundaries of the peatland have not been identified and therefore it is unknown if it is avoided.</p>
<p><b>Biological Resources</b></p>	<p><b>Vegetation.</b> Several comments expressed concern that trees may be impacted on their property, including tree plantations and managed woodlands. One comment expressed concern for potential impacts on state or federal forestry programs. Several comments requested additional information on ROW clearing methodology or development of a vegetation management plan. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project could increase the spread of noxious weeds and invasive species. A few comments requested that the EIS discuss issues related to prevention of forest fires in the Project area. One comment requested that the Applicant offer voluntary forest compensation for forest impacts that do not require compensation under existing federal and/or state regulations. One comment expressed concern that the EIS double counts state forest impacts and that state forests are given too much emphasis in the EIS. One commented expressed concern that paralleling an existing corridor does not significantly reduce effects on forests.</p> <p><b>Wildlife.</b> Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project may impact wildlife, wildlife habitat, and/or wilderness, including specifically one comment noting that the wetland area between Dead Man's Pond and Crooked Lake provides habitat for wildlife and should be avoided. Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project may impact birds and/or that the Applicant should develop an Avian Protection Plan. One comment expressed concern that the presence of high voltage transmission lines may stop certain wildlife species from moving naturally, citing studies conducted in Norway. One comment requested that discussion of avian electrocutions not be included in the EIS because text in Chapter 6 states that avian electrocutions are unlikely. One comment requested that the EIS have additional information on minimizing or mitigating impacts on fish and wildlife. One comment expressed concern for potential impacts to bees while another comment expressed concern that the proposed Project could result in the spread of earthworms.</p> <p><b>Rare species.</b> Several comments expressed concern that the proposed Project has the potential to impact rare species (state or federally listed species), migratory birds, eagles, etc. One comment recommended that a Biological Assessment be included in the EIS. One comment requested that the EIS use updated information on presence of rare species if available. One comment requested that the Applicant should continue to work with the MnDNR Endangered Species Review Coordinator regarding surveys for</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	<p>state-listed species.</p> <p><b>Rare communities.</b> One comment requested that the proposed Project avoid Minnesota Biological Survey Sites of Biodiversity Significance ranked outstanding and high. One comment requested that the proposed Project avoid native plant communities. One comment expressed concern that the Applicant will need to conduct additional field work to determine potential impacts to native plant communities and to ensure compliance with the Wetland Conservation Act. Several comments expressed concern and requested that the selected alternatives avoid adverse and unnecessary impacts to critical habitats for plants, animals, and natural communities.</p>
<p><b>Electric System Reliability</b></p>	<p><b>Weather.</b> One comment noted that there may be system mitigations that could be used to reduce the adverse effects of tornados, ice storms, or straight line winds such as robust towers, interrupters, and circuit breakers. In addition, spare parts could be stockpiled and ready for use if needed to get the system functional again. The comment also requested additional information on straight line winds and tornados in the proposed Project area and the likelihood of an outage from these types of adverse weather events and questioned if a climatic study had been completed for the proposed Project. One comment noted that no tornados have occurred in the Effie Variation area over the last 50 years based on the Minnesota Tornado History Project website.</p> <p><b>NERC Standards.</b> One comment noted that an analysis for the proposed Project would be on a case-by-case basis based on the applicable NERC standards as well as the purpose and expected performance of the proposed Project and adjacent transmission line.</p> <p><b>Other Transmission Lines.</b> One comment expressed concern that the adverse effects of paralleling different types of transmission lines was not adequately discussed in terms of electrical system reliability. One comment expressed concern that crossing the existing Manitoba-U.S. tie transmission lines will increase adverse effects on system reliability. One comment expressed concern that there is an increased risk of outages for the Effie Variation and East Bear Lake Variation which parallel three Manitoba tie transmission lines. One comment expressed concern that routes and variations that increase the parallel distance or number of crossings with the proposed Project and the existing 500 kV line could have a negative impact on electrical system reliability.</p>
<p><b>Mitigation</b></p>	<p><b>Forest Compensation.</b> One comment requested that for forest impacts that do not require compensatory mitigation under existing federal and/or state regulations, the Applicant undertake voluntary forest compensation for permanent and temporary tree losses due to construction and operation of the proposed Project.</p> <p><b>USFWS Interest Lands.</b> One comment requested that if there are unavoidable impacts to USFWS Interest Lands, there must be mitigation that is separate from mitigation for impacts to listed species, important wildlife resources, and migratory bird resources. The comment also noted that a final ROW permit will be granted after mitigation for impacts to USFWS Interest Lands has been completed and accepted by the USFWS.</p> <p><b>Temporary Access Roads.</b> One comment expressed concern that temporary access roads need to be identified and plans need to be developed for restoration and possibly mitigation depending on anticipated impacts.</p>
<p><b>Cumulative Impacts</b></p>	<p><b>Cumulative Effects.</b> One comment requested that the EIS not mention the</p>

Subject Area	Comment Summary
	Mesaba Project because it is believed that project is not going to occur.
<b>Project Opinion</b>	<p><b>Project Opinion.</b> A few comments noted that they are in favor of the proposed Project. Several comments noted that they are not in favor of the proposed Project. One comment noted that people should submit comments since no interveners were present at the public meeting. Several comments noted that they preferred particular alternatives or were against particular alternatives. Several comments noted that they would like the proposed Project to avoid their property. One comment noted that the proposed Project could go over the location of a future home site. One comment noted that power lines going through the forest are a good thing.</p>

**Table Y-7 Summary of Substantive Changes to the Draft EIS**

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
<b>Front Matter</b>	Update cover sheet and table of contents.
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated mining leases.</li> <li>• Add text to indicate active state mineral leases for the Proposed Orange Route and the East Bear Lake Variation.</li> <li>• Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor.</li> <li>• Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining.</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation (instead of Blackberry Substation, which was used in the Draft EIS).</li> </ul>
<b>1. Introduction and Regulatory Framework</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add information regarding Presidential permit expiration date.</li> <li>• Add discussion of Manitoba Hydro's concerns with alternate border crossings.</li> <li>• Add discussion of when MPCA staff needs to review the project SWPPP.</li> <li>• Add information regarding Minnesota Rule 7850.4700 (Delay in Route or Site Construction).</li> <li>• Add information regarding when MN PUC's Certificate of Need was granted.</li> <li>• Add text to explain purpose and requirements of state conservation easement agreements.</li> <li>• Revise text to indicate USFWS has identified its recommended route.</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> </ul>
<b>2. Proposed Project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add information to provide additional discussion of public access.</li> <li>• Add date that the Applicant filed required sensitivity studies and other reliability-related reports to DOE.</li> <li>• Add information about refueling equipment and handling of other hazardous materials in wetlands.</li> <li>• Add information regarding MnDOT coordination for highway access.</li> <li>• Add statement clarifying relationship between location of the Series Compensation Station and Applicant-proposed routes.</li> <li>• Add text clarifying that the Applicant operates transmission and distribution systems.</li> <li>• Add text describing the additional power transfers a new 500 kV transmission line could facilitate.</li> <li>• Add text regarding electrical reliability impacts of establishing a parallel transmission corridor.</li> <li>• Add text stating that details of construction methods may change based on field surveys.</li> <li>• Add the Applicant's purpose for the proposed Project.</li> <li>• Add the date the Renewable Optimization Agreement was approved.</li> <li>• Amend discussion of anticipated construction start date.</li> <li>• Clarify text on the applicant's purchase option agreement for the preferred 500 kV Series Compensation Station site.</li> <li>• Clarify text on the applicant's purchase option agreements for other properties.</li> <li>• Incorporate updated construction cost information from the Applicant.</li> <li>• Revise discussion of the overall transmission line midpoint location.</li> <li>• Revise text to change the starting location of the proposed Project from the Riel Substation to the Dorsey Substation.</li> </ul>

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise text to refer to the series compensation station as "preferred" rather than "candidate."</li> <li>• Revise text to update total transfer capability amount.</li> <li>• Revise the description for the location of the Applicant's preferred series compensation station site and stated that if alternatives other than the Applicant's proposed routes were selected, a new site for the 500 kV Series Compensation Station may need to be identified.</li> <li>• Revise the text for total capacity for the proposed Project from 750 MW to 883 MW.</li> <li>• Update acreage permanently impacted by the 500 kV Series Compensation Station.</li> <li>• Update acreage that new 500kV substation would be expected to permanently impact.</li> <li>• Update information about the status of the MN PUC's Certificate of Need Process and related written order.</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> </ul>
<b>3. No Action Alternative</b>	Add the date the Renewable Optimization Agreement was approved.
<b>4. Route and Alignment Alternatives Proposed During Scoping</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise cost estimates per new Applicant-provided information.</li> <li>• Revise text regarding avoiding USFWS land.</li> <li>• Revise text to use terminology "avoidance of non-ferrous mineral area."</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Affected Environmental and Potential Impacts</b>	
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases.</li> <li>• Revise Human Settlement Maps for each Section to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases."</li> <li>• Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor.</li> <li>• Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" mining leases.</li> <li>• Revise maps to include location of residence.</li> <li>• Revise maps with information from the MnDNR to show additional conservation easement parcels.</li> <li>• Revise text to clarify if there are active state mineral leases in the variation areas.</li> <li>• Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers.</li> <li>• Modify text regarding substation perimeter wall.</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> </ul>
<b>Human Settlement</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Noise</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update text with Applicant-provided information related to noise levels from operation of the proposed transmission line and Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> <li>• Update Table 5-4 with analysis provided by the Applicant.</li> <li>• Update values in Table 5-5 with analysis provided by the Applicant.</li> <li>• Modify discussion of predicted noise levels from the proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation to nearest sensitive receptors (residences).</li> </ul>
<b>Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Climate Change</b>	Add estimates of construction criteria pollutant and CO2 emissions. Revised text to address total loss of carbon sink during construction.
<b>Property Values</b>	No changes are made to this section.

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<b>EIS Section</b>	<b>Revision(s) to Draft EIS</b>
<b>Electronic Interference</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Transportation and Public Services</b>	Update text to reflect airstrip located near Roseau Lake WMA Variation Area 1.

<b>EIS Section</b>	<b>Revision(s) to Draft EIS</b>
<b>Environmental Justice</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Socioeconomics</b>	Update text to reflect the source of the labor pool for construction workers.
<b>Recreation and Tourism</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Electric and Magnetic Fields</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise Tables 5-21 and 5-22 per Applicant-provided information.</li> <li>• Revise text related to EMF modeling scenarios and results based on updated modeling results provided by the Applicant.</li> <li>• Modify text describing studies for childhood leukemia and EMF exposure.</li> </ul>
<b>Implantable Medical Devices</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Stray Voltage</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Induced Voltage</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Intentional Destructive Acts</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Environmental Contamination</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Worker Health and Safety Considerations</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Aesthetics</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Land Use Compatibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify two North American Wetland Conservation Act federal aid parcels as part of the Roseau Lake WMA.</li> <li>• Identify two federal aid parcels as part of the Silver Creek WMA.</li> <li>• Include discussion of impacts resulting from increased public accessibility as a result of the construction of access roads.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Values</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Agriculture</b>	Revise footprint area for structures.
<b>Forestry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove text describing the potential for harvested forest products by increasing time between line maintenance in forested areas.</li> <li>• Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers.</li> </ul>
<b>Mining and Mineral Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update text to provide information regarding geophysical detection of mineral resources.</li> <li>• Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" leases.</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add discussion of natural and cultural resources as provided by Bois Forte (Nett Lake) Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe.</li> </ul>
<b>Water Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add discussion of when MPCA staff needs to review the project SWPPP.</li> <li>• Add discussion of Section 401 Water Quality Certification.</li> </ul>
<b>Vegetation</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Wildlife</b>	Add text regarding Executive Order 13186 and the MOU between USFWS and DOE.
<b>Rare and Unique Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update tables and text with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.</li> <li>• Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.</li> <li>• Revise footprint area for structures.</li> </ul>
<b>Corridor Sharing</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Electrical System Reliability</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add discussion regarding relationship between crossing spans and outages.</li> <li>• Changed text regarding offsets between parallel transmission lines. Revise</li> </ul>

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
	<p>text to identify that the applicable Category D contingencies are in NERC standard TPL-044.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update text describing unexpected outage contingency.</li> </ul>
<b>Costs of Constructing, Operating, and Maintaining the Facility which are Dependent on Design and Route</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>6. Comparative Environmental Consequences</b>	
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update impact footprint of self-supporting suspension towers.</li> <li>• Update text to include information from traditional properties surveys conducted by the Bois Forte Band.</li> <li>• Revise maps with information from the MnDNR to show additional conservation easement parcels.</li> <li>• Add clarification that Balsam Variation would be located in an abandoned corridor, not paralleling an abandoned corridor.</li> <li>• Add discussion of impact minimization to the Nature Conservancy's Black River portfolio site in the C2 Segment Option Variation.</li> <li>• Update name of substation to proposed Iron Range 500 kV Substation.</li> </ul>
<b>Aesthetics</b>	Update text and tables to reflect additional residences identified
<b>Land Use Compatibility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update tables in Land Use Compatibility Sections with total acres of land in the ROW, along with acres of public and private land in the ROW for each alternative.</li> <li>• Add location of gravel pit to Map 6-46.</li> <li>• Revise Map 6-61 to identify structure as residence.</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Forestry</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Mining and Mineral Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Change term "inactive" leases to "expired/terminated" leases.</li> <li>• Update tables to reference State Mineral Leases (active and/or expired/terminated).</li> <li>• Revise text for each variation area to identify if there are any active and/or expired/terminated leases.</li> <li>• Remove reference to expired/terminated leases being "held" by companies.</li> <li>• Add text to indicate active state mineral leases for the Proposed Orange Route and the East Bear Lake Variation.</li> <li>• Add text to address the reduction of geophysical resource detection risk.</li> <li>• Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining.</li> </ul>
<b>Archaeology and Historic Architectural Resources</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Water Resources</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Vegetation</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Wildlife</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Rare and Unique Natural Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update tables and text with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.</li> <li>• Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.</li> </ul>

EIS Section	Revision(s) to Draft EIS
<b>Corridor Sharing</b>	Revise text in tables and footnotes in figures to provide clarity.
<b>Costs of Constructing, Operating, and Maintaining the Facility which are Dependent on Design and Route</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Revise cost estimates per new Applicant-provided information.</li> <li>• Update cost discussions to clarify these are average costs per mile.</li> </ul>
<b>Relative Merits Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update text describing methodology used for developing relative merits tables.</li> <li>• Updated relative merits tables utilizing methodology described in text.</li> <li>• Add explanation of cost differences in relative merits tables.</li> </ul>
<b>Alignment Modifications</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Hops</b>	Update acreage that new 500kV substation would be expected to permanently impact.
<b>Associated Facilities</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>7. Cumulative and Other Resources</b>	Update text with information related to the Balsam Variation and mining.
<b>8. List of Preparers</b>	Update title of Table 8-1.
<b>9. Reference</b>	Add references for noise, magnetic field, and air quality. Revise date for MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.
<b>10. Acronyms</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>11. Index</b>	Update index to reflect Final EIS.
<b>Appendix A. Tribal Consultations</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix B. Route Permit Generic Template and Example</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix C. Narrative of the Scoping Summary Report</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix D. DOC-ERRA Scoping Decision</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix E. Route Analysis Data Tables</b>	Add total acres of mineral lease lands within the ROW and route width for each alternative.
<b>Appendix F. Rare Species Data Tables</b>	Update tables with revised (2015) MnDNR Natural Heritage Information System database.
<b>Appendix G. Rare Communities Data Tables</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix H. Noise Supplement</b>	Update with analysis provided by the Applicant.
<b>Appendix I. Applicant's Audible Noise and EMF Calculations</b>	Update with analysis provided by the Applicant.
<b>Appendix J. Property Values Supplement</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix K. EMF Supplement</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix L. Stray Voltage Supplement</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix M. MPCA What's in</b>	No changes are made to this section.

<b>EIS Section</b>	<b>Revision(s) to Draft EIS</b>
<b>My Neighborhood Sites</b>	
<b>Appendix N. Photo Simulations</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix O. Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) Example</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix P. Cultural Resources Report</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix Q. USFWS and DOE Section 7 Consultation</b>	Add the DOE letter that initiated formal consultation with the USFWS.
<b>Appendix R. Biological Assessment</b>	Add the Biological Assessment to Appendix R of the Final EIS.
<b>Appendix S. Detailed Map Books</b>	Revise Maps S-30 and S-100 to identify structures as residences.
<b>Appendix T. NEPA Disclosure</b>	No changes are made to this section.
<b>Appendix U. USFWS Information</b>	Add to document the USFWS agency-preferred alternative to Appendix U for the Final EIS.
<b>Appendix V. Draft Programmatic Agreement (PA)</b>	Add the Draft Programmatic Agreement to Appendix V for the Final EIS.
<b>Appendix W. Air Emissions Technical Memorandum</b>	Add construction emission calculations to Appendix W of the Final EIS.
<b>Appendix X. Relative Merits Tables</b>	Add information to introduce relative merits tables. Provided data in Appendix X used to compile summary relative merits tables used in the Final EIS.
<b>Appendix Y. Comments and Responses</b>	Add Appendix Y for Final EIS.
<b>Appendix Z. EIS Distribution List</b>	Add Appendix Z for Final EIS.

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## **Attachment A**

### **GNTL EIS NOA Published in the Federal Register**

approved application and budget; and, if the Secretary has established performance measurement requirements, the performance targets in the grantee's approved application. In making a continuation grant, the Secretary also considers whether the grantee is operating in compliance with the assurances in its approved application, including those applicable to Federal civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination in programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance from the Department (34 CFR 100.4, 104.5, 106.4, 108.8, and 110.23).

**VII. Agency Contact**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Shedita Alston, U.S. Department of Education, Model Comprehensive and Transition Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities, 1990 K Street NW., Room 6131, Washington, DC 20006-8524. Telephone: (202) 502-7808, or by email: [shedita.alston@ed.gov](mailto:shedita.alston@ed.gov).

If you use a TDD or a TTY, call the FRS, toll free, at 1-800-877-8339.

**VIII. Other Information**

**Accessible Format:** Individuals with disabilities can obtain this document and a copy of the application package in an accessible format (e.g., braille, large print, audiotape, or compact disc) on request to the program contact person listed under **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT** in section VII of this notice.

**Electronic Access to This Document:** The official version of this document is the document published in the **Federal Register**. Free Internet access to the official edition of the **Federal Register** and the Code of Federal Regulations is available via the Federal Digital System at: [www.gpo.gov/fdsys](http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys). At this site you can view this document, as well as all other documents of this Department published in the **Federal Register**, in text or Adobe Portable Document Format (PDF). To use PDF, you must have Adobe Acrobat Reader, which is available free at the site. You may also access documents of the Department published in the **Federal Register** by using the article search feature at: [www.federalregister.gov](http://www.federalregister.gov). Specifically, through the advanced search feature at this site, you can limit your search to documents published by the Department.

**Delegation of Authority:** The Secretary of Education has delegated authority to Jamienne S. Studley, Deputy Under Secretary, to perform the functions and duties of the Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education.

Dated: June 23, 2015.  
**Jamienne S. Studley,**  
*Deputy Under Secretary.*  
[FR Doc. 2015-15784 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]  
**BILLING CODE 4000-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

[OE Docket No. PP-398]

**Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Announcement of Public Hearings for the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) Project**

**AGENCY:** U.S. Department of Energy.  
**ACTION:** Notice of availability and public hearings.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announces the availability of the "Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement" (DOE/EIS-0499) for public review and comment. DOE is also announcing eight public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIS. The Draft EIS evaluates the environmental impacts of DOE's proposed Federal action of issuing a Presidential permit to the Applicant: Minnesota Power, a regulated utility division of ALLETE, Inc., to construct, operate, maintain, and connect a new electric transmission line across the U.S./Canada border in northern Minnesota. It also addresses the potential human and environmental impacts of the project, and possible mitigation measures, including route, alignment, and site alternatives required for a transmission line route permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission under the Minnesota Power Plant Siting Act.

The EIS was jointly prepared by DOE with the Minnesota Department of Commerce—Environmental Energy Review and Analysis (MN DOC-EERA) acting as state co-lead in order to avoid duplication, and to comply with the environmental review requirements under both federal and state regulations. Region 5 of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), the St. Paul

District Office of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the Twin Cities Ecology Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) are cooperating agencies in preparing the GNTL Project EIS.

**DATES:** DOE invites interested Members of Congress, state and local governments, other Federal agencies, American Indian tribal governments, organizations, and members of the public to provide comments on the Draft EIS during the 45-day public comment period. The public comment period starts on June 26, 2015, with the publication in the **Federal Register** by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency of its Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS, and will continue until August 10, 2015. Written and oral comments will be given equal weight and all comments received or postmarked by that date will be considered by DOE in preparing the Final EIS. Comments received or postmarked after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Locations, dates, and start time for the public hearings are listed in the **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** section of this NOA.

**ADDRESSES:** Requests to provide oral comments at the public hearings may be made at the time of the hearing(s).

Written comments on the Draft EIS may be provided on the GNTL EIS Web site at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org/> (preferred) or addressed to Dr. Julie A. Smith, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20585; by electronic mail to [Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov); or by facsimile to 202-318-7761.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Dr. Julie A. Smith at the addresses above, or at 202-586-7668.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Joint federal-state public hearings and information meetings will consist of the formal taking of comments with transcription by a court reporter. The hearings will provide interested parties the opportunity to make comments for consideration by DOE and MN DOC-EERA in the preparation of the Final EIS.

The locations, dates, and starting times of the public hearings are listed in the table below:

Location	Date and time	Address
Roseau Civic Center .....	July 15, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ....	121 Center Street E., Roseau, MN.
Lake of the Woods School ..	July 15, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. ....	236 15th Ave. SW., Baudette, MN.
Littlefork Community Center	July 16, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ....	220 Main Street, Littlefork, MN.

Location	Date and time	Address
AmericInn .....	July 16, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. ....	1500 Hwy. 71, International Falls, MN.
Kelliher Old School Center ..	July 21, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ....	243 Clark Ave. N. (Hwy 72), Kelliher, MN.
Bigfork School .....	July 21, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. ....	100 Huskie Blvd., Bigfork, MN.
Timber Lake Lodge .....	July 22, 2015, 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ....	144 SE. 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN.
Timber Lake Lodge .....	July 22, 2015, 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. ....	144 SE. 17th Street, Grand Rapids, MN.

*Availability of the Draft EIS* Copies of the Draft EIS have been distributed to appropriate members of Congress, state and local government officials, American Indian tribal governments, and other Federal agencies, groups, and interested parties. Printed copies of the document may be obtained by contacting Dr. Smith at the above address. Copies of the Draft EIS and supporting documents are also available for inspection at the following locations:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW., Baudette, MN
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE., Blackduck, MN
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey, MN
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet, MN
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- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE., Warroad, MN
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams, MN

The Draft EIS is also available on the EIS Web site at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org/> and on the DOE NEPA Web site at <http://nepa.energy.gov/>.

Issued in Washington, DC on June 18, 2015.

**Eli Massey,**

*Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary, National Electricity Delivery Division, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability.*

[FR Doc. 2015-15625 Filed 6-25-15; 8:45 am]

**BILLING CODE 6450-01-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

**Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**Combined Notice of Filings #1**

Take notice that the Commission received the following electric rate filings:

*Docket Numbers:* ER10-1852-008; ER11-4462-009; ER10-1971-016.

*Applicants:* Florida Power & Light Company, NextEra Energy Power Marketing, LLC, NEPM II, LLC.

*Description:* Amendment to June 30, 2014 NextEra Companies' Triennial Market Power Update for the Southeast Region.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5173.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER14-2866-002.

*Applicants:* Louisville Gas and Electric Company.

*Description:* Compliance filing; Errata to Compliance Filing Attach O Rate Formula Protocols to be effective 1/1/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5126.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1668-001.

*Applicants:* Phoenix Energy Group, LLC.

*Description:* Tariff Amendment: Amended MBR Filing to be effective 6/5/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5081.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1943-000.

*Applicants:* Southwest Power Pool, Inc.

*Description:* Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Missouri River Energy Services Formula Rate to be effective 10/1/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5036.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1944-000.

*Applicants:* ISO New England Inc.

*Description:* ISO New England Inc. Resource Termination—Enerwise Global Technologies, Inc.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5058.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1945-000.

*Applicants:* PacifiCorp.

*Description:* Tariff Cancellation: Termination of West Valley A&R EIM Participation Construction Agmt Rev 1 to be effective 9/10/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5078.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1946-000.

*Applicants:* Public Service Company of New Mexico.

*Description:* Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Certificate of Concurrence to APS Rate Schedule No. 279 to be effective 5/21/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5084.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1947-000.

*Applicants:* Deseret Generation & Transmission Co-operative, Inc.

*Description:* Initial rate filing: WestConnect Regional PTP Tariff Filing to be effective 7/1/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5085.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1948-000.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc.

*Description:* Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 2015-06-18\_SA 2809 ITC Transmission-Deerfield Wind Energy GIA (J327) to be effective 6/19/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5140.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1949-000.

*Applicants:* Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., Ameren Illinois Company.

*Description:* Section 205(d) Rate Filing: 2015-06-18\_SA 2685

Attachment A Project Specs (Ameren-SIPC UCA) to be effective 5/18/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5170.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1950-000.

*Applicants:* Southern Power Company.

*Description:* Section 205(d) Rate Filing: Pawpaw PPA Filing to be effective 8/18/2015.

*Filed Date:* 6/18/15.

*Accession Number:* 20150618-5172.

*Comments Due:* 5 p.m. ET 7/9/15.

*Docket Numbers:* ER15-1951-000.

*Applicants:* New York Power Authority.

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**Attachment B**

**GNTL EIS NOA Posted on PUC Docket No. ET015/TL-14-21**



Issued: June 19, 2015

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

**In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties**

**PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
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Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
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Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through **Monday, August 10, 2015**. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-539-0109 | [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20585  
Fax: 202-586-1472 | [juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> and/or <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?Id=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnortherneis.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

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- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

**Project Description.** Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOC EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**State Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power’s route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O’Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O’Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power’s application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

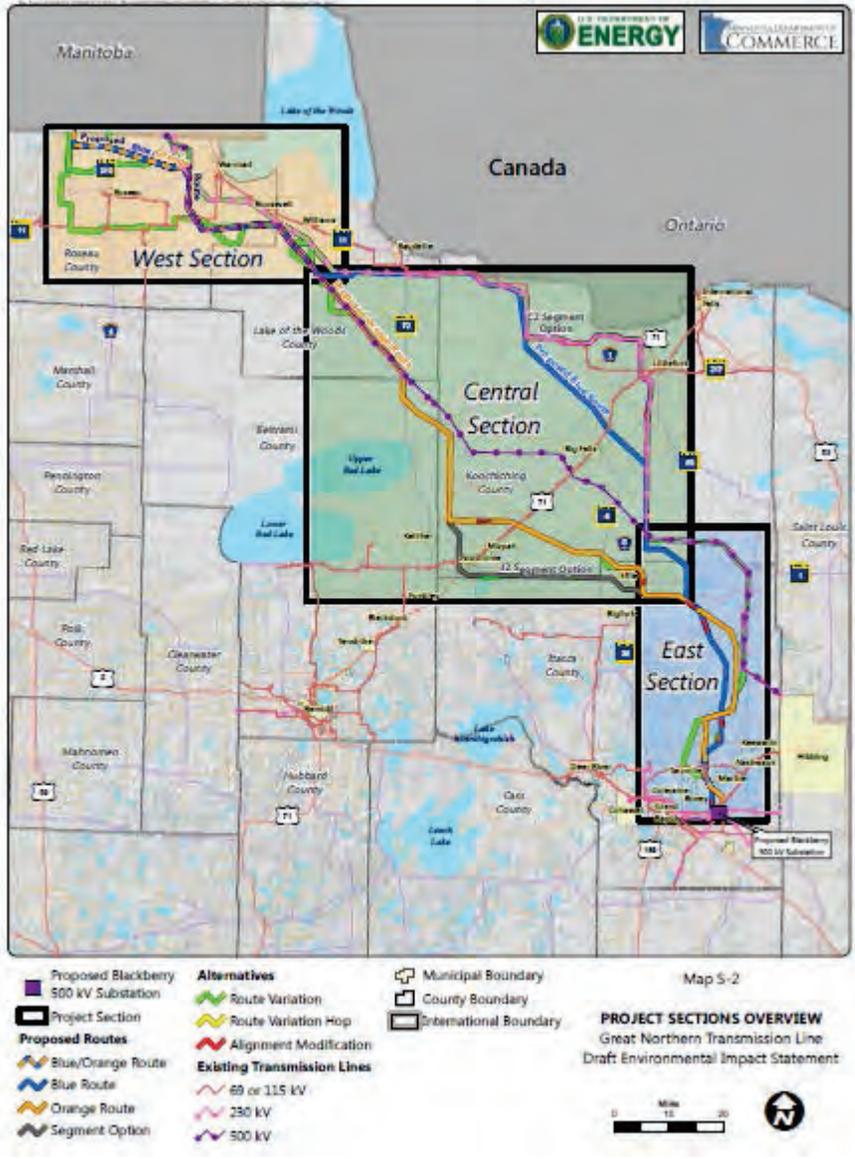
**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

**Subscribe to the Docket.** In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select “Subscribe to a Docket,” and follow the prompts. Note – subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE’s Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; [juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

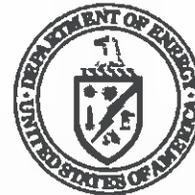
This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.



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## Attachment C

### Example Newspaper NOA



Ex 78

Issued: June 19, 2015

### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21  
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Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Fax: 651-539-0109 | [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

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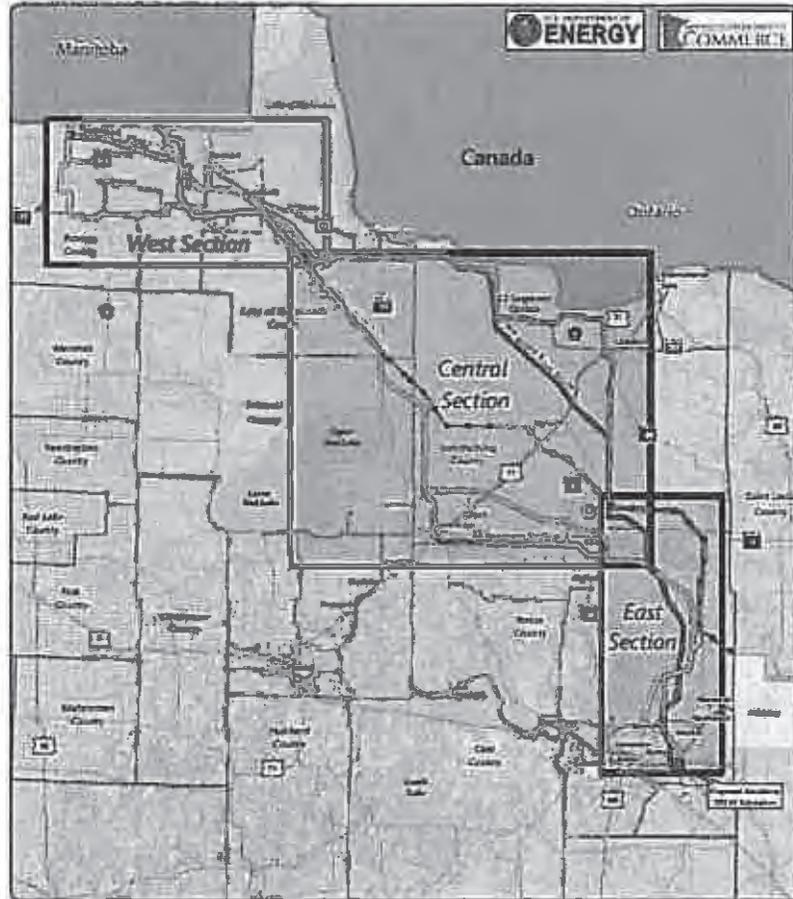


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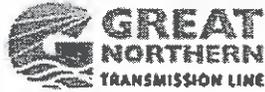
Map S-2

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Proposed Electricity 500 kV Substation</li> <li> Project Section</li> <li> Proposed Route</li> <li> Blue/Orange Route</li> <li> Blue Route</li> <li> Orange Route</li> <li> Segment Option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Alternatives</b></li> <li> Route Variation</li> <li> Route Variation Hop</li> <li> Alignment Modification</li> <li> Existing Transmission Lines</li> <li> 6 or 115 kV</li> <li> 230 kV</li> <li> 500 kV</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Municipal Boundary</li> <li> County Boundary</li> <li> International Boundary</li> </ul>
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**PROJECT SECTIONS OVERVIEW**  
Great Northern Transmission Line  
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

0 10 20 Miles





STATE OF MINNESOTA                    )  
   ) ss AFFIDAVIT OF MAILING  
 COUNTY OF ST. LOUIS                 )

RE: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
 State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings  
 for the Great Northern Transmission Line

MPUC Docket No. B-015/TL-14-21

Danny Cosgrove, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: "I am a United States Citizen, over 21 years of age, employed by ALLETE and am the Supervisor, Office Services and provided printing services for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project"

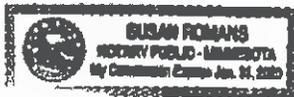
In compliance with Minnesota Stat. § 216E.03, subdivision 4 and Minnesota Rules 7850.2100, subdivision 2.C, ALLETE mailed by United States Postal Service on June 24, 2015, a letter to Landowners regarding the Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings for the Great Northern Transmission Line.

  
 Danny Cosgrove, Supervisor

Subscribed and sworn before me  
 this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015.

  
 Susan Romans, Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 1/31/2020





## Draft DEIS Meetings

### Legal Notice

Outlet	Location	Submission Deadline	Run Date
Grand Rapids Herald-Review	Grand Rapids, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 3pm	Wednesday, July 1st
International Falls Journal	International Falls, MN Koochiching County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Saturday, June 27th & Wednesday, July 1st
Roseau Times-Region	Roseau, MN Roseau County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Friday, June 26th Actual: Saturday, July 4th
Scenic Range News Forum	Bovey, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 4pm	Thursday July 2nd
The American	Blackduck, MN Beltrami County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Friday, June 26th Actual: Friday, July 3rd
The Hibbing Daily Tribune	Hibbing, MN St Louis County	Monday, June 29th - 11am	Wednesday, July 1st
The Littlefork Times	Littlefork, MN Koochiching County	Tuesday, June 30th - 2pm	Wednesday, July 1st
Northome Area News	Northome, MN Koochiching County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Anticipated: Thursday July 2nd Actual: N/A
Northern Light Region	Baudette, MN Lake of the Woods County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Wednesday, July 1st
Warroad Pioneer	Warroad, MN Roseau County	Thursday, June 25th - 12pm	Tuesday, June 30
Western Itasca Review	Deer River, MN Itasca County	Monday, June 29th - 12pm	Thursday, July 2nd
Red Lake Nation News (Tribal)	Red Lake, MN Red Lake County	Wednesday, June 24th	Anticipated: Tuesday, June 30 <sup>th</sup> Actual: N/A
Bois Forte News (Tribal)	Lilydale, MN Dakota County	Monday, June 15 <sup>th</sup>	Anticipated: Monthly – July Issue Actual: N/A
Anishinaabeg Today - White Earth (Tribal)	White Earth, MN Becker County	Wednesday, June 24th	Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1 <sup>st</sup> Actual: N/A
The Bemidji Pioneer	Beltrami County	Wednesday, June 24th - 4:30pm	Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1 <sup>st</sup> Actual: Friday, July 3rd

*Please note these are subject to change a day or two since this is a holiday week.*



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Warroad Pioneer

**Location:** Warroad, MN, Roseau County

**Actual:** Tuesday June 30, 2015



**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

State of Minnesota

County of Roseau

Shelley Galle, being duly sworn, on oath says that she is an authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as THE WARROAD PIONEER and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07 and other applicable laws, as amended.

B) The advertisement, which is either attached as cut from the columns of said newspaper or emailed from the online version of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for 1 successive week(s); it was first published on Tuesday, the 20th day of June, 2015, and was thereafter printed and published on every Tuesday to and including Tuesday, the      day of N/A, 2015; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

Shelley Galle  
Shelley Galle, Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn before me on this 20th day of June, 2015.

Rebecca A. Calder  
Notary Public

Article Title: Notice of availability of env. impact

Client: HDR Engineering

Copy is:      attached  emailed  
Serial #26321





**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT,  
STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties**

**PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods and Roseau. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Avenue SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main Street	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Koochiching	International Falls	Armstrong 1500 Highway 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Beltrami	Kelleyher	Kelleyher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-529-0109 | [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20585  
Fax: 202-585-1472 | [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthern.eis.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energy/facilities/Docket.html#id=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <https://greatnorthern.eis.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search Dockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 3, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

**Project Description.** Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OER), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Route Permit.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE DERA and the DOE have prepared a single DRS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**State Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

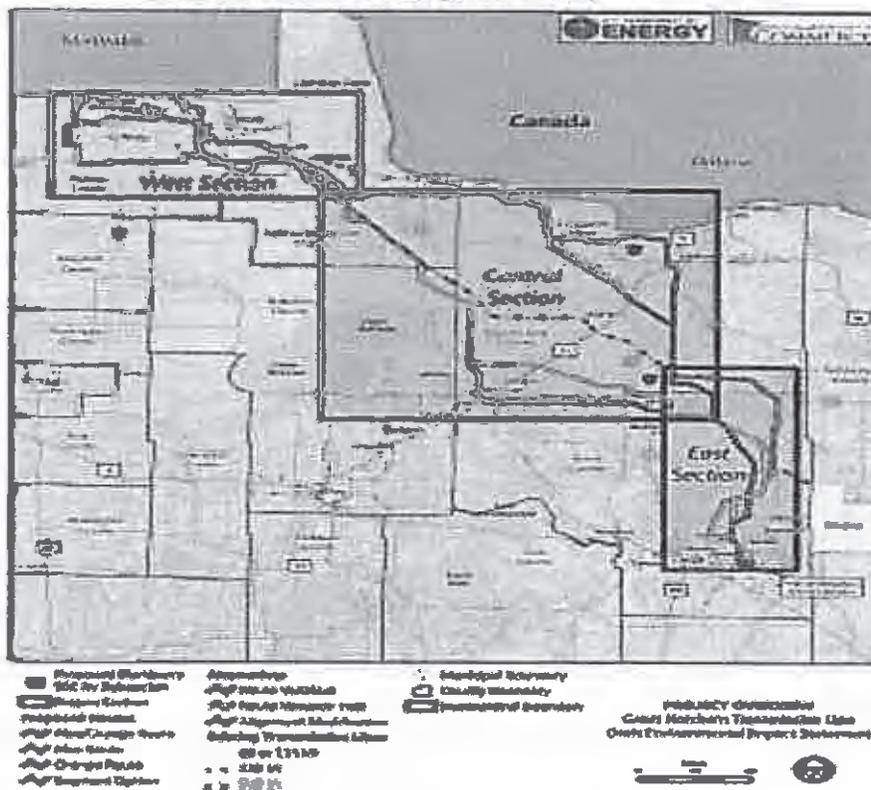
**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

**Subscribe to the Docket.** In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket" and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1884 or 1-800-657-3794, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, [comsupuc@state.mn.us](mailto:comsupuc@state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Scenic Range News Forum

**Location:** Bovey, MN Itasca County

**Actual:** Thursday, July 2, 2015



314 2nd Street, Bovey, MN 55709  
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 70, Bovey, MN 55709  
 Phone: 218-245-1422 • Fax: 218-245-1698  
 E-Mail: Copy@ScenicRangeNewsForum.com

**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 ) ss.  
 COUNTY OF ITASCA )

Mary Beth Bily or Ronald A. Brochu, being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of the Scenic Range NewsForum, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.
2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.
3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied was published in the newspaper are as follows:  

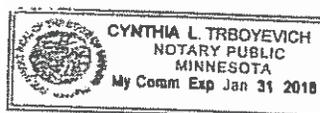
Thursday, July 2, 2015
4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$10.00 per column inch.
5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Itasca County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

*Mary Beth Bily*  
 Mary Beth Bily, Publisher or  
 Ronald A. Brochu, Business Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this

2nd Day of July, 2015.

*Cynthia L. Trbojevich*  
 (Notary Public)



**LEGAL NOTICES**

**ACCEPTING QUOTES**  
Quotes are being taken by the City of Nashwaak To buy the property located at the "Bozich Addition" Located 1/2 mile north of the city on the right side of Hwy. 65. Sealed bids must be submitted to the Clerk's office at 301 Central Ave in Nashwaak by July 10th at 2:00 p.m. Proof of liability insurance is required.

**NOTICE NASHWAUK CITY RESIDENTS MEETING TIME CHANGE**  
The Nashwaak City Council will meet the second and fourth Tuesdays of each Month at 5:30 p.m. at the Nashwaak City Hall.  
Pam LaBine, City Clerk  
City of Nashwaak

**Trout Lake Community Center**  
— Open —  
Tuesday • 4-7  
Wednesday • 3-6  
Thursday • 3-6  
For reservation information please call 245-1100.

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
In the Matter of the State Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

**PUC Docket No. FT015/TL-14-21**  
**DOE/EIS 0499**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public participation in the EIS.

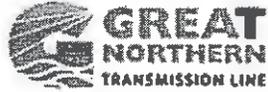
COUNTY	CITY	LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center, 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School, 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center, 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015, 11:00 am - 2:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Athleticon, 1400 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelby	Kelby Old School Center, 241 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Thursday, July 23, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School, 100 Waite Blvd	Thursday, July 23, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge, 144-853 7th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge, 144-853 7th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015, 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Comments on the EIS and the DOE Presidential permit application should be mailed, certified or hand-delivered to:  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20585  
Fax: 202-546-1972  
Information on the EIS and the DOE Presidential permit application is available at: [www.dco.state.mn.us](http://www.dco.state.mn.us)

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the EIS by the various interested parties. Information only used to be identified only to assist for some environmental review purposes. The DOE will not be responsible for any comments received on the EIS by the various interested parties. Comments received on the EIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

**Map:** A map showing the proposed transmission line route through Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The map includes a legend for various features like roads, water bodies, and project boundaries.

**www.exploremnnesota.com**



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** The Bemidji Pioneer

**Location:** Beltrami County

**Actual:** Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1, 2015

**Actual:** Friday, July 3, 2015

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

[FORM Rev. 6/15]

STATE OF MINNESOTA }  
COUNTY OF BELTRAMI } SS

DENNIS DOEDEN, being duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of THE BEMIDJI PIONEER or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the attached HDR, Inc/Notice of Availability

was published in the newspaper are as follows:

7/3

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: \$10.65. The rate actually charged in this matter: \$8.00

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in BELTRAMI County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT



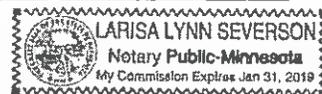
[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

This 6th day of July, 2015.



Notary Public



## LEADS



## LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Issued: June 18, 2015

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

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COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
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Koochiching	International Falls	American Falls 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 8:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 108 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
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Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following the meeting, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce

57th Place East, Suite 500

St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

ax: 651-539-0109 | bill.storm@state.mn.us

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager

DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

800 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC, 20585

ax: 202-586-1472 | juliea.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> or <http://www.greatnorthernels.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/Docket.html?id=34161>, as well as on the DOE EIS website: <http://www.greatnorthernels.org>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("1"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Lake Public Library, 309 Alton Avenue, Marble Lake

## BUSINESS

# Duluth forges ahead with Cirrus facility

City to pay for drawings, even as work on development agreement continues

PETER PASSI  
Forum News Service

**DULUTH** — The city of Duluth is rushing ahead with plans to build a new facility for Cirrus Aircraft in order to meet the needs of the fast-growing company and cash in on its pledge to bring at least another 150 jobs to town on top of the 600-or-so people it already employs locally.

So eager are city officials to land those jobs that they have agreed to open Duluth's wallet even before a development agreement for the project has been inked.

To develop drawings, Duluth has hired the architectural and engineering firm of Burns & McDonnell at a cost not to exceed \$456,500.

Bill King, Cirrus' vice president of business administration, said Cirrus is eager to expand into the proposed 60,000-square-foot facility as the company prepares to launch production of its first jet, the Vision SF50.

Chris Eng, Duluth's director of business and economic development, said he hopes construction of the building will begin by October. He expects the structure, made of precast concrete panels, will go up quickly and be ready for occupancy by April or May.

**MECHANICS OF THE DEAL**  
All told, the city expects

out the new plant.

The building would be owned by the city, but Cirrus is expected to sign a long-term lease that would be used to pay off tax-increment financing bonds issued to finance the project.

Assuming Cirrus gets its new facility, it won't be the first time it has received help growing operations in Duluth. In 2002, it moved into a 63,000-square-foot "aviation incubator" building constructed with the help of \$3.5 million from the federal Economic Development Administration, \$3.1 million from the city of Duluth and \$2 million from the Duluth Economic Development Authority.

## LONG-TERM COMMITMENT

Cirrus is now owned by an entity called China Aviation Industry General Aircraft, and 4th District City Councillor Howie Hanson asked whether there was a danger of the company moving production to its owner's home nation in time.

King said such fears are unfounded.

"They did not buy us to move us. If they were going to do that, they would have 3½ to 4 years ago before they invested over \$100 million in additional new funds to bring a jet to market in the U.S.," he said. "This is the single biggest

ng, 500 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in i County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids a County.

ject also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.  
**Final Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a final permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental impacts of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

ar to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations. EERA evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The DEIS is published and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The DEIS is published in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015. Hearings will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, submit comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below). Write to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the instructions. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact the environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, [bill.storm@mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-236-0408 or 1-800-657-3782, [tracy.smetana@mn.us](mailto:tracy.smetana@mn.us)).

**Final Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7666; [julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov)). Document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 1-800-1630.



The city's match of \$4 million will come from tax-increment financing — a form of subsidy that uses new taxes generated by a project to cover certain development costs.

For its part, Cirrus expects to invest more than \$2.5 million to equip and fit

day opening Chinese manufacturing operations.

"We don't doubt we'll produce airplanes in China someday. I hope we do," King said. "But the air space isn't open there, and there's no one to sell them to if there's no air space open."

## Convicted murderer Daniel Hood indicted in N.M. prison killing

SUSAN LUNNEBERG  
Forum News Service

LAS CRUCES, N.M. — Convicted as a teenager in Minnesota's Kandiyohi County of murdering two people, Daniel Thomas Hood, 34, has been indicted in the killing of another inmate in a New Mexico correctional facility.

Hood is charged with first-degree murder and possession of a deadly weapon or explosive by a prisoner, according to New Mexico court records.

The New Mexico State Police Investigations Bureau conducted the investigation into the murder of Frank Pauline, who was found April 27 in a very remote section of the recreation yard at the Southern New Mexico Correctional Facility in Las Cruces, a news release from the New Mexico Department of Public Safety said.

Hood confessed to the murder and said it was because he thought Pauline was a snitch and walked around like he owned the place, the news release states.

Pauline died on his 42nd birthday, according to several media reports.

Hood was 17 years old when he was sentenced in 1998 in Kandiyohi County District Court to life plus 25 years for first-degree premeditated murder and second-degree murder for the Oct. 27, 1996, shooting deaths of Bruce Johnson, 51, and Grace Christiansen, 81, neighbors from New London.

Hood, formerly of Spicer, was 15 when he was arrested and jailed. Hood had been on

the run from house arrest ordered after he stole his grandmother's car when he spotted Johnson and Christiansen, working in a field at Christiansen's home, according to an archived story in the West Central Tribune of Willmar. He asked them for a ride to Willmar. They agreed to take him to New London. At some point, Johnson realized Hood was a runaway and Hood pulled a gun that he had stolen.

Hood forced the two to drive on back roads until arriving at a cornfield south of Willmar, where Hood told them to walk into the field. Johnson turned and tackled Hood, and Hood fired several shots and killed him. Christiansen knelt on the ground, "praying and begging for mercy," and Hood shot her twice and killed her, the archived story states.

The Minnesota Department of Corrections says only that Hood is currently incarcerated and is housed at a non-DOC facility. The Albuquerque Journal quoted New Mexico Department of Corrections spokeswoman Alex Tomlin saying that Hood has been in the New Mexico prison system under an interstate compact since 2002.

Pauline also was transferred to the New Mexico prison under an interstate compact in December 2012 to serve out his 180-year sentence, Tomlin told the Albuquerque Journal.

Pauline was one of three men convicted in the 1991 Christmas Eve kidnapping, rape and murder of a woman in Hawaii, according to a story in the Hawaii Tribune-Herald.



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** International Falls Journal

**Location:** International Falls, MN Koochiching County

**Actual:** Saturday, June 27 and Wednesday, July 1, 2015



**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF MINNESOTA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF KOOCHICHING )

Robert Davenport, being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as The Journal, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

(A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws, as amended.

(B) The printed Public Notice ~ Minnesota Department of COMMERCE

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once each week, for Two consecutive times; It was first published on Wednesday, the 24th day of June, 20 15, and was thereafter printed and published on Saturday, the 27th day of June, 20 15; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY: [Signature]  
TITLE: Publisher

Subscribed and sworn to before me on  
this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 20 15.  
[Signature]  
Notary Public



**RATE INFORMATION**

- (1) Lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Line, word, or inch rate)
- (2) Maximum rate allowed by law for the above matter \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Line, word, or inch rate)
- (3) Rate actually charged for the above Matter \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Line, word, or inch rate)

## Public Notice



Issued: June 19, 2015



### NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties  
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY/TOWNSHIP	MEETING LOCATION	DATE/TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Litohack	Litohack Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Armatron 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kellogg	Kellogg Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Sigfork	Sigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment. Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

William Cole Stern, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Fax: 651-639-0109 | [wcole.stern@state.mn.us](mailto:wcole.stern@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1100 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20505

Fax: 202-594-1472 | [julie.smith@doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/comm/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.projectgreatnorthern.org>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means outlined above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/comm/energy/facilities/locations/DocketItem?d=04> (R), as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://greatnorthern.org>

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets", enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search".

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

• Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette

- Mankato Public Library, 302 Allen Avenue, Mankato
- Northome Public Library, 12254 Main Street, Northome
- Roswell Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 103, Roswell
- Warroad Public Library, 207 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 203 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

**Project Description.** Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 230-mile long, 500 kVAC transmission line that would cross the international border in Russian Ojibwa and depending on final route, would cut across Belknap, Hubbard and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) (MPL) a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local government agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**State Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notices of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's Application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

**Subscribe to the Docket.** In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (851-639-1844 or 1-800-657-3764, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Swanson (851-285-0426 or 1-800-657-3762, [consum@puc.state.mn.us](mailto:consum@puc.state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-586-7888; [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-639-1530.





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** The American

**Location:** Blackduck, MN Beltrami County

**Actual:** Anticipated: Friday, June 26, 2015    Actual: Friday, July 3, 2015

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

[FORM Rev. 6/15]

STATE OF MINNESOTA }  
COUNTY OF BELTRAMI } SS

DENNIS DOEDEN, being duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of THE BLACKDUCK AMERICAN or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the attached HDR, Inc/Notice of Availability

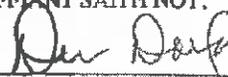
was published in the newspaper are as follows:

7/3

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to §331A.06, is as follows: \$10.65. The rate actually charged in this matter: \$8.00

5. Mortgage Foreclosure Notices. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in BELTRAMI County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

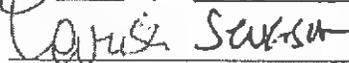
FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.



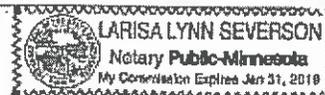
[Signature]

Subscribed and sworn to before me on

This 6th day of July, 2015



Notary Public



Classifieds | Community

**HELP WANTED TECHNOLOGY**

**HELP WANTED TECHNOLOGY**

**Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS**  
Telecommunications Technician  
Grand Rapids, MN Office

Your primary tasks will include:

- Installation and maintenance of residential/business voice, data and internet services
- Responsibility for entering Go-Cat data
- Must be able to work Saturday's and overtime as needed

Our ideal candidate will possess:

- 2 year Telecommunications, Broadband, Computer, Electrical or related degree
- Power Line of Technicians license
- Knowledge of P-Net and PDR systems
- Knowledge of fiber optic and copper cabling plant

Paul Bunyan Communications offers a competitive salary and benefits package, while working for a stable, future employer. To apply, send a written resume, including e-mail address, salary requirements by July 10th to:

Human Resources  
Paul Bunyan Communications  
1831 Acacia St. NW - Suite 100  
Grand Rapids, MN 55740

or email a PDF of your resume to [employment@paulbunyan.com](mailto:employment@paulbunyan.com) with the subject line "TECH".

PBC is an equal opportunity employer  
[www.paulbunyan.com](http://www.paulbunyan.com)

**GIGAZONE**

**Paul Bunyan COMMUNICATIONS**  
Tier II Data Services Representative  
Bemidji MN office  
Onsite, full time position located in the heart of Minnesota's woods and lake country

Responsibilities are: vary depending upon the qualifications person hold, but may include:

- Providing end user advanced level support to internal and external customers
- Installation, configuration, and maintenance of a variety of servers and networks
- Technical skills, design, and engineering

Qualifications include:

- High school diploma plus successful completion of post-secondary education or technical military training - A year degree course with an associate's degree is also required
- In addition, any of the following attributes are desirable:
  - Passion for learning and technology
  - Strong work ethic
  - Outstanding communication skills with the ability to interact positively with technical and non-technical people
  - Technical support experience
  - Technical skills assessment
  - Basic knowledge of PC hardware hardware

**NOTICES**

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**  
Issued June 18, 2015  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
in the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties  
PUC Docket No. ETO15/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 049

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the EIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Beltrami	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 123 Center Street S 1st Floor	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Brainerd	Office of the Woods School 716 1st Street SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Urbanshaw	Urbanshaw Community Center 320 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	International Falls 1502 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Malabar	Malabar High School Center 353 Oak Avenue N (Highway 74)	Friday, July 17, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Highway	Highway School 200 Highway Blvd	Friday, July 17, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Woods Lake Lodge 144 St. Johns Street	Monday, July 20, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Woods Lake Lodge 144 St. Johns Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 8:00 am - 10:00 am

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the EIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the EIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the EIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the EIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-049 on all comments.

Comments on the EIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to: William Cole Starn, Environmental Review Manager, Minnesota Department of Commerce, 85 7th Place East, Suite 500, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-506-0100 | [bill.starn@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.starn@state.mn.us)

Comments on the EIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to: Julie Ann Smith, FPO, Federal Document Manager, DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, 1000 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC, 20585  
Fax: 202-586-1472 | [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at <http://www.greatnorthern.com> and/or <http://www.greatnorthern.com/energy/facilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthern.com>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on this EIS by the means mentioned above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The EIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.greatnorthern.com/energy/facilities/DOCKET.html?doct=15>, as well as on the DOE EIS website: <http://eis.doe.gov>

The EIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), click "Search eDockets" enter the year "14" and the docket number "21", and select "Search".

The EIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Beaumont Library, 119 1st Street SW, Beaumont
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bonny Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bonny
- Calmar Library, 328 Gary Street, Calmar
- Colkahe Public Library, 205 Cole Street, Colkahe
- DuLuth Public Library, 830 W Superior Street, DuLuth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 700 4th Street, International Falls
- Menota Public Library, 303 Alton Avenue, Menota
- Norborne Public Library, 1204 Main Street, Norborne
- Roseau Public Library, 181 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Wadena Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Wadena
- Williams Public Library, 650 Main Street, Williams

**Wine tasting event held at Blackduck Golf Course**

Wine, golf and food. A successful and fun night was enjoyed by all Tuesday at the Women's Wine-Tasting Scramble at the Blackduck Golf Course. New golfers, advanced golfers and all levels in between came from as far away as Hong Kong and ranged in age from 24 to 75. Watch for another event coming soon.



Participants gather for the meal at Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.



Sampling wine was a popular part of Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.



• P&E/Electrical  
• Ability to work independently and as a team member

Paul Bryant Communications offers a competitive salary and an outstanding benefits package, while working for a stable, growth employer. The company will be primarily business hours but a paid vacation/retirement for holidays, sickness or coverage may be accrued.

Please send a written resume, including a mail address and salary requirements by July 15th to attention of HR@PBC-2, Paul Bryant Communications, 1641 Lake St. NW • Suite 100, Seattle, WA 98101.

For an equal opportunity employer:  
www.pbc.com/usa

**GIGAZONE**

**LEGALIS**

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT  
NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION**

Rock Water, LLC, a Minnesota limited liability company (the "Company") commenced the process of dissolving and is in the process of ending up its affairs. The Company filed a Notice of Dissolution with the Minnesota Secretary of State on June 9, 2015. The address of the subject matter is against the Company: 1171 Paul Bunyan Drive NW, Bemidji, Minnesota 56601. Attn: Jeff Lunkin. A written claim must include: (a) the name, address and telephone number of the claimant; (b) the nature of the claim; (c) description of basis of the claim; and (d) any written documentation supporting the claim. All claims against the company must be received on or before September 17, 2015. Claims received after this date will be barred.

4 oz. 97B, 2E, 7D, 10

**CALL THE CLASSIFIED TODAY!**

**218-333-9200**

This long, 500 kilovolt (KV) transmission line that would cross the international border to Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Bemis, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Boundary Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) PURL's Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department of Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

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**State Route Permit Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

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**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

Subscribe to the Docket. In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notifications every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for the project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Smith (651-538-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, b.s.smith@state.mn.us) or public advisor Tracy Smetana (651-256-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, contact@puc.state.mn.us).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A. Smith, PhD (202-855-7666, julia.smith@doe.gov).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-538-1530.



Golfers are set to hit the course at Tuesday's Women's Wine Tasting Scramble.

**Applications accepted for special deer hunt**

Matthew Liedke  
*The American*

Minnesota's deer archery season doesn't start until September, however, Bemidji city staff wants potential hunters to send in applications this summer to be part of a hunt that manages deer population around town.

The Bemidji Special Archery Deer Hunt, which began in 2004, has become an annual form of wildlife population control after the city received numerous complaints from residents.

"People in Ward 5, near the northeast part of Lake Bemidji had a lot of complaints about the deer," said Teresa Hanson, Bemidji deputy city clerk. "The herd was large, there was a lot of people complaining about deer eating shrubs and there were a lot of hits on the roadway."

In response, a study was done by the city with the aid of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to determine the amount of deer in the local region. Soon after, a deer management committee was formed that included a council member, a DNR representative and citizens.

The city has since created a special permit program that allows archery hunters to shoot deer inside the city limits on both private and public land.

Some of the public land in the hunt is owned by the city and other sections are owned by the state. For the private sections, Hanson said the owners have the option to apply for a permit themselves, have friends or family apply or the city can assign hunters in their location.

In all, there are about

seven sites and the public areas are assigned to two hunters. The amount of people able to get permits is limited for public sites, though. Hanson said the number of applicants often exceeds the amount of permits available and therefore, a lottery drawing is done.

The hunt will follow the regular Minnesota deer archery season, which starts Sept. 18 and ends Dec. 31. The state allows a total of 876 deer to be harvested with a limit of one buck per hunter. Additionally all existing hunting and trespassing laws as well as city ordinances will still apply during the Bemidji hunt.

To apply participants will need to acquire the appropriate state hunting license, as well as pass a criminal background check. They also will need to successfully complete an archery proficiency test.

If a participant has already passed a proficiency test in the past three years, one won't be required, however an application must be done every year.

To schedule an archery proficiency test, potential hunters can call:

- Gender Mountain, (218) 735-6150
- John's Bow Shop (218) 443-8045
- Bemidji Bow Shop, (218) 239-4251.

Applications must be received at Bemidji City Hall by 4 p.m. Aug. 14. A \$5 fee is required when submitting the application. Those who are selected as participants will also have to register all deer harvested with both the city and the state.

Applications can be picked up at Bemidji City Hall, 317 Fourth St. NW.



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Roseau Times Region

**Location:** Roseau, MN Roseau County

**Actual:** Anticipated: Friday, June 26, 2015    Actual: Saturday, July 4, 2015



**AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

State of Minnesota )  
Country of Roseau )s

Carrie Johnson being duly sworn, on oath says that he/she is the publisher of authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as the Roseau Times-Region and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below.

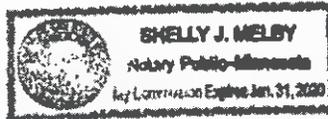
A) The newspaper has complied with all the requirements constituting qualification as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota Statute 331A.02, 331A.07 and other applicable laws, as amended.

B) The printed Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement which is attached as cut from the columns of said newspaper and was printed and published once each week, for one successive weeks; it was first published on Saturday, the 4 day of July, 2015, and was thereafter printed and published on every — to and including — the — day of —, 20—; and printed below is a copy of the lower case alphabet from A to Z, both inclusive, which is hereby acknowledged as being the size and kind of type used in the composition and publication of the notice:

abcdefghijklmnopqrstuvwxyz

BY Carrie Johnson  
TITLE Ad Sales

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of July, 2015



Shelly J. Melby  
Notary Public

## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Application by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties.

**FUC Docket No. ET015/TL-14-12  
DOE/EIS (499)**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	ADDRESS/LOCATION	DATE/TIME
Beltrami	Houle	Houle Civic Center 121 Central Street E	Wednesday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Wadena	Lake of the Woods School 226 - 18th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Ellsworth	Ellsworth Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kalbar	Kalbar Old School Center 943 Oak Avenue N Highway 72	Thursday, July 23, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Big Lake	Big Lake School 100 Huskie Blvd	Thursday, July 23, 2015 3:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the FUC docket number TL-14-12 and the DOE number EIS-0409 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
65 7th Place East, Suite 800  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-437-0106 | [w.c.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:w.c.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20585  
Fax: 202-566-1479 | [julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> and/or <http://www.greatnortherntrans.com>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document

above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities/DOE.html#54101>, as well as on the DOE EIS website <http://www.doe.gov/eis>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's website: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Search eDockets," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available by viewing at the following public libraries:

- Brudette Library, 118 1st Street SW, Brudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Boyer Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Boyer
- Colburn Library, 302 Gary Street, Colburn
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 530 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 700 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 502 Alton Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12084 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warramot Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warramot
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

Review copies of the DEIS, as well as a limited number of electronic copies (on CD), will be available at the public information meetings.

Project Description. Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 500 kVolt (KV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

The project also includes a substation upgrade and other associated facilities.

**Federal Review Process.** Transmission lines that cross an international border require a Presidential permit from the DOE. DOE's National Electricity Delivery Division, in the Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE), is responsible for issuing Presidential permits for electric transmission facilities.

**State of Minnesota Review Process.** In order to construct the proposed transmission line project, Minnesota Power must obtain from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) HVTL a Route Permit.

**Environmental Review.** Department Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (EERA) staff is responsible for conducting environmental review for route permit applications submitted to the Commission. Because the potential issuance of a Presidential permit for the GNTL project constitutes a major Federal Action, DOE must consider the potential environmental effects of the proposed project, and a range of reasonable alternatives to the project, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**State Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the week of August 10th thru 14th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann O. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings

route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

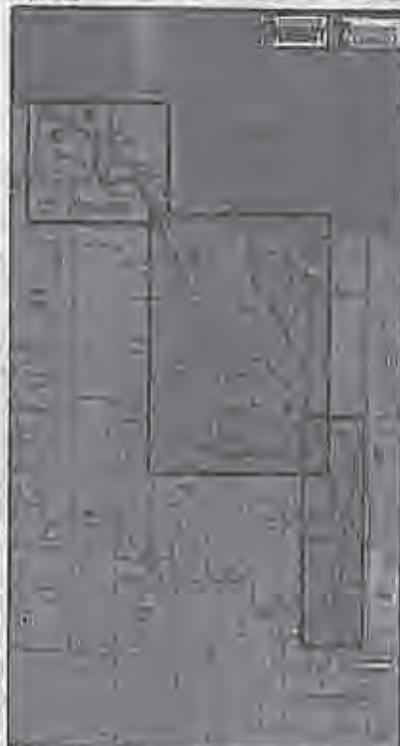
**Subscribe to the Docket.** In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit docket for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note - subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3784, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smolenski (651-299-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, [consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith, PhD (202-566-7668; [julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1830.

July 4, 2015





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Hibbing Daily Tribune

**Location:** Hibbing, MN St. Louis County

**Actual:** Wednesday, July 1, 2015



# HIBBING DAILY TRIBUNE

## AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

[FORM Rev. 6/15]

State of Minnesota

County of St. Louis

Aimee LaBrosse being first duly sworn, on oath states as follows:

1. I am the publisher of The Hibbing Daily Tribune, or the publisher's designated agent. I have personal knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2. The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3. The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied below was published in the newspaper are as follows:

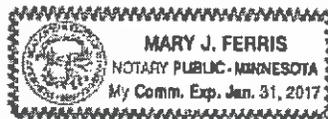
Wednesday, July 1, 2015

4. The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows: \$ 9.85 per

5. [NEW] Mortgage Foreclosure Notices [Effective 7/1/15]. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in St. Louis County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

Aimee LaBrosse



Subscribed and sworn to before me

on this 8th day of July

Mary J. Ferris

**AS | WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 2015**




**Issued June 29, 2015**

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

**In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties**

**FUC Docket No. KY015/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE** that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Roseau, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Itasca counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	TOWNSHIP	MEETING LOCATION	DATE & TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E.	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Swadlow	Lake of the Woods School 230 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 9:00 am - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St.	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1000 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kathar	Kathar C&I School Center 343 Clark Avenue N Highway 729	Thursday, July 23, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Thursday, July 23, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the FUC docket number "TL-14-21" and the DOE number "EIS-0499" on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

**William Cole Stearns, Environmental Review Manager**  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
85 7th Floor East, Suite 510  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103  
Tel: 651-526-6109 | [william.stearns@state.mn.us](mailto:william.stearns@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or hand to:

**Jillie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager**  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20385  
Tel: 202-586-1872 | [jillie.smith@eia.doe.gov](mailto:jillie.smith@eia.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://www.energy.gov/eis/eispubliccomment> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernline.com>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, as comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS can be viewed on the Department's energy facility permitting website: <http://www.greatnorthernline.com/permits/efile/index.cfm?docket=14141414>, as well as on the DOE EIS website: <http://www.greatnorthernline.com>.

The DEIS can also be viewed through the Minnesota Public LIBRARY Consortium website: [www.pac.state.mn.us](http://www.pac.state.mn.us), select "Search documents," enter the year ("14") and the docket number ("21"), and select "Search."

The DEIS will be available for viewing at the following public libraries:

- Swadlow Library, 110 1st Street SW, Swadlow
- Bigfork Public Library, 77 1st Street SE, Bigfork
- Hurry Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Hurry
- Coleraine Library, 911 Gary Street, Coleraine
- Coleraine Public Library, 205 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 730 4th Street, International Falls
- Marble Public Library, 303 Alton Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 1224 5th Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Roseau Public Library, 303 Main Avenue NE, Roseau





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Western Itasca Review

**Location:** Deer River, MN Itasca County

**Actual:** Thursday, July 2, 2015



# Affidavit of Publication

State of Minnesota)
)ss. HDR Engineering, Inc.
County of Itasca )

Robin Pederson, duly sworn, on oath says that she is the publisher or authorized agent and employee of the publisher of the newspaper known as Western Itasca Review, Deer River, Minnesota, and has full knowledge of the facts which are stated below:

- A) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements constituting as a qualified newspaper, as provided by Minnesota statute 331A.02, 331A.07, and other applicable laws.
B) The printed advertisement:

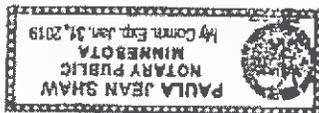
Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement
State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings
In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by
Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project

which is attached was cut from the columns of said newspaper, and was printed and published once on Thursday, the 2nd day of July, 2015

BY: [Signature]
Robin Pederson
TITLE: Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me on the 9th day of July, 2015.

[Signature]
Notary Public
Itasca, Minnesota



WTR, Thursday, July 2, 2015, Page 4

Issued: June 18, 2015  
**Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement,  
State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings**

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties  
PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS.

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Brudokte	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Ulfafork	Ulfafork Community Center 320 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Roller	Roller Old School Center 249 Clark Avenue N (Rt 65/177)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Nepark	Nepark School 100 Kestler Way	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Roseau	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am - 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number ES-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:  
William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager  
Minnesota Department of Commerce  
65 7th Place East, Suite 600  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-539-0100 | [W.C.Storm@state.mn.us](mailto:W.C.Storm@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:  
Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20585  
Fax: 202-566-1472 | [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://www.puc.commerceandindustrialaffairs.com> and/or <http://www.energytrust.org/etm/eis015>

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

The DEIS will be available for public review at the following locations:





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** The Littlefork Times

**Location:** Littlefork, MN Koochiching County

**Actual:** Wednesday, July 1, 2015



PAID LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT

Issued: June 19, 2015



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS

**In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties**  
**PUC Docket Nos. ET015/TL-14-21**  
**DOE/EIS 0499**

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COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Hamletts	Lake of the Woods School 236 15th Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	Americus 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kaliber	Kaliber Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Gard Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
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Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

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The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:  
 William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Minnesota Department of Commerce  
 85 7th Place East, Suite 500  
 St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
 Fax: 651-539-0109 | hill.storm@state.mn.us

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
 DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
 1000 Independence Avenue SW  
 Washington, DC, 20585  
 Fax: 202-586-1472 | julia.smith@hq.doe.gov

Comments can also be submitted electronically at: <http://mn.gov/commerce/energyfacilities> and/or <http://www.greatnorthernreis.org>.

The Department and DOE are sharing all comments received on the DEIS by the means delineated above, so comments only need to be submitted once to either the state environmental review manager or the DOE federal document manager via fax, phone, mail, email or submitted on either website provided above.

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- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Wairoad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Wairoad
- Blackhawk Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackhawk
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 0, Greenbush
- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
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Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

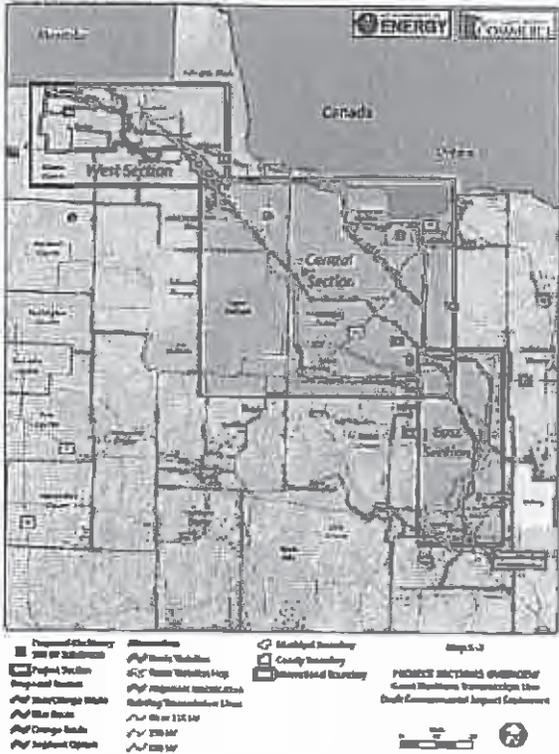
**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

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**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-539-1844 or 1-800-657-3794, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Smetzova (651-296-0406 or 1-800-657-3782, [csmetzov@puc.state.mn.us](mailto:csmetzov@puc.state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julia A Smith, PhD (202-586-7668; [julia.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julia.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-539-1530.





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Northome Area News

**Location:** Northome, MN Koochiching County

**Actual:** Thursday, July 2, 2015



**From:** Rahm, Laura  
**Sent:** Monday, June 29, 2015 8:40 AM  
**To:** nanews@paulbunyan.net  
**Subject:** FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
**Attachments:** Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx; GNTL Project Overview Map.pdf

Melissa,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it this week, July 2<sup>nd</sup>, if you still run it on Thursdays. I have enclosed a map that will hopefully be more clear for print if need be.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator  
D 763.591.5410

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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**From:** Rahm, Laura  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM  
**To:** [today@whiteearth.com](mailto:today@whiteearth.com); [mroberts@gmr.net](mailto:mroberts@gmr.net); [mickie@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:mickie@ifallsjournal.com); [laurel@ifallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@ifallsjournal.com); [norlight@wiktel.com](mailto:norlight@wiktel.com); [nanews@paulbunyan.net](mailto:nanews@paulbunyan.net); [mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com); [info@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:info@redlakenationnews.com); [rtr@mncable.net](mailto:rtr@mncable.net); [cindy@scenicranonewsforum.com](mailto:cindy@scenicranonewsforum.com); [erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com](mailto:erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com); [mferis@hibbingdailytribune.net](mailto:mferis@hibbingdailytribune.net); [littleforktimes@frontiernet.net](mailto:littleforktimes@frontiernet.net); [advantage007@centurytel.net](mailto:advantage007@centurytel.net); [dmpub@paulbunyan.net](mailto:dmpub@paulbunyan.net)  
**Cc:** Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura  
**Subject:** Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm  
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm  
Project Coordinator

**HDR**  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3636  
D 763.591.5410  
[laura.rahm@hdrinc.com](mailto:laura.rahm@hdrinc.com)



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Northern Light Region

**Location:** Baudette, MN Lake of the Woods County

**Actual:** Wednesday, July 1, 2015



**LAURA RAHM  
HDR ENGINEER  
701 XENIA AVE. S 600  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55416  
MN POWER NOTICE**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
County of Lake of the Woods**

**Affidavit of Publication**

1) Doris Knutson, being duly sworn on oath says that she is the Managing Editor of the newspaper known as the NORTHERN LIGHT REGION, and has full knowledge of the facts stated in this Affidavit, which is made pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §331A.07.

2) The newspaper has complied with all of the requirements to constitute a qualified newspaper under Minnesota law, including those requirements found in Minnesota Statutes §331A.02.

3) The dates of the month and the year and day of the week upon which the public notice attached/copied to this document was published in the newspaper are as follows: July 1, 22, 2015

4) The publisher's lowest classified rate paid by commercial users for comparable space, as determined pursuant to § 331A.06, is as follows:  
\$10.60/column inch

5) Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes §580.033 relating to the publication of mortgage foreclosure notices: The newspaper's known office of issue is located in Lake of the Woods County. The newspaper complies with the conditions described in §580.033, subd. 1, clause (1) or (2). If the newspaper's known office of issue is located in a county adjoining the county where the mortgaged premises or some part of the mortgaged premises described in the notice are located, a substantial portion of the newspaper's circulation is in the latter county.

FURTHER YOUR AFFIANT SAITH NOT.

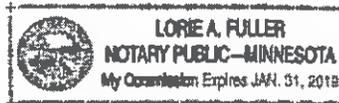
BY: Doris Knutson  
Doris Knutson

TITLE: Managing Editor

Subscribed and sworn to me this 30th day of July 2015.

Notary Public:

Lorie Fuller



07 Wednesday, July 1, 2015

# PUBLIC NOTICES

## Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement, State Public Information Meetings and Federal Public Hearings

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties. PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Department of Commerce (Department) and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) have released the draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project in the counties of Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau counties. The Department and DOE will conduct joint public information meetings at the following locations and times to provide opportunities for public comment on the DEIS:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	American 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
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Department and DOE staff will make a brief introductory statement at each meeting. Following this, members of the public will have an opportunity to provide comments to the Department and DOE on the DEIS. Each meeting will offer the same information and opportunity to comment.

Comments are sought on information that needs to be clarified in the DEIS to ensure that the final EIS is complete and accurate. Comments received on the DEIS will be used by the Department and DOE to prepare a final EIS for the project.

The Department and DOE will accept written comments on the DEIS through Monday, August 10, 2015. Please include the PUC docket number TL-14-21 and the DOE number EIS-0499 on all comments.

Comments on the DEIS should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

William Cole Storm, Environmental Review Manager

Minnesota Department of Commerce

85 7th Place East, Suite 600

St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101

Fax: 651-639-0109 | [wilc.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:wilc.storm@state.mn.us)

Comments on the DEIS and the DOE Presidential permit decision should be mailed, emailed or faxed to:

Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager

DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability

1050 Independence Avenue SW

Washington, DC, 20585

Fax: 202-686-14721 | [julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.a.smith@hq.doe.gov)

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**Project Description.** Minnesota Power has proposed to construct an approximately 220 mile long, 600 kilovolt (kV) transmission line that would cross the international border in Roseau County, and depending on final route, would cut across Beltrami, Koochiching and Lake of the Woods counties and terminate at the Blackberry Substation near Grand Rapids in Itasca County.

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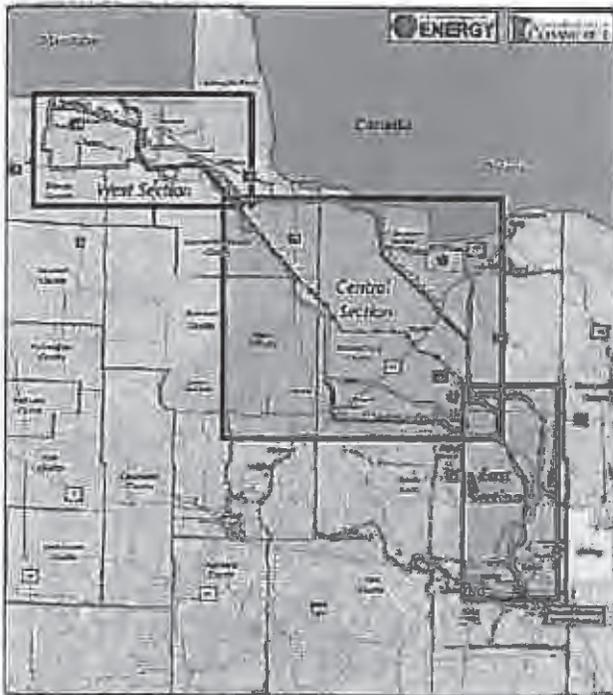
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**Map 1-3**

**Legend:**

- Proposed 500 KV HVTL
- Proposed 230 KV HVTL
- Proposed 138 KV HVTL
- Proposed 69 KV HVTL
- Proposed 34.5 KV HVTL
- Proposed 15 KV HVTL
- Proposed 4 KV HVTL
- Proposed 2 KV HVTL
- Proposed 1 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.5 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.2 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.1 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.05 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.02 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.01 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.005 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.002 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.001 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.0005 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.0002 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.0001 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00005 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00002 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00001 KV HVTL
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- Proposed 0.0000000005 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.0000000002 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.0000000001 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00000000005 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00000000002 KV HVTL
- Proposed 0.00000000001 KV HVTL

**PROPERTY LINES**

- Proposed
- Existing
- County
- Municipal
- Unincorporated

**PROJECT SECTION**

- West Section
- Central Section
- East Section

**UTILITY LINES**

- Proposed
- Existing
- County
- Municipal
- Unincorporated

**Map 1-3**

**PROJECT SECTION**

West Section

Central Section

East Section

**UTILITY LINES**

Proposed

Existing

County

Municipal

Unincorporated

**Map 1-3**

**PROJECT SECTION**

West Section

Central Section

East Section

**UTILITY LINES**

Proposed

Existing

County

Municipal

Unincorporated



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Grand Rapids Herald Review

**Location:** Grand Rapids, MN Itasca County

**Actual:** Wednesday, July 1, 2015





**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS**  
In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC Docket Nos. E7B15/TL-14-21  
DOE/EIS 0499

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Minnesota Department of Commerce  
83 7th Place East, Suite 300  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101  
Fax: 651-339-0109 | bill.storm@state.mn.us

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Julie Ann Smith, PhD, Federal Document Manager  
DOE Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability  
1000 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20363  
Fax: 202-386-1472 | julie.smith@hq.doe.gov

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In order to avoid duplication, DOE EERA and the DOE have prepared a single DEIS to comply with the environmental review requirements under both the State and Federal regulations.

The EIS evaluates the potential human and environmental impacts of Minnesota Power's proposed project and possible mitigation measures, including route alternatives. The EIS analyzes and compares potential impacts and mitigation measures such that citizens, local governments, agencies, and the Commission can work from a common set of facts. The EIS is issued in draft form so that it can be improved through public comment.

**State Route Permit Public Hearings.** The Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) will conduct Public Hearings on Minnesota Power's route permit application. These hearings are anticipated to be held in the project area the weeks of August 3rd and 10th, 2015, and will be presided over by Administrative Law Judge Ann C. O'Reilly from the OAH. Notice of the hearings will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons on the project mailing list. Interested persons will have an opportunity at the hearings to ask questions, provide comments, submit evidence, and advocate for the route(s) that they believe are most appropriate for the project.

Judge O'Reilly will submit a report to the Commission that includes findings of fact, conclusions of law, and recommendations on Minnesota Power's application. The Commission will use the report in deciding whether to grant a route permit, and to select the appropriate route for the project.

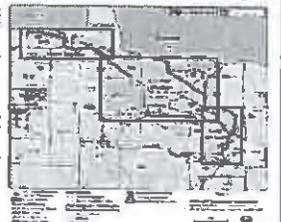
**Project Mailing List.** To sign up for the project mailing list, contact the state or federal environmental review or document manager or state public advisor (see below).

**Subscribe to the Docket.** In addition to the project mailing list, interested persons can receive email notification every time new documents are filed in the route permit for this project by signing up at: [www.puc.state.mn.us](http://www.puc.state.mn.us), select "Subscribe to a Docket," and follow the prompts. Note subscribing may result in a large number of emails.

**State Project Contacts.** If you have questions or would like more information, contact environmental review manager Bill Storm (651-339-1844 or 1-800-437-3794, [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us)) or public advisor Tracy Semetras (651-294-0406 or 1-800-637-3782, [conserve@puc.state.mn.us](mailto:conserve@puc.state.mn.us)).

**Federal Project Contact.** If you have questions or would like more information about the federal NEPA process and the DOE's Presidential permit program, contact federal document manager, Julie A Smith (202-386-7668, [julie.smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:julie.smith@hq.doe.gov)).

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio) by calling 651-339-1930.





## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Red Lake Nation News (Tribal)

**Location:** Red Lake, Red Lake County

**Actual:** Anticipated: Tuesday, June 30, 2015

Actual: N/A



AN ALLETE COMPANY



From: Rahm, Laura  
 Sent: Tuesday, June 23, 2015 1:56 PM  
 To: mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com; info@redlakenationnews.com  
 Subject: FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
 Attachments: Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx; GNTL Project Overview Map.pdf

Hello,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it next week, not this week so June 30<sup>th</sup> would be great, if you still run it on Tuesdays. I have enclosed a map that will hopefully be more clear for print if need be.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator  
D 763.591.5410

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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From: Rahm, Laura  
 Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM  
 To: [today@whiteearth.com](mailto:today@whiteearth.com); [mroberts@qrhr.net](mailto:mroberts@qrhr.net); [mickie@fallsjournal.com](mailto:mickie@fallsjournal.com); [laurek@fallsjournal.com](mailto:laurek@fallsjournal.com); [norlight@wiktel.com](mailto:norlight@wiktel.com); [nanews@paulbunyan.net](mailto:nanews@paulbunyan.net); [mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com); [info@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:info@redlakenationnews.com); [rtr@mncable.net](mailto:rtr@mncable.net); [cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com](mailto:cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com); [eronstad@bemidjipioneer.com](mailto:eronstad@bemidjipioneer.com); [mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net](mailto:mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net); [littleforktimes@frontiernet.net](mailto:littleforktimes@frontiernet.net); [advantage007@centurytel.net](mailto:advantage007@centurytel.net); [dmpub@paulbunyan.net](mailto:dmpub@paulbunyan.net)  
 Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura  
 Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm  
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm  
Project Coordinator

HDR  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3838  
D 763.591.5410  
[laura.rahm@hdrinc.com](mailto:laura.rahm@hdrinc.com)



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Anishinaabeg Today – White Earth (Tribal)

**Location:** White Earth, MN Becker County

**Actual:** Anticipated: Wednesday, July 1, 2015      Actual: N/A



**From:** Rahm, Laura  
**Sent:** Tuesday, June 23, 2015 1:32 PM  
**To:** Gary Padrta  
**Subject:** FW: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement  
**Attachments:** Notice of DEIS Meetings FINAL DOC-DOE Approved (V-2).docx

Gary,

I wanted to follow up on this request to see if you had received it? We are hoping to run it next week, not this week so July 1<sup>st</sup> would be great, if you still run it on Wednesdays.

Let me know if you need anything further to process the request.

Thanks.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator  
D 783.591.5410

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)

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**From:** Rahm, Laura  
**Sent:** Monday, June 22, 2015 7:49 AM  
**To:** [today@whiteearth.com](mailto:today@whiteearth.com); [mroberts@grhr.net](mailto:mroberts@grhr.net); [mickie@fallsjournal.com](mailto:mickie@fallsjournal.com); [laurel@fallsjournal.com](mailto:laurel@fallsjournal.com); [noright@wiktel.com](mailto:noright@wiktel.com); [nanews@paulbunyan.net](mailto:nanews@paulbunyan.net); [mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:mbarrett@redlakenationnews.com); [info@redlakenationnews.com](mailto:info@redlakenationnews.com); [rtr@mncable.net](mailto:rtr@mncable.net); [cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com](mailto:cindy@scenicrangenewsforum.com); [erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com](mailto:erongstad@bemidjipioneer.com); [mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net](mailto:mferris@hibbingdailytribune.net); [littleforktimes@frontiernet.net](mailto:littleforktimes@frontiernet.net); [advantage007@centurytel.net](mailto:advantage007@centurytel.net); [drpub@paulbunyan.net](mailto:drpub@paulbunyan.net)  
**Cc:** Terri Bagwell (ALLETE); Rahm, Laura  
**Subject:** Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Hello,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm  
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm  
Project Coordinator

**HDR**  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3638  
D 783.591.5410  
[laura.rahm@hdrinc.com](mailto:laura.rahm@hdrinc.com)

[hdrinc.com/follow-us](http://hdrinc.com/follow-us)



## Legal Notice

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**Publication:** Bois Forte News (Tribal)

**Location:** Lilydale, MN Becker County

**Actual:** Anticipated: July 2015 Issue - Monthly      Actual: N/A



AN ALLETE COMPANY



From: Rahm, Laura  
 Sent: Monday, June 22, 2015 7:56 AM  
 To: Helen Wilkie  
 Subject: RE: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Helen,

I wanted to follow up and confirm you received the notice and if you will be able to run it?

Thanks so much.

Laura Rahm, Project Coordinator  
D 763.591.5410

[hdinc.com/follow-us](http://hdinc.com/follow-us)

From: Rahm, Laura  
 Sent: Wednesday, June 17, 2015 7:40 AM  
 To: 'Helen Wilkie'  
 Cc: Terri Bagwell (ALLETE)  
 Subject: Minnesota Power - LEGAL NOTICE for Next Publication: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Helen,

Minnesota Power would like to place a Legal Notice in your next publication indicating the NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, STATE PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETINGS AND FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS. The legal notice is attached and the text is below.

Please send confirmation and publication date upon receipt of this submittal. We request that invoice and tear sheet be sent to me at the address below. Thank you for your time!

Laura Rahm  
701 Xenia Ave South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Laura Rahm  
Project Coordinator

HDR  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416-3636  
D 763.591.5410  
[laura.rahm@hdinc.com](mailto:laura.rahm@hdinc.com)

[hdinc.com/follow-us](http://hdinc.com/follow-us)

<Legal Notice text start>

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## **Attachment D**

### **Response to All Comments on the Draft EIS**

29054 680<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Roosevelt, MN 56673  
7/6/15

Julie Ann Smith  
Federal Document Manager  
U.S. Dept. of Energy  
1000 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20585

Docket Number: TL-14-21

Dear Ms. Smith:

This letter is regarding the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN of which I strongly oppose. I live in the rural Roosevelt area, and there are already two other manmade/synthetic structures (transmission/power lines) running east/west and south of Roosevelt within three miles of each other through beautiful wilderness including the Beltrami Island State Forest. In addition, I own 160 acres of land in the Beltrami Island State Forest in addition to my residence (homestead) in close proximity of this area. However, I have a couple suggestions/requests and "reasons why" regarding the proposed power line, and they are as follows:

- One suggestion/request is to run the proposed power line north of our 160 acres paralleling the existing power line running east/west, and it would not run through our private property, which is surrounded by state land. Therefore, the proposed power line would run through state land 100%, and the state of MN would get the money for the easement of our property's width of 1/2 mile. My brother, Jeff Johnson, and I have planted 100s of jack pine, white pine, and white cedar trees on the north side of our property that would be destroyed by the power line going to the south of the existing power line. In addition, permanent deer stands would be affected by the power line going to the south of the existing power line.
- Another suggestion/request if the power line goes to the south of the existing power line running east/west is to do a "land trade" with the state of MN. My request would be to acquire the width of the easement of the new power line on the south side of our 160 acres of perhaps 200-300 feet by 1/2 mile or whatever land would be affected by the new power line being installed. This option would give the state of MN the easement money and keep our 160 acres of private property intact as it is historical regarding the fact that it is an "original homestead" of 160 acres in Beltrami Island State Forest, which there are few today that are still intact and without a manmade/synthetic structure running through it.

The legal description of the 160 acres and my residence in this area are as follows, respectively:

0001-1

The scoping process provided the opportunity to recommend alternatives to be analyzed in the EIS. The EIS analyzes potential impacts to residences and land use for each alternative.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0001-2

DOE and DOC-EERA determined that the DEIS covered a range of reasonable alternatives and none of the alternatives presented warranted expanding that range. Non-transmission alternatives were considered but eliminated from detailed analysis because they are outside the scope of the purpose of and need for DOE's federal action, which is to decide whether to issue a Presidential permit. Non-transmission alternatives that are out of scope for this EIS were handled under the state's certificate of need process.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0001-1

0001-2

- 160 Acres – Roosevelt, MN (**Jeffrey N. Johnson and James L. Johnson**)

The Northwest Quarter (NW¼) of Section Fifteen (15) in Township One Hundred Sixty-one (161) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof.

- 29054 680<sup>th</sup> Ave., Roosevelt, MN (**James L. Johnson**)

All that part of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW¼ SW¼) of Section Twenty-six (26), Township One Hundred Sixty-two (162) North, Range Thirty-five (35) West of the Fifth Principal Meridian in Minnesota, according to the United States Government Survey thereof, LYING AND BEING South of the South right-of-way line of Minnesota Trunk Highway NO. 11, as now located and established.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and my suggestions/requests to the proposed route of the Great Northern Transmission Line running east/west and south of Roosevelt, MN. Please call me at (218) 242-2462 or e-mail at [jimjohnson767@gmail.com](mailto:jimjohnson767@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James L. Johnson

From: Linda Johnson [linda.johnson888@gmail.com]  
 Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2015 8:25 PM  
 To: Storm, Bill (COMM)  
 Subject: TL-14-21 The Great Northern Transmission Line

Dear Mr. Storm:

I am Linda Johnson, a property owner on Napoleon Lake in Itasca County. It is located in the heart of your proposed and favored transmission line route - referred to as the "Blue Route".

Public opposition to lines tends to focus on their visual and environmental impacts. In 1993 Priestly and Craik conducted a survey regarding public concerns with overhead powerlines (median percentage of respondents perceiving impacts) and here are those findings:

54%	aesthetics
50%	property values
45%	health
24%	safety
15%	noise
8%	TV radio reception

Objectives and benefits of using new transmission technologies that are available today:

- \* Increase power-carrying capacity within existing (constrained) ROWs.
- \* Reduce/minimize impacts of transmission lines: environmental, visual, footprint, etc.

I am opposed to the Blue Route. The Blue Route would create an undesirable footprint in a heavily hunted / hiked / ATV accessible wilderness area. It would displace wildlife. The men in my family hunt that area; we have hiked and picked berries and enjoyed the wildlife native to that area. The Blue Route will change that dramatically and forever.

I oppose the Orange Route for the same reasons as the Blue route. Why create another negative footprint?

Using the Red Route would make sense as you would piggyback on land that currently has overhead powerlines. The footprint would be much smaller. It would conserve the wilderness that all of us who live in and recreate in have come to appreciate and enjoy.

This is curious to me: I learned that the new lines would serve corporations / industry and you don't even have committed customers for this approved project.

I urge you to consider the overall environmental impact to this area and choose the Orange Route.

Sincerely,  
 Linda Johnson  
 8614 Brant St NE  
 Circle Pines, MN 55014

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0002-1

Potential impacts to wildlife are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0002-1

From: Timothy Kveen [mailto:timothykveen@gmail.com]  
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2015 12:18 PM  
To: Smith, Julie A (OE)  
Subject: TL-14-21

Terry & Carol Kveen  
N69 W20473 Orchard Ct  
Menomonee Falls, WI 53051

262-255-3599

Tim & Jessica Kveen  
1920 Sunkist Ave  
Waukesha, WI 53188

262-751-0320

Dear Julie Ann Smith,

We are landowners located inside of the West Section, Scoping decision route running west to east between highway 89 near Dieter township and 310 in Roseau. The property we own is near CR-123 and 28 including farmland, homes, drying and storage warehouses and an active use quonset. The current proposed route would affect several of our farming properties including the other structures I have just mentioned and future planned building sites. Please remove this route from consideration as this would greatly effect the operations of our farming including the lives of the people living in the homes at CR-123 and 28.

Thank you,  
Terry Kveen  
Carol Kveen  
Tim Kveen  
Jessica Kveen

Message scanned by the Symantec Email Security service. If you suspect that this email is actually spam, please send it as an ATTACHMENT to [spamsample@message-labs.com](mailto:spamsample@message-labs.com)

0003-1

Potential impacts to human settlement and agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

The EIS provides an analysis of residences within the ROW as well as within the route for all alternatives. Also, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0003-1

July 19, 2015

Bill Storm  
Environmental Review Manager  
MN Department of Commerce  
85 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 500  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: Beltrami WMA Route Alternative Scoping Decision Route

Mr. Storm;

I have expressed my request to remove land I own and rent in Spruce Valley Township, Sections 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 27, 28 and 29 from the Beltrami WMA Route.

My livelihood is Slater Spraying Service Inc. in Roseau and I aerial spray all of the land mentioned above AND all of the land in these sections that I do not own or rent. This powerline will prevent me from aerial spraying this land and will basically shut down a major part of my business, both as a farmer and spray operator.

As you are probably aware, peat ground must be burned and must be sprayed by air.

The negative impact for landowners in the above sections is monumental and therefore I request that an alternate route be strongly considered.

For minimal impact I would ask that using DNR land and not privately owned land be considered for this powerline.

Sincerely,  
Gary Slater  
P.O. Box 245  
Roseau, MN 56751  
218.469.2533

0004-1

Impacts to to agriculture and aerial spraying are discussed in Chapter 5 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property, including minimizing any impacts to aerial spraying and agricultural operations.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0004-1



# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

5600 American Boulevard West, Suite 990  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55437-1458



IN REPLY REFER TO

JUL 22 2015

FWS/ES/ER- 14-0396

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20)  
U.S. Department of Energy  
1000 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Dr. Smith,

These comments address the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit MN (ER14-0396). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) prepared comments on that project and submitted them to the Department of Interior (Department) for distribution on August 11, 2014, but those comments were never forwarded. We apologize for the error, and submit the comments below. We have also attached a cover memo from the Service that accompanied the original comments to the Department. The comments below this paragraph are unchanged, and do not reflect the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) currently available for comment. Comments on the DEIS will be forthcoming. Due to the advanced progress of the project, we strongly suggest that Minnesota Power contact the Service to discuss avoidance, minimization, and mitigation of impacts to Service interest lands, listed species, and migratory birds.

The Department of the Interior (Department) has received the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE) for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit MN (ER14-0396). The Department offers the following comments and recommendations to be used in consideration of the development of the EIS.

### **General Comments from the Fish and Wildlife Service:**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) provides the following comments for the environmental review process for the Great Northern Transmission Line (GNTL) project, as well as recommendations for environmental impacts to be assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Statement.

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

2

The Service has participated in multiple meetings with Minnesota Power and has provided two letters, dated March 14, 2014, and July 1, 2014. Copies of these two letters are enclosed. The Service has also engaged in a follow-up meeting to discuss route and right-of-way (ROW) impacts on Service interest lands and route alternatives.

The GNTL (both construction and long-term use) has the potential to impact Service interest lands, threatened, endangered, or species of concern, migratory birds, bald and golden eagles, wetlands, and wildlife habitat. The Service recommends the EIS examine the impact of the GNTL to these aforementioned resources, and examine ways avoid, minimize, and mitigate for potential impacts. The Service makes these recommendations pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act (NWRA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), Executive Order (E.O.) 13186, Department of Energy's Migratory Bird Program Partnership Agreement, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act, Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

While outlined in detail in the attached two letters, the Service wishes to summarize the following main concerns:

**Service Interest Lands:**

The Service administers numerous tracts within the proposed GNTL routing options as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). Service administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service requests that the construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service interest lands. This includes building GNTL structures on Service lands, wires spanning above Service lands, and any land changes (habitat or hydrology alteration, etc.) implemented to gain access to GNTL operations, or any land use changes (which may occur off Service interest lands) that may impact Service lands. The Service recommends consideration of the following alternatives to avoid and/or minimize impacts to Service interest lands:

- In areas where multiple route alternatives exist, the Service recommends alternative with no Service-area land impacts be chosen.
- In areas where the proposed right-of-way (ROW) corridor does not completely bisect refuge lands, the Service recommends the EIS explore the possibility and impacts of utilizing other areas within the proposed ROW to avoid Service lands.
- Where no proposed alternative routes are provided to avoid refuge interest lands, the Service requests that alternative routes be investigated to avoid impacting Service interest lands.
- Finally, the EIS should examine the impact of all proposed routes on Service lands should a route and ROW be chosen that may impact Service lands. Unavoidable impacts to Service lands may require mitigation, which should be reflected in the EIS and the overall project timeline.

In accordance with the NWRA, ROW requests on Service lands will need to be analyzed to determine if such requests are compatible with the mission and purpose of the NWRS. Before the Service considers the possibility of impacts of the GNTL to refuge lands, an application request will

0006-1

Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS discuss potential impacts and avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measures to USFWS interest lands, rare species, wildlife, and wetlands. In addition, the Biological Assessment in Appendix R assesses potential impacts to federally listed species and designated critical habitat. DOE and DOC-EERA continue to work with USFWS as a cooperating agency in the development of this EIS.

0006-1

0006-2

The Applicant is currently working with USFWS to avoid and/or minimize impacts to USFWS interest lands, including those lands in the National Wildlife Refuge System that are governed by the National Wildlife System Administration Act. The MnDNR has reviewed their land records for all parcels along the alternatives to identify federal aid parcels. Four federal aid parcels are identified for the proposed Project. Section 5.3.1.2 of the EIS is updated to identify the two North American Wetland Conservation Act federal aid parcels as part of the Roseau Lake WMA to Section 5.3.1.2. The two federal aid parcels that are part of the Silver Creek WMA are identified in Section 5.4.1.2.

0006-2

0006-2 cont'd

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

3

need to include the final route determination and the exact location of the proposed ROW. The Service recommends this process be reflected in the EIS.

The Service letter dated July 1, 2014 detailed specific areas of concern where the proposed GNTL line bisects Service interest lands. The Service will provide additional recommendations to DOE and Minnesota Power regarding specific route alternative suggestions so that refuge interests may be avoided. These recommendations will be provided under a separate letter and will be sent before the end of the comment period so that they may be considered in the scoping for the EIS.

The Service has similar concerns for any Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) wildlife areas with Federal Assistance interests that may be impacted by this project. A comprehensive review should be conducted to determine if any MN DNR wildlife areas will be potentially impacted and, if so, if they have Federal Assistance interests. These lands should also be avoided as discussed above for NWRS lands. Impacts for either group must be fully analyzed within the EIS to the Service's satisfaction or a subsequent NEPA document will be needed by the Service which will increase costs and delay reviews.

#### Threatened and Endangered Species:

The Service is tasked with the protection and recovery of species listed under the ESA. The following are listed, proposed, or candidate species occurring in one or more counties where the GNTL is proposed:

Canada lynx (*Lynx canadensis*), Piping plover (*Charadrius melodus*), Western prairie fringed orchid (*Platanthera praeclara*), Poweshiek skipperling (*Oarisma poweshiek*), Dakota skipper (*Hesperia dacotae*), Northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), and Sprague's pipit (*Anthus spragueii*). Because the decision to list the Northern long-eared bat will be decided by April 2, 2015, the Service recommends incorporating conferencing and/or early consultation into the EIS timeline in order to avoid delays.

The Service recommends the degree of impact to each species be evaluated in the EIS, including impact of construction, long-term project operation, habitat loss, disturbance, indirect impacts, and impacts of all route options. The EIS should also explore all potential avoidance and minimization measures to reduce impact to these species. Pending the determination of consequences to each listed species, the Service may request compensatory mitigation to offset impacts.

#### Migratory Birds and Eagles:

The Migratory Treaty Act prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d). The Service recommends the EIS examine the impacts to eagles (bald and golden) and all migratory birds. These impacts may include, but are not limited to: habitat alternation and destruction, take and disturbance, indirect impacts and collisions and electrocution. The EIS should examine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, and examine the degree of impacts each route decision may cause. Additionally, (and not addressed in

0006-3

0006-2  
Continued

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat.

0006-4

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS discusses potential impacts to migratory birds and eagles. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

0006-3

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-4

0006-4 cont'd

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

4

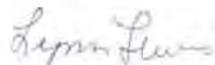
the attached letters) pursuant to Executive Order 13186, Responsibilities of Federal Agencies to Protect Migratory Birds, 2001, the Service may request compensatory mitigation to offset impacts to migratory bird habitat as a result of construction and/or long-term use of the GNTL. Early consultation with the Service can help to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory bird habitat, reduce the amount of compensatory mitigation sought, and speed the overall review process. The degree of mitigation depends upon the type, age, and quality of habitat impacted. Permits are available for disturbance and nest removal of bald eagles; however, bald eagle nest removal may require mitigation. No permits are currently available for take of golden eagles east of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian, however, the EIS should still examine the impacts to both species of eagles and address the need for development of an eagle management plan.

**Wetland Resources:**

The Service recommends the EIS examine the impact of all route alternatives wetland resources. In refining and selecting project alternatives, efforts should be made to select an alternative that does not adversely impact wetlands. If no other alternative is feasible and it is clearly demonstrated that project construction resulting in wetland disturbance or loss cannot be avoided, a wetland mitigation plan should be developed that identifies measures proposed to minimize adverse impacts and replace lost wetland habitat values and other wetland functions.

We thank you for this opportunity to provide feedback on the scope of the EIS for the Great Northern Transmission Line. For issues concerning Service comments, we ask that you contact Lisa Mandell, Deputy Field Supervisor, Twin Cities Field Office, 4101 American Boulevard East, Bloomington, Minnesota, 55425; telephone, 612-725-3548, extension 2201; email [lisa\\_mandell@fws.gov](mailto:lisa_mandell@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Lynn Lewis  
Assistant Regional Director  
Ecological Services  
Midwest Region

Enclosures (3): Memo: Comments provided for Notice of Intent (August 11, 2014)  
TCFO Comment Letter (March 14, 2014)  
TCFO Comment Letter (July 1, 2014)

0006-4  
Continued  
0006-5  
Once a project alignment is selected, detailed project design will begin. Wetland impacts will be quantified and an associated mitigation plan will be developed for permitting based on the project design. At this time, specific quantities of wetland impact for all alternatives cannot be calculated as there is no associated detailed project design. A mitigation plan for unavoidable wetland impacts is not available at this time. Once DOE and MN PUC issue permits for the Project, a wetland mitigation plan will be developed by the Applicant in coordination with USACE, BWSR, and appropriate local units of government as part of the environmental permitting process.

0006-5  
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

Dr. Julie Ann Smith, Environmental Protection Specialist

5

cc: Stephanie Nash, FWS-BCPA: stephanie\_nash@fws.gov  
Jeff Gosse, FWS-RO: jeff\_gosse@fws.gov  
Elizabeth Rigby, FWS-RO: elizabeth\_rigby@fws.gov  
Lisa Mandell, FWS-TCFO: lisa\_mandell@fws.gov  
Margaret Rheude, FWS-TCFO: margaret\_rheude@fws.gov  
Rick Speer, FWS-Refuges: richard\_speer@fws.gov  
Neil Powers, FWS-Refuges: neil\_powers@fws.gov  
Craig Mowry, FWS-Refuges: craig\_mowry@fws.gov  
Jim Leach, FWS-Refuges: jim\_leach@fws.gov  
Bill Storm, MN Department of Commerce: bill.storm@state.mn.us  
Brian Mills, DOE: Brian.Mills@hq.doe.gov  
David Moeller, Minnesota Power: dmoeller@allete.com  
Cheryl Feigum, Barr Engineering: CFeigum@barr.com  
Lydia Nelson, HDR: lydia.nelson@hdrinc.com  
Michelle Bissonnette, HDR: Michelle.Bissonnette@hdrinc.com  
Jim Atkinson, Allete Inc.: jbatkinson@allete.com



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services

Twin Cities Field Office

4101 American Boulevard East

Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

Phone: (612) 725-3548 Fax: (612) 725-3609



August 11, 2014

FWS/R3/TCFO

ER- 14-0396

Memorandum

To: Director, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance  
Attention: Lisa Chetnik Treichel

From: Deputy Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Twin Cities Field Office, MN  
Lisa Mandell *For Lisa Mandell*

Subject: Comments provided for Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE), for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit, MN (ER14-0396).

Lisa Chetnik Treichel's electric memorandum of June 27, 2014, requested the U.S. Fish-and Wildlife Service to review and prepare Department of Interior comments on the Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) by the Department of Energy (DOE), for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project and Presidential Permit, MN (ER14-0396). Accordingly, a letter to Julie Smith (Department of Energy) is attached for your signature.

No comments were received from any other Department of the Interior offices with regard to comments on preparation of the EIS. Copies of previous letters the Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared are enclosed as attachments.

If you have questions concerning these comments, please contact Mags Rheude of my staff at (612)725-3548 extension 2202.

Attachments

cc: FWS-BCPA (Nash)  
FWS/R3/RO (Jeff Gosse and David Larson)  
(via e-mailed electronic file)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Twin Cities Field Office  
4101 American Blvd E.  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665

March 14, 2014

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

Re: Great Northern Transmission Line Project  
Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching,  
Beltrami, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota  
PUC Docket 12-1163  
FWS Tails # 03E19000-2013-CPA-0045

Dear Mr. Storm:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the scoping process of the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project (GNTL). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) would like to provide early comments on the alignment of this route in areas that it may affect Service interest lands, threatened, endangered, or species of concern, migratory birds, and bald eagles. The following comments are being provided pursuant to the National Wildlife Refuge Administration Act, Endangered Species Act (ESA), Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956.

**Fish and Wildlife Service Interest Lands**

The Service administers numerous tracts within the proposed routing options as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System. These tracts are comprised of Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) conservation easements and fee-title parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area associated with the Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project. A listing of tracts by county, along with associated descriptions, is enclosed.

Service-administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of important wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service requests that the construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service interest lands. This includes building GNTL structures on Service lands, wires spanning Service lands, any land changes (e.g., habitat or hydrology alteration) implemented to gain access to GNTL operations, or any land use changes that may impact Service lands. The Service has provided shape files of these areas to project developers to assist in avoiding these sensitive areas, and will continue to work with project developers.

0006-6

The Applicant will work with USFWS to determine if permits can be obtained to cross USFWS interest lands. The need for these permit will be determined once the final route is selected by the MN PUC.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-6

**Wetland Resources**

The Service recommends that impacts to streams and wetlands be avoided, and buffers surrounding these systems be preserved. Streams and wetlands provide valuable habitat for fish and wildlife, and the filtering capacity of wetlands helps to improve water quality. Naturally-vegetated buffers surrounding these systems are also important in preserving their wildlife habitat and water quality-enhancement properties. Furthermore, forested riparian systems provide important stopover habitat for birds migrating through the region. In refining and selecting project alternatives, efforts should be made to select an alternative that does not adversely impact wetlands. If no other alternative is feasible, and it is clearly demonstrated that project construction resulting in wetland disturbance or loss cannot be avoided, a wetland mitigation plan should be developed that identifies measures proposed to minimize adverse impacts and replace lost wetland habitat values and other wetland functions. The Service will continue to work with GNTL to help identify and minimize impacts to wetland resources.

**Threatened and Endangered Species/Species of Concern**

The proposed GNTL project spans Kittson, Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties. The enclosed table shows listed, proposed or candidate species occurring in one or more of the listed counties.

Information on all of the species listed in the table, including Service recommendations for avoiding impact to these species, can be found at the above listed links. Additionally, records of the following species have been confirmed either within the proposed route or within a 1-mile buffer: Poweshiek skipperling, Sprague’s pipit, colonial nesting water bird sites, native plant communities (prairie), and bald eagle nests. The Service recommends on-going coordination with the project proponent to determine if further surveys are needed to assess presence of these species of concern, as well as avoidance and minimization measures to avoid impacting these species.

*Northern Long-Eared Bat*

The entire state of Minnesota is within the range of the Northern long-eared bat (NLEB), and it is likely this bat will be on site during some parts of the year. NLEB experienced significant population declines recently primarily due to the fungal bat disease, white-nose syndrome. In part due to this dramatic decline, the NLEB was proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) on October 2, 2013. No critical habitat has been proposed at this time. Species proposed for listing are not afforded protection under the ESA. However as soon as a listing becomes effective, the prohibition against jeopardizing its continued existence and “take” applies **regardless of an action’s stage of completion.**<sup>1</sup>

A final decision will be made within 12 months of the date that the proposal to list was published. Activities in the development of this project that could impact NLEB may include tree clearing, which would remove summer roosting, maternity, and foraging habitat. The Service recommends that these activities be conducted outside of the summer maternity season,

<sup>1</sup> “Take” is defined in Section 3 of the ESA as harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.

0006-7  
Specific wetland impacts will be quantified upon selection of a project alignment and project design. A mitigation plan for unavoidable wetland impacts is not available at this time. Once DOE and MN PUC issue permits for the Project, a wetland mitigation plan will be developed by the Applicant in coordination with USACE, BWSR, and appropriate local units of government as part of the environmental permitting process.  
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-8  
Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat. Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS also discusses potential impacts to migratory birds. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC’s) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

which runs April 1 – September 30. Guidance and recommendations from the Service on this listing are on-going. Therefore, we recommend continued coordination with our office on this issue.

0006-8  
Continued

#### **Migratory Bird Trust Resources**

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703-712; MBTA) implements four treaties that provide for international protection of migratory birds. The MBTA prohibits taking, killing, possession, transportation, and importation of migratory birds, their eggs, parts, and nests, except when specifically authorized by the Department of the Interior. Bald and golden eagles are afforded additional legal protection under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668-668d).

Unlike the Endangered Species Act, neither the MBTA nor its implementing regulations at 50 CFR Part 21, provide for permitting of “incidental take” of migratory birds. The GNTL project may impact migratory birds in several ways: by removal of active nests and by posing as a collision and electrocution risk. In order to avoid taking active nests of migratory birds, the Service recommends that tree clearing be conducted outside of the migratory bird breeding season. This season is generally April – August, but may be earlier for some species (including raptors). Eagles may begin nesting as early as February. However, eagle nests may not be removed without a permit regardless of whether the nest is inactive. The Service also recommends adherence to APLIC guidelines (Avian Powerline Interaction Committee)<sup>2,3</sup> to minimize impact to migratory bird species. This may include avoiding sensitive areas (such as known migration routes and colonial bird nesting areas) and the use of bird flight diverters where lines cross areas of frequent bird use.

The Service recommends continued coordination to identify these areas and implement appropriate avoidance and minimization measures. The Service also recommends designing lines in as few places as possible (to reduce collision risk) and to use transmission structures designed to reduce for electrocution risk and nesting opportunities. Additional information on bald eagles can be found below.

#### **Bald Eagle**

Although bald and golden eagles were delisted from the Endangered Species Act on August 8, 2007, they are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act). The Eagle Act (1940) defines “disturb” as, “to agitate or bother a bald or golden eagle to a degree that causes, or is likely to cause, based on the best scientific information available, 1) injury to an eagle, 2) decrease in its productivity, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior, or 3) nest abandonment, by substantially interfering with normal breeding, feeding, or sheltering behavior.” The Service

<sup>2</sup> Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2006. Suggested practices for raptor protection on power lines – the state of the art in 1996. Edison Electric Institute and Raptor Research Foundation, Washington DC, USA.

<sup>3</sup> Avian Power Line Interaction Committee (APLIC). 2012. *Reducing Avian Collisions with Power Lines: The State of the Art in 2012*. Edison Electric Institute and APLIC. Washington, D.C.

0006-8 cont'd

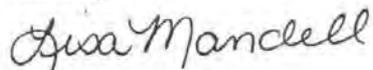
developed the National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (USFWS 2007), which are intended to help landowners minimize disturbance to bald eagles.

Records indicate at least seven bald eagle nests may be located either within the proposed project corridor or within a mile buffer. Data of known bald eagle nests in Minnesota is not current; however, new nests may have been built and old nests may no longer be present. Once a route is selected, the Service recommends eagle nest surveys within 660 feet of the proposed line corridor. If eagle nests are found within the proposed right-of-way, or within areas proposed for clearing, the Service recommends the transmission line be altered to avoid these nests. Bald eagle nests may not be removed without a permit, and the applicant must first demonstrate avoidance and minimization to the fullest extent practicable. If eagle nests are found within 660 feet of the right-of-way (even if the trees are not slated for removal) an eagle disturbance permit may be recommended if disturbance to nesting eagles is anticipated.

In addition, the bald eagle is a trust resource to Native American communities and early coordination with tribal interests regarding impacts to eagles may be warranted. Due to the abundance of eagle nests within the northern portion of Minnesota, it is likely that all route alternatives will have similar impacts to bald eagles. Bald eagles may be susceptible to both collision and electrocution by transmission lines. In order to minimize these risks, the Service recommends GNTL adhere to recommendations outlined by the APLIC guidance. The Service will continue to work with GNTL project proponents to help identify risks to eagles, establish protocol for surveying eagle resource areas (nests, roosts, and foraging areas), determine appropriate avoidance and minimization measures, and to determine if eagle take permits are recommended.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on this early stage of development of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project. The Service anticipates providing more detailed recommendations to the developer as the project proceeds regarding the above matters of concern. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Mags Rheude at 612-725-3548, extension 2202. You may also email her at [margaret\\_rheude@fws.gov](mailto:margaret_rheude@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Lisa Mandell  
Acting Field Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Neil Powers, FWS Tamarac NWR  
Craig Mowry, FWS Agassiz NWR  
Richard Speer, FWS Assistant Refuge Supervisor, Regional Office

0006-8  
Continued

Species	Status	Habitat	Guidance Documents
Canada lynx ( <i>Lynx canadensis</i> )	Threatened	Northern forest	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/index.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/index.html</a>
Canada lynx ( <i>Lynx canadensis</i> )	Critical Habitat	Map of lynx critical habitat in Minnesota	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/lynxMNmapCh.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/lynx/lynxMNmapCh.html</a>
Piping plover ( <i>Charadrius melodus</i> ) Northern Great Plains Breeding Population	Threatened; and Critical Habitat	Sandy beaches, islands	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/pipingplover/">http://www.fws.gov/mountain-prairie/species/birds/pipingplover/</a>
Western prairie fringed orchid ( <i>Platanthera praeclara</i> )	Threatened	Wet prairies and sedge meadows	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/index.html#westorchid">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/plants/index.html#westorchid</a>
Poweshiek skipperling ( <i>Oarisma poweshiek</i> )	Proposed as Endangered and Proposed Critical Habitat	Native prairie habitat	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/posk/index.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/posk/index.html</a>
Dakota skipper ( <i>Hesperia dactylus</i> )	Proposed as Threatened Proposed Critical Habitat - Maps	Native prairie habitat	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/dask/index.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/insects/dask/index.html</a>
Northern long-eared bat <i>Myotis septentrionalis</i>	Proposed as Endangered	Hibernates in caves and mines - swarming in surrounding wooded areas in autumn. Roosts and forages in upland forests during spring and summer.	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html</a>
Sprague's pipit ( <i>Anthus spragueii</i> )	Candidate	Large (>350 acre) patches of grassland - prefer native grassland, but also use non-native planted grasslands.	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/candidat.html#Spragues">http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/lists/candidat.html#Spragues</a>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Interests within the Proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Corridor (All tracts are associated with the Beltrami Island Land Utilization Project unless otherwise noted).

County	Township/ Range	Section	Description	FWS Wildlife Refuge Oversight	
Lake of the Woods	159/33	2	W1/2, SE1/4,S1/2NE	Agassiz	
		3	E1/2E1/2,W1/2NW1/4	Agassiz	
		4	E1/2NE1/4	Agassiz	
		23	SE1/4	Agassiz	
			24	NW1/4	Agassiz
		160/30	22	~277ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz
	27		~160ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz	
		160/34	1	N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz
			2	N1/2SE1/4	Agassiz
			3	W1/2	Agassiz
			4	NW1/4,N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz
			11	SE1/4	Agassiz
			12	NE1/4,NE1/4SE1/4,S1/2S1/2	Agassiz
			13	E1/2E1/2,W1/2NW1/4	Agassiz
	14		S1/2,NW1/4NW1/4	Agassiz	
		24	SW1/4,S1/2SE1/4	Agassiz	
	161/34	34	SW1/4SE1/4,SE1/4SW1/4	Agassiz	
Roseau	161/36	19	SE1/4SE1/4SE1/4	Agassiz	
		20	NE1/4,SE1/4	Agassiz	
		21	NW1/4,SE1/4	Agassiz	
		13	SE1/4,SW1/4NW1/4,NW1/4SW1/4	Agassiz	
		14	SE1/4NE1/4,NE1/4SE1/4,W1/2NE1/4,E1/2NW1/4	Agassiz	
		17	N1/2,N1/2SW1/4	Agassiz	
		18	NE1/4,N1/2SE1/4	Agassiz	
		19	NE1/4SE1/4	Agassiz	
		20	E1/2SW1/4,NW1/4SW1/4	Agassiz	
		22	N1/2NE1/4	Agassiz	
		23	NW1/4NW1/4	Agassiz	
		24	SW1/4	Agassiz	
		29	S1/2SW1/4,E1/2NE1/4,SE1/4NE1/4,NE1/4NW1/4	Agassiz	
Koochiching	151/28	26	W1/2 and SE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	
		27	SE1/4 and E1/2NE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	
		34	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	
		35	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Twin Cities Field Office  
4101 American Blvd E.  
Bloomington, Minnesota 55425-1665  
July 1, 2014

Mr. David Moeller  
Minnesota Power  
30 West Superior Street  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802

Re: Great Northern Transmission Line Project  
Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties, Minnesota  
PUC Docket 12-1163  
FWS Tails # 03E19000-2013-CPA-0045

Dear Mr. Moeller:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) wishes to comment on the most recent route alternatives that have been provided for the Great Northern High Voltage Transmission Line Project (GNTL). The GNTL is proposed to span Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, Beltrami, and Itasca Counties in Minnesota. The Service previously provided comments to the Minnesota Department of Commerce (March 14, 2014) on the alignment of these route alternatives with regard to Service-interest lands, migratory birds, bald eagles, and threatened, endangered, or species of concern. That letter recommended the GNTL be designed, constructed, and maintained in such a manner as to avoid and minimize impacts to migratory bird species, such as collision and electrocution.

The Service recommended that impacts to wetland resources be avoided and minimized, and mitigated where necessary. The Service also provided information on species of concern, including (but not limited to) the Northern Long-eared bat and Poweshiek skipperling (proposed for listing) as well as the bald eagle (protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act). These species may be impacted by the construction and/or long-term use of this project. Avoidance and minimization measures can be implemented to reduce impact to these species. Therefore, we recommend early coordination with the Service. A complete description of listed and proposed species (by county) that may be impacted by the GNTL was included in the March 14 letter.

In our previous letter, the Service requested that construction and long-term use of the GNTL project avoid all Service-interest lands. A legal description of these Service-interest lands was included in that letter. We would like to provide additional recommendations regarding these land interests and work cooperatively with you to identify alternatives that avoid service land interests. Right-of-way (ROW) requests on Service lands will need to be analyzed to determine if such requests are compatible with the mission and purpose of Service-area lands. An application request will need to include the final route determination and the exact location of the intended ROW before an application will be considered.

0006-9

Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS discuss potential impacts to wetland resources, along with avoidance and minimization measures.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0006-10

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS and the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discuss potential impacts to federally-listed species and designated critical habitat. Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS also discusses potential impacts to migratory birds. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

0006-9

0006-10

0006-11

Alternatives that avoid impacts to USFWS Interest Lands are analyzed in this EIS. The MN PUC will consider the analysis of these alternatives in this EIS as they select the route and issue the Route Permit to the Applicant. In addition, the Applicant is currently working with USFWS to avoid and/or minimize impacts to USFWS interest lands.

The Silver Creek Alignment Modification was proposed during the Scoping Process, which would avoid impacts to the Service/FmHA easement located in T160, R30, S27. This alignment modification is discussed in Sections S.10.2.9, 4.3.2.1, 6.3.9.1, and 6.5.2.1 of this EIS.

There were 4 alternatives proposed in the Beltrami North Central Variation Area during the Scoping Process, which would avoid impacts to the Service lands in T160, R34, Sections 12 and 13. These alternatives are discussed in Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of this EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

In reviewing the recently submitted route alternatives, multiple Service interest lands would still be impacted, including Agassiz and Tamarac National Wildlife Refuge, managed Farmer's Home Administration (FmHA) conservation easements, and multiple parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area (WMA). A legal description of these parcels and an overview map are included with this letter.

Some of these parcels are located in the northwestern portion of the proposed line, where no proposed alternatives exist. Service-administered and managed lands are acquired for the preservation of important wildlife and their habitats, and represent one of the Service's highest conservation priorities. The Service wishes to reiterate its position that all Service land interests should be avoided.

The Service requests the following actions be implemented as the planning of this project goes forward.

1. In areas where multiple route alternatives exist, the alternative with no Service-area land impacts should be chosen.
2. In areas where the proposed right-of-way corridor does not completely bisect refuge lands, the project proponent should utilize other areas of the ROW to avoid Service lands. Minnesota Power has indicated to the Service that the proposed ROW is a approximately 3,000-foot wide corridor, whereas the final ROW will be approximately 300 feet wide. This should provide sufficient area to avoid FWS lands. A Service/FmHA easement located in T160, R30, S27 is currently bisected by an existing ROW, but there is room for avoidance within the proposed ROW.
3. The proposed plan includes several parcels of the Beltrami Wildlife Management Area in Lake of the Woods and Roseau Counties that are completely bisected by the proposed ROW. No other proposed alternatives were given for this area (T160, R34, S12 and 13), and it does not appear possible to avoid these parcels while staying within the proposed ROW. Therefore, the Service requests that alternative routes be considered/investigated for these areas to avoid impacting these lands.

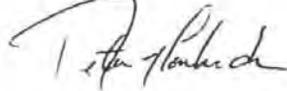
The Service recognizes that considerable work has been completed in developing these route alternatives, but believes the early nature of this project will allow for flexibility to revise the proposed ROW.

Thank you for considering these concerns and recommendations by the Service. We are willing to meet and discuss our concerns with the proposed ROW routes and the potential impacts to Service interest lands, as well as provide recommendations for ROW alternatives. Also, we have included an excerpt from Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Parts 29.21 and 29.22, which includes the description of the application process for ROW requests on Service lands.

0006-11

Please contact Margaret Rheude at the Twin Cities Field Office ([margaret\\_rheude@fws.gov](mailto:margaret_rheude@fws.gov) or 612-725-3548, extension 2202) for additional information or to coordinate discussions concerning the proposed ROW.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Fasbender  
Field Supervisor

Encl. Service-interest Area Map  
Legal Description of Service-interest Parcels  
50 CFR 29.21-22

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# GNTL Proposed Line and FWS Interest Property Intersect



 =FWS Interest Property     =Proposed GNTL Route

July 1, 2014

## Legal Description of Service Interest Lands – GNTL/FWS Intersection

County	Land Type	Township / Range	SEC	Description	FWS Refuge Oversight	Bisected by ROW?
Koochiching	FmHA Easement	151/28	26	W1/2 and SE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		27	SE1/4 and E1/2NE1/4 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		34	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
	FmHA Easement		35	N1/2N1/2 (portion) FmHA	Tamarac	Alternative ROW available
Lake of the Woods	Beltrami WMA	159/33	2	w1/2, se1/4,s1/2ne	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		3	e1/2e1/2,w1/2n w1/4	Agassiz	Bisects (several parcels), but alternative ROW available
	Beltrami WMA		4	E1/2ne1/4	Agassiz	Bisects, but alternative ROW available
	Beltrami WMA		23	se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		24	nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	FmHA Easement	160/30	22	~277ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement adm	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	FmHA Easement		27	~160ac/DNR owned/FmHA easement administered by FWS	Agassiz	Bisected by existing ROW, but room for avoidance available within proposed ROW
	Beltrami WMA	160/34	1	N1/2sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		2	N1/2se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance
	Beltrami WMA		3	W1/2	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		11	Se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible

County	Land Type	Township / Range	SE C	Description	FWS Refuge Oversight	Bisected by ROW?
	Beltrami WMA	160/34	12	Ne1/4,ne1/4se1/4,s1/2s1/2	Agassiz	Bisects, alternative ROW needed
Lake of the Woods	Beltrami WMA		13	E1/2e1/2,w1/2nw1/4	Agassiz	Bisects, alternative ROW needed
Roseau	Beltrami WMA	161/36	20	Ne1/4,se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		21	nw1/4,se1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA	161/37	13	Se1/4,sw1/4nw1/4,nw1/4sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		14	Se1/4ne1/4,ne1/4se1/4,w1/2ne1/4,e1/2nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		22	N1/2ne1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		23	Nw1/4nw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible
	Beltrami WMA		24	Sw1/4	Agassiz	Avoidance possible

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS  
e-CFR Data is current as of June 27, 2014

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries  
PART 29—LAND USE MANAGEMENT

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Subpart B—Rights-of-Way General Regulations

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**§29.21 What do these terms mean?**

*Compatible use* means a proposed or existing wildlife-dependent recreational use or any other use of a national wildlife refuge that, based on sound professional judgment, will not materially interfere with or detract from the fulfillment of the National Wildlife Refuge System mission or the purposes of the national wildlife refuge. The term "inconsistent" in section 28(b)(1) of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185) means a use that is not compatible.

*Department* means U.S. Department of the Interior unless otherwise specified.

*National Wildlife Refuge System land* means lands and waters, or interests therein, administered by the Secretary as wildlife refuges, areas for the protection and conservation of fish and wildlife that are threatened with extinction, wildlife ranges, game ranges, wildlife management areas, or waterfowl production areas.

*Other lands* means all other lands, or interests therein, and waters administered by the Secretary through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which are not included in National Wildlife Refuge System lands, e.g., administrative sites, research stations, fish hatcheries, and fishery research stations.

*Project Manager* means the officer in charge of the land under administration by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[34 FR 19907, Dec. 19, 1969, as amended at 39 FR 5490, Feb. 13, 1974; 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983; 51 FR 7575, Mar. 5, 1986; 65 FR 62483, Oct. 18, 2000]

**§29.21-1 Purpose and scope.**

The regulations in this subpart prescribe the procedures for filing applications and the terms and conditions under which rights-of-way over and across the lands administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may be granted.

(a) *National Wildlife Refuge System lands.* Applications for all forms of rights-of-way on or over such lands shall be submitted under authority of Pub. L. 89-669, (80 Stat. 926; 16 U.S.C. 668dd) as amended, or for oil and gas pipelines under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185) as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, following application procedures set out in §29.21-2. No right-of-way will be approved unless it is determined by the Regional Director to be compatible. See §29.21-8 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for electric power transmission lines and §29.21-9 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom.

(b) *National Wildlife Refuge System lands—easement interest.* Applications for all forms of rights-of-way across lands in which the United States owns only an easement interest may be submitted to the Regional Director in letter form. No map exhibit is required, however, the affected land should be described in the letter or shown on a map sketch. If the requested right-of-way will not adversely affect the United States' interest, the Regional Director may issue a letter stating that the interest of the United States to the right-of-way easement would not be affected provided there would be no objection to a right-of-way by the fee owner. If the interest of the United States will be affected, application for the right-of-way must be submitted in accordance with procedures set out in §29.21-2.

(c) *Other lands outside the National Wildlife Refuge System.* Rights-of-way on or over other lands will be granted in accordance with controlling authorities cited in 43 CFR part 2800, or for oil and gas pipelines under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (41 Stat. 449; 30 U.S.C. 185) as amended by Pub. L. 93-153. See §29.21-8 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for electric power transmission lines and §29.21-9 for additional requirements applicable to rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any other refined product produced therefrom. Applications will be submitted in accordance with procedures set out in §29.21-2.

[34 FR 19907, Dec. 19, 1969, as amended at 36 FR 2402, Feb. 4, 1971; 39 FR 5490, Feb. 13, 1974; 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983]

#### §29.21-2 Application procedures.

(a) *Application.* (1) No special form of application is required. The application should state the purpose for which the right-of-way is being requested together with the length, width on each side of the centerline, and the estimated acreage. Applications, including exhibits, must be filed in triplicate with the Regional Director for the region in which the State is located. A list of States in each region and the addresses of the regional offices are provided at 50 CFR 2.2.

(2)(i) All applications filed pursuant to this subpart in the name of individuals, corporations, or associations must be accompanied by a nonreturnable application fee. No application fee will be required of (A) State of local governments or agencies or instrumentalities thereof except as to rights-of-way, easements or permits under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, or (B) Federal Government agencies.

(ii) Application fees will be in accordance with the following schedule:

(A) For linear facilities (e.g., powerlines, pipelines, roads, etc.).

Length	Payment
Less than 5 miles	\$50 per mile or fraction thereof.
5 to 20 miles	\$500.
20 miles and over	\$500 for each 20 miles or fraction thereof.

(B) For nonlinear facilities, \$250 for each 40 acres or fraction thereof.

(C) Where an application includes both linear and nonlinear facilities, payment will be the aggregate of amounts under paragraphs (a)(2)(ii)(A) and (B) of this section.

(D) When an application is received, the Regional Director will estimate the costs expected to be incurred in processing the application. If the estimated costs exceed the payments under paragraph (a)(2)(ii) (A), (B), or (C) of this section by an amount greater than the cost of maintaining actual cost records, the Regional Director shall require the applicant to make periodic payments in advance of the incurrence of such costs by the United States except for the last payment which will reflect final reimbursement for actual costs of the United States in processing the application. Overpayments may be refunded or adjusted by the Regional Director as appropriate.

(E) The Regional Director shall, on request by an applicant or prospective applicant, give an estimate based on the best available cost information, of the costs which would be incurred by the United States in processing an application. However, reimbursement will not be limited to the estimate of the Regional Director if the actual costs exceed the estimate. Prospective applicants are encouraged to consult with the Regional Director in advance of filing an application in regard to probable costs and other requirements.

(3)(i) By accepting an easement or permit under this subpart, the holder agrees to reimburse the United States for reasonable costs incurred by the Fish and Wildlife Service in monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of facilities within or adjacent to the easement or permit area. No reimbursement of monitoring costs will be required of (A) State or local governments or agencies or instrumentalities thereof except as to right-of-way, easements, or permits granted under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 as amended by Pub. L. 93-153, or (B) Federal Government agencies.

(ii) Within 60 days of the issuance of an easement or permit the holder must submit a nonreturnable payment in accordance with the following:

(A) For linear facilities e.g., powerlines, pipelines, roads, etc.).

Length	Payment
Less than 5 miles	\$20 per mile or fraction thereof.
5 to 20 miles	\$200.
20 miles and over	\$200 for each 20 miles or fraction thereof.

(B) For nonlinear facilities, \$100 for each 40 acres or fraction thereof.

(C) Where an easement or permit includes both linear and nonlinear facilities, payment will be the aggregate amounts under paragraph (a)(3)(2)(ii) (A) and (B) of this section.

(D) When an easement or permit is granted the Regional Director shall estimate the costs, based on the best available cost information, expected to be incurred by the United States in monitoring holder activity. If the estimated costs exceed the payments under paragraph (a)(3)(2) (ii), (A), (B), or (C) of this section by an amount which is greater than the cost of maintaining actual cost records for the monitoring process, the Regional Director shall require the holder to make periodic payments of the estimated reimbursable costs prior to the incurrence of such costs by the United States. Overpayments may be refunded or adjusted by the Regional Director as appropriate.

(E) Following the termination of an easement or permit, the former holder will be required to pay additional amounts to the extent the actual costs to the United States have exceeded the payments required by paragraphs (a)(3)(ii)(A), (B), and (C) of this section.

(4) All applications filed pursuant to this subpart must include a detailed environmental analysis which shall include information concerning the impact of the proposed use of the environment including the impact on air and water quality; scenic and esthetic features; historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural features; wildlife, fish and marine life, etc. The analysis shall include sufficient data so as to enable the Service to prepare an environmental assessment and/or impact statement in accordance with section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and comply with the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*), the Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*), Executive Order 11593 "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" of May 13, 1971 (36 FR 8921), and "Procedures for the Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR, part 800). Concerning the National Environmental Policy Act, the Regional Director may, at his discretion, rely on an environmental assessment or impact statement prepared by a "lead agency."

(b) *Maps.* A map or plat must accompany each copy of the application and must show the right-of-way in such detail that the right-of-way can be accurately located on the ground. Ties to Service land boundary corner monuments or some prominent cultural features which can be readily recognized and recovered should be shown where the right-of-way enters and leaves Service project land together with courses and distances of the centerline. The width of the right-of-way on each side of the centerline together with the acreage included within the right-of-way or site must also be shown. If the right-of-way or site is located wholly within Service project land, a tie to a Government corner or prominent cultural feature which can be readily recognized and recovered should be shown.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43917, Aug. 31, 1977; 44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979; 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983; 77 FR 5715, Feb. 6, 2012; 78 FR 35152, June 12, 2013]

#### **§29.21-3 Nature of interest granted.**

(a) Where the land administered by the Secretary is owned in fee by the United States and the right-of-way is compatible with the objectives of the area, permit or easement may be approved and granted by the Regional Director. Generally an easement or permit will be issued for a term of 50 years or so long as it is used for the purpose granted, or for a lesser term when considered appropriate. For rights-of-way granted under authority of section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended, for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom, the grant may be for a term not to exceed 30 years and the right-of-way may not exceed 50 feet, plus the area occupied by the pipeline and its related facilities unless the Regional Director finds, and records the reasons for his finding, that, in his judgment, a wider right-of-way is necessary for operation and maintenance after construction, or to protect the environment or public safety. Related facilities include but are not limited to valves, pump stations, supporting structures, bridges, monitoring and communication devices, surge and storage tanks, terminals, etc. However, a temporary permit supplementing a right-of-way may be granted for additional land needed during construction, operation, maintenance, or termination of the pipeline, or to protect the natural environment or public safety.

(b) Unless otherwise provided, no interest granted shall give the grantee any right whatever to remove any material, earth, or stone for construction or other purpose, except that stone or earth necessarily removed from the right-of-way in the construction of a project may be used elsewhere along the same right-of-way in the construction of the same project.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43918, Aug. 31, 1977]

#### **§29.21-4 Terms and conditions.**

(a) Any right-of-way easement or permit granted will be subject to outstanding rights, if any, in third parties.

(b) An applicant, by accepting an easement or permit agrees to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed by the Regional Director in the granting document. Such terms and conditions shall include the following, unless waived in part by the Regional Director, and may include additional special stipulations at his discretion. See §29.21-8 for special requirements for electric powerlines and §29.21-9 for special requirements for oil and gas pipelines.

(1) To comply with State and Federal laws applicable to the project within which the easement or permit is granted, and to the lands which are included in the right-of-way, and lawful existing regulations thereunder.

(2) To clear and keep clear the lands within the easement or permit area to the extent and in the manner directed by the project manager in charge, and to dispose of all vegetative and other material cut, uprooted, or otherwise accumulated during the construction and maintenance of the project in such a manner as to decrease the fire hazard and also in accordance with such instructions as the project manager may specify.

(3) To prevent the disturbance or removal of any public land survey monument or project boundary monument unless and until the applicant has requested and received from the Regional Director approval of measures the applicant will take to perpetuate the location of aforesaid monument.

(4) To take such soil and resource conservation and protection measures, including weed control on the land covered by the easement or permit as the project manager in charge may request.

(5) To do everything reasonably within his power, both independently and on request of any duly authorized representative of the United States, to prevent and suppress fires on or near, lands to be occupied under the easement or permit area, including making available such construction and maintenance forces as may be reasonably obtainable for the suppression of such fires.

(6) To rebuild and repair such roads, fences, structures, and trails as may be destroyed or injured by construction work and upon request by the Regional Director, to build and maintain necessary and suitable crossings for all roads and trails that intersect the works constructed, maintained, or operated under the right-of-way.

(7) To pay the United States the full value for all damages to the lands or other property of the United States caused by him or by his employees, contractors, or employees of the contractors, and to indemnify the United States against any liability for damages to life, person or property arising from the occupancy or use of the lands under the easement or permit, except where the easement or permit is granted hereunder to a State or other governmental agency which has no legal power to assume such a liability with respect to damages caused by it to lands or property, such agency in lieu thereof agrees to repair all such damages. Where the easement of permit involves lands which are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the United States, the holder or his employees, contractors, or agents of the contractors, shall be liable to third parties for injuries incurred in connection with the easement or permit area. Grants of easements or permits involving special hazards will impose liability without fault for injury and damage to the land and property of the United States up to a specified maximum limit commensurate with the foreseeable risks or hazards presented. The amount of no-fault liability for each occurrence is hereby limited to no more than \$1,000,000.

(8) To notify promptly the project manager in charge of the amount of merchantable timber, if any, which will be cut, removed, or destroyed in the construction and maintenance of the project, and to pay the United States in advance of construction such sum of money as the project manager may determine to be the full stumpage value of the timber to be so cut, removed, or destroyed.

(9) That all or any part of the easement or permit granted may be terminated by the Regional Director, for failure to comply with any or all of the terms or conditions of the grant, or for abandonment. A rebuttable presumption of abandonment is raised by deliberate failure of the holder to use for any continuous 2-year period the easement or permit for the purpose for which it was granted or renewed. In the event of noncompliance or abandonment, the Regional Director will notify in writing the holder of the easement or permit of his intention to suspend or terminate such grant 60 days from the date of the notice, stating the reasons therefor, unless prior to that time the holder completes such corrective actions as are specified in the notice. The Regional Director may grant an extension of time within which to complete corrective actions when, in his judgment, extenuating circumstances not within the holder's control such as adverse weather conditions, disturbance to wildlife during breeding periods or periods of peak concentration, or other compelling reasons warrant. Should the holder of a right-of-way issued under authority of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended, fail to take corrective action within the 60-day period, the Regional Director will provide for an administrative proceeding pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 554, prior to a final Departmental decision to suspend or terminate the easement or permit. In the case of all other right-of-way holders, failure to take corrective action within the 60-day period will result in a determination by the Regional Director to suspend or terminate the easement or permit. No administrative proceeding shall be required where the easement or permit terminates under its terms.

(10) To restore the land to its original condition to the satisfaction of the Regional Director so far as it is reasonably possible to do so upon revocation and/or termination of the easement or permit, unless this requirement is waived in writing by the Regional Director. Termination also includes permits or easements that terminate under the terms of the grant.

(11) To keep the project manager informed at all times of his address, and, in case of corporations, of the address of its principal place of business and the names and addresses of its principal officers.

(12) That in the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project, he shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of race, creed, color, or national origin and shall require an identical provision to be included in all subcontracts.

(13) That the grant of the easement or permit shall be subject to the express condition that the exercise thereof will not unduly interfere with the management, administration, or disposal by the United States of the land affected thereby. The applicant agrees and consents to the occupancy and use by the United States, its grantees, permittees, or lessees of any part of the easement or permit area not actually occupied for the purpose of the granted rights to the extent that it does not interfere with the full and safe utilization thereof by the holder. The holder of an easement or permit also agrees that authorized representatives of the United States shall have the right of access to the easement or permit area for the purpose of making inspections and monitoring the construction, operation and maintenance of facilities.

(14) That the easement or permit herein granted shall be subject to the express covenant that any facility constructed thereon will be modified or adapted, if such is found by the Regional Director to be necessary, without liability or expense to the United States, so that such facility will not conflict with the use and occupancy of the land for any authorized works which may hereafter be constructed thereon under the authority of the United States. Any such modification will be planned and scheduled so as not to interfere unduly with or to have minimal effect upon continuity of energy and delivery requirements.

(15) That the easement or permit herein granted shall be for the specific use described and may not be construed to include the further right to authorize any other use within the easement or permit area unless approved in writing by the Regional Director.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43918, Aug. 31, 1977]

**§29.21-5 Construction.**

(a) If construction is not commenced within two (2) years after date of right-of-way grant, the right-of-way may be canceled by the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at his discretion.

(b) Proof of construction: Upon completion of construction, the applicant shall file a certification of completion with the Regional Director.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977]

**§29.21-6 Disposal, transfer or termination of interest.**

(a) *Change in jurisdiction over and disposal of lands.* The final disposal by the United States of any tract of land traversed by a right-of-way shall not be construed to be a revocation of the right-of-way in whole or in part, but such final disposition shall be deemed and taken to be subject to such right-of-way unless it has been specifically canceled.

(b) *Transfer of easement or permit.* Any proposed transfer, by assignment, lease, operating agreement or otherwise, of an easement or permit must be filed in triplicate with the Regional Director and must be supported by a stipulation that the transferee agrees to comply with and be bound by the terms and conditions of the original grant. A \$25 nonreturnable service fee must accompany the proposal. No transfer will be recognized unless and until approved in writing by the Regional Director.

(c) *Disposal of property on termination of right-of-way.* In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the holder of the right-of-way will be allowed 6 months after termination to remove all property or improvements other than a road and useable improvements to a road, placed thereon by him; otherwise, all such property and improvements shall become the property of the United States. Extensions of time may be granted at the discretion of the Regional Director.

[31 FR 16026, Dec. 15, 1966, as amended at 42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977]

**§29.21-7 What payment do we require for use and occupancy of national wildlife refuge lands?**

(a) Payment for use and occupancy of lands under the regulations of this subpart will be required and will be for fair market value as determined by appraisal by the Regional Director. At the discretion of the Regional Director, the payment may be a lump sum payment or an annual fair market rental payment, to be made in advance. If any Federal, State or local agency is exempted from such payment by and any other provision of Federal law, such agency shall otherwise compensate the Service by any other means agreeable to the Regional Director, including, but not limited to, making other land available or the loan of equipment or personnel, except that any such compensation shall relate to, and be consistent with the objectives of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The Regional Director may waive such requirement for compensation if he finds such requirement impracticable or unnecessary.

(b) When annual rental payments are used, such rates shall be reviewed by the Regional Director at any time not less than 5 years after the grant of the permit, right-of-way, or easement or the last revision of charges thereunder. The Regional Director will furnish a notice in writing to the holder of an easement or permit of intent to impose new charges to reflect fair market value commencing with the ensuing charge year. The revised charges will be effective unless the holder files an appeal in accordance with §29.22.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 65 FR 62483, Oct. 18, 2000]

**§29.21-8 Electric power transmission line rights-of-way.**

By accepting a right-of-way for a power transmission line, the applicant thereby agrees and consents to comply with and be bound by the following terms and conditions, except those which the Secretary may waive in a particular case, in addition to those specified in §29.21-4(b).

(a) To protect in a workmanlike manner, at crossings and at places in proximity to his transmission lines on the right-of-way authorized, in accordance with the rules prescribed in the National Electric Safety Code, all Government and other telephone, telegraph and power transmission lines from contact and all highways and railroads from obstruction and to maintain his transmission lines in such manner as not to menace life or property.

(b) Neither the privilege nor the right to occupy or use the lands for the purpose authorized shall relieve him of any legal liability for causing inductive or conductive interference between any project transmission line or other project works constructed, operated, or maintained by him on the servient lands, and any radio installation, telephone line, or other communication facilities now or hereafter constructed and operated by the United States or any agency thereof.

[42 FR 43919, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 48 FR 31655, July 11, 1983]

**§29.21-9 Rights-of-way for pipelines for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom.**

(a) *Application procedure.* Applications for pipelines and related facilities under this section are to be filed in accordance with §29.21-2 of these regulations with the following exception:

When the right-of-way or proposed facility will occupy Federal land under the control of more than one Federal Agency and/or more than one bureau or office of the Department of the Interior, a single application shall be filed with the appropriate State Director of the Bureau of Land Management in accordance with regulations in 43 CFR part 2800.

Any portion of the facility occupying land of the National Wildlife Refuge System will be subject to the provisions of these regulations.

(b) *Right-of-way grants* under this section will be subject to the special requirements of section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185), as amended, as set forth below. Gathering lines and associated structures used solely in the production of oil and gas under valid leases on the lands administered by the Fish and Wildlife Service are excepted from the provisions of this section.

(1) *Pipeline safety.* Rights-of-way or permits granted under this section will include requirements that will protect the safety of workers and protect the public from sudden ruptures and slow degradation of the pipeline. An applicant must agree to design, construct, and operate all proposed facilities in accordance with the provisions of parts 192 and/or 195 of title 49 of the CFR and in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Pub. L. 91-596, including any amendments thereto.

(2) *Environmental protection.* An application for a right-of-way must contain environmental information required by §29.21-2(a)(4) of this subpart. If the Regional Director determines that a proposed project will have a significant affect on the environment, there must also be furnished a plan of construction, operations, and rehabilitation of the proposed facilities. In addition to terms and conditions imposed under §29.21-4, the Regional director will impose such stipulations as may be required to assure: (i) Restoration, revegetation and curtailment of erosion of the surface; (ii) that activities in connection with the right-of-way or permit will not violate applicable air and water quality standards in related facilities siting standards established by law; (iii) control or prevention of damage to the environment including damage to fish and wildlife habitat, public or private property, and public health and safety; and (iv) protection of the interests of individuals living in the general area of the right-of-way or permit who rely on the fish, wildlife, and biotic resources of the area for subsistence purposes.

(c) *Disclosure.* If the applicant is a partnership, corporation, association, or other business entity it must disclose the identity of the participants in the entity. Such disclosure shall include where applicable (1) the name and address of each partner, (2) the name and address of each shareholder owning 3 percentum or more of the shares, together with the number and percentage of any class of voting shares of the entity which such shareholder is authorized to vote, and (3) the name and address of each affiliate of the entity together with, in the case of an affiliate controlled by the entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that affiliate owned, directly or indirectly, by that entity, and in the case of an affiliate which controls that entity, the number of shares and the percentage of any class of voting stock of that entity owned, directly or indirectly, by the affiliate.

(d) *Technical and financial capability.* The Regional Director may grant or renew a right-of-way or permit under this section only when he is satisfied that the applicant has the technical and financial capability to construct, operate, maintain and terminate the facility. At the discretion of the Regional Director, a financial statement may be required.

(e) *Reimbursement of costs.* In accordance with §29.21-2(a)(3) of this subpart, the holder of a right-of-way or permit must reimburse the Service for the cost incurred in monitoring the construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of any pipeline or related facilities as determined by the Regional Director.

(f) *Public hearing.* The Regional Director shall give notice to Federal, State, and local government agencies, and the public, and afford them the opportunity to comment on right-of-way applications under this section. A notice will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER and a public hearing may be held where appropriate.

(g) *Bonding.* Where appropriate the Regional Director may require the holder of a right-of-way or permit to furnish a bond, or other security satisfactory to him, to secure all or any of the obligations imposed by the terms and conditions of the right-of-way or permit or by any rule or regulation, not to exceed the period of construction plus one year or a longer period if necessary for the pipeline to stabilize.

(h) *Suspension of right-of-way.* If the Project Manager determines that an immediate temporary suspension of activities within a right-of-way or permit area is necessary to protect public health and safety or the environment, he may issue an emergency suspension order to abate such activities prior to an administrative proceeding. The Regional Director must make a determination and notify the holder in writing within 15 days from the date of suspension as to whether the suspension should continue and list actions needed to terminate the suspension. Such suspension shall remain in effect for only so long as an emergency condition continues.

(i) *Joint use of rights-of-way.* Each right-of-way or permit shall reserve to the Regional Director the right to grant additional rights-of-way or permits for compatible uses on or adjacent to rights-of-way or permit areas granted under this section after giving notice to the holder and an opportunity to comment.

(j) *Common carriers.* (1) Pipelines and related facilities used for the transportation of oil, natural gas, synthetic liquid or gaseous fuels, or any refined product produced therefrom shall be constructed, operated, and maintained as common carriers.

(2)(i) The owners or operators of pipelines subject to this subpart shall accept, convey, transport, or purchase without discrimination all oil or gas delivered to the pipeline without regard to whether such oil or gas was produced on Federal or non-Federal lands.

(ii) In the case of oil or gas produced from Federal lands or from the resources on the Federal lands in the vicinity of the pipelines, the Secretary may, after a full hearing with due notice thereof to the

interested parties and a proper finding of facts, determine the proportionate amounts to be accepted, conveyed, transported or purchased.

(3)(i) The common carrier provisions of this section shall not apply to any natural gas pipeline operated by any person subject to regulation under the Natural Gas Act or by any public utility subject to regulation by a State or municipal regulatory agency having jurisdiction to regulate the rates and charges for the sale of natural gas to consumers within the State or municipality.

(ii) Where natural gas not subject to state regulatory or conservation laws governing its purchase by pipelines is offered for sale, each such pipeline shall purchase, without discrimination, any such natural gas produced in the vicinity of the pipeline.

(4) The Regional Director shall require, prior to granting or renewing a right-of-way, that the applicant submit and disclose all plans, contracts, agreements, or other information or material which he deems necessary to determine whether a right-of-way shall be granted or renewed and the terms and conditions which should be included in the right-of-way. Such information may include, but is not limited to: (i) Conditions for, and agreements among owners or operators, regarding the addition of pumping facilities, looping, or otherwise increasing the pipeline or terminal's throughput capacity in response to actual or anticipated increases in demand; (ii) conditions for adding or abandoning intake, offtake, or storage points or facilities; and (iii) minimum shipment or purchase tenders.

(k) *Limitations on export.* Any domestically produced crude oil transported by pipeline over rights-of-way granted pursuant to section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, except such crude oil which is either exchanged in similar quantity for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation with persons or the government of an adjacent foreign state, or which is temporarily exported for convenience or increased efficiency of transportation across parts of an adjacent foreign state and reenters the United States, shall be subject to all of the limitation and licensing requirements of the Export Administration Act of 1969.

(l) *State standards.* The Regional Director shall take into consideration, and to the extent practical comply with, applicable State standards for right-of-way construction, operation, and maintenance.

(m) *Congressional notification.* The Secretary shall promptly notify the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate upon receipt of an application for a right-of-way for pipeline 24 inches or more in diameter, and no right-of-way for such a pipeline shall be granted until 60 days (not including days on which the House or Senate has adjourned for more than three days) after a notice of intention to grant the right-of-way, together with the Secretary's detailed findings as to the terms and conditions he proposes to impose, has been submitted to such committees.

[42 FR 43921, Aug. 31, 1977, as amended at 77 FR 5716, Feb. 6, 2012]

#### **§29.22 Hearing and appeals procedures.**

An appeal may be taken from any final disposition of the Regional Director to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and, except in the case of a denial of a right-of-way application, from the latter's decision to the Secretary of the Interior. Appeals to the Secretary shall be taken pursuant to 43 CFR part 4, subpart G.

[44 FR 42976, July 23, 1979]

**Cheryl D. Feigum**

---

**From:** Andrew.Brunner@dot.gov  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 25, 2015 6:37 AM  
**To:** Cheryl D. Feigum  
**Cc:** Gerald.Solomon@dot.gov  
**Subject:** Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft EIS released for public review and comment

0007-1  
 Thank you for your review.

Thank you Dr. Cheryl D. Feigum,

Under normal circumstances the Department of Energy would be the Federal Agency requesting comments on one of its Environmental Impact Statements where the leadership there thought that the Department of Transportation and, specifically, the Federal Highway Administration was an affected stakeholder. However, you provided the document as a private citizen. We have nonetheless reviewed the document to see if the federal transportation interests are impacted by the proposed action and if we had any comments to provide to the DOE. We have concluded, as expected, that the Federal Highway Administration has no comments on the document or the documentation it contains.

0007-1

Thank you for sharing the information.

**Andrew M. Brunner**

Federal Highway Administration  
 Environmental Specialist  
 FHWA Office of Project Development and Environmental Review  
 1200 New Jersey Ave SE  
 Washington DC 20590  
 (202)-366-4651  
[Andrew.Brunner@dot.gov](mailto:Andrew.Brunner@dot.gov)



Please consider the environment before printing this email

**From:** Cheryl D. Feigum [<mailto:CFeigum@barr.com>]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2015 3:01 PM  
**To:** 'westlake.kenneth@epa.gov'; 'rhonda.solomon@faa.gov'; 'jcarbhone/wo@fs.fed.us'; 'andree.duvarney@wdc.usda.gov'; 'mark.plank@wdc.usda.gov'; 'john.c.furry@usace.army.mil'; 'willie\_taylor@ios.doi.gov'; 'larry\_bright@fws.gov'; 'margaret\_rheude@fws.gov'; 'hassellmd@state.gov'; Solomon, Gerald (OST); Mittelholtz, Camille (OST); 'jeff.wright@ferc.gov'; 'will.seuffert@state.mn.us'; 'info.dnr@state.mn.us'; 'dterry@naseo.org'; 'bambi@nathpo.org'; 'hein@ncshpo.org'; 'dschroeder@abcbirds.org'; 'brown@electricity.ca'; 'ksiegel@biologicaldiversity.org'; 'sball@eei.org'; 'btyran@epri.com'; 'mncwa@cleanwater.org'; 'ien@igc.org'; 'dglenn@mnproject.org'; 'khall@audubon.org'; 'rae.cronmiller@nreca.org'; 'dgoldstein@nrdc.org'; 'lyon@nwf.org'; 'minnesota@tnc.org'; 'mnico@northstar.sierraclub.org'; 'barkley@prairierivers.org'; 'kschrader@ducks.org'; 'routree.marthea@epa.gov'; 'smoyer@tu.org'; 'jditto@publicpower.org'; 'jloichinger@achp.gov'; 'sarah.beimers@mnhs.org'; 'mnshpo@mnhs.org'  
**Cc:** 'Smith, Julie A (OE)'  
**Subject:** Great Northern Transmission Line Project Draft EIS released for public review and comment

Dear Interested Stakeholder,

The purpose of this email is to make you aware that the Department of Energy (DOE) has issued the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line Project (GNTL Project). You are invited to comment on the Draft EIS for the GNTL Project for a 45-day public comment period ending Monday, August 10, 2015. You have been identified as a potentially interested stakeholder in this action by the Department of Energy (DOE) and are therefore being notified of the draft EIS availability at the DOE GNTL Project EIS website at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>.

As you may recall, the proposed GNTL Project consists of an approximately 220-mile, overhead, single-circuit 500 kV AC transmission line between the Minnesota-Manitoba border crossing northwest of Roseau, Minnesota, and the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation near Grand Rapids, Minnesota. Minnesota Power's proposal also includes associated substation facilities and transmission system modifications at the Blackberry Substation site, and construction of a new 500 kV Series Compensation Station (a structure which will house the 500 kV series capacitor banks necessary for reliable operation and performance of the proposed transmission line). A new Blackberry 500 kV Substation would be required for the proposed Project and would be constructed adjacent to and east of the existing Blackberry 230/115 kV Substation.

Minnesota Power, a regulated utility division of ALLETE, Inc. applied to the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for a Presidential permit on April 15, 2014. The DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability is responsible for reviewing Presidential permit applications and determining whether to grant a permit for electrical transmission facilities that cross the United States' international border. The DOE determines whether issuing a Presidential permit would be consistent with the public interest and assesses the environmental effects of the proposed project, the effect of the proposed project on electric reliability, and other factors that the DOE considers relevant to the public interest. The DOE determined that issuance of a Presidential permit would constitute a major federal action and that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is the appropriate level of environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

Under the state's Power Plant Siting Act (PPSA), the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MN PUC) must also determine the route for the proposed line and any conditions it will require for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the proposed GNTL Project through its Route Permit process. Minnesota Power filed its Route Permit application for the proposed GNTL Project concurrently with the DOE Presidential permit application on April 15, 2014. As part of the MN PUC Route Permit decision-making process, an environmental impact statement must be prepared. In order to avoid duplication with state environmental review procedures, DOE and the Minnesota Department of Commerce – Energy Environmental Review and Analysis (DOC-EERA) are acting as co-lead agencies and have prepared a single EIS to comply with environmental review requirements under NEPA and the PPSA.

The United States (US) Army Corps of Engineers – St. Paul District, US Fish and Wildlife Service – Twin Cities Ecological Field Office, and US Environmental Protection Agency – Region 5 (Chicago) are all cooperating agencies in the preparation of the draft GNTL Project EIS.

DOE has posted the Draft EIS on the <http://www.greatnortherneis.org> in a format that can be downloaded to a personal computer. In addition, DOE and DOC-EERA are placing a hard copy and a CD-Rom copy of the Draft EIS at the following public libraries along the proposed GNTL Project route:

- Baudette Library, 110 1st Street SW, Baudette
- Blackduck Public Library, 72 1st Street SE, Blackduck
- Bovey Public Library, 402 2nd Street, Bovey
- Calumet Library, 932 Gary Street, Calumet
- Coleraine Public Library, 203 Cole Street, Coleraine
- Duluth Public Library, 520 W Superior Street, Duluth
- Grand Rapids Public Library, 140 NE 2nd Street, Grand Rapids
- Greenbush Public Library, PO Box 9, Greenbush
- International Falls Public Library, 750 4th Street, International Falls

- Marble Public Library, 302 Alice Avenue, Marble
- Northome Public Library, 12064 Main Street, Northome
- Roseau Public Library, 121 Center Street E, Suite 100, Roseau
- Warroad Public Library, 202 Main Avenue NE, Warroad
- Williams Public Library, 350 Main Street, Williams

If you would like to request a hardcopy or an electronic copy on a CD of the Draft EIS, please respond to this email and indicate what format you would like, along with your full name and physical address. If you plan to download the document from the project website, you do not need to respond to this email.

DOE and DOC-EERA will also conduct public hearings commencing at the times identified below to receive comments on the Draft EIS at the following locations:

COUNTY	CITY	MEETING LOCATION	DATE AND TIME
Roseau	Roseau	Roseau Civic Center 121 Center Street E	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Lake of the Woods	Baudette	Lake of the Woods School 236 15 <sup>th</sup> Ave SW	Wednesday, July 15, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Koochiching	Littlefork	Littlefork Community Center 220 Main St	Thursday, July 16, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Koochiching	International Falls	AmericInn 1500 Hwy 71	Thursday, July 16, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Beltrami	Kelliher	Kelliher Old School Center 243 Clark Avenue N (Highway 72)	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Bigfork	Bigfork School 100 Huskie Blvd	Tuesday, July 21, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 11:00 am – 3:00 pm
Itasca	Grand Rapids	Timber Lake Lodge 144 SE 17th Street	Wednesday, July 22, 2015 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm

Comments on the Draft EIS can be submitted verbally during public hearings or in writing to Dr. Julie A. Smith at: Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability (OE-20), U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20585; via e-mail to [Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov](mailto:Juliea.Smith@hq.doe.gov); by facsimile to (202) 586-8008; or through the project website at <http://www.greatnortherneis.org>. Please mark envelopes and electronic mail subject lines as "GNTL Draft EIS Comments." Written comments must be received by August 11, 2015. Comments submitted after that date will be considered to the extent practicable.

Cheryl D. Feigum, PhD

Vice President  
Senior Environmental Scientist  
Minneapolis office: 952.832.2680  
cell: 701.412.1301  
[cfeigum@barr.com](mailto:cfeigum@barr.com)  
[www.barr.com](http://www.barr.com)



1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Lake of the Woods School  
19 236 15th Avenue SW  
20 Baudette, Minnesota

21 July 15, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 be, whatever route you may want. But I won't stop  
2 you from saying anything like that tonight, but I'm  
3 encouraging you to focus on the draft environmental  
4 impact statement if you can.

5 And written comments, as I said, you've  
6 got until August 10th. You can send them to either  
7 me or Jules. You can use my form, you can snail  
8 mail me, e-mail me, fax me your comments. Same  
9 thing with Jules. You don't need to copy us both,  
10 but you can if you want, we are going to share the  
11 comments. And you can also comment electronically  
12 if our website is working. So you have our website  
13 and you have the Fed's website that you can go to  
14 and you can put a comment in electronically. I  
15 think that's it.

16 Okay. So that's the state process, Jules  
17 did the federal process. No one gave me a card so  
18 I'll just go by a show of hands. If somebody wants  
19 to speak, I know, Carol, you would like to speak, if  
20 you wouldn't mind coming up front to the mic and  
21 stating and spelling your name.

22 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: First, where is the  
23 application? I mean, the EIS.

24 MR. BILL STORM: It's right there where  
25 the mic is.

0009-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 UNIDENTIFIED: I've got part of it here.

2 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I wonder if I could  
3 use it.

4 MR. BILL STORM: There's a second copy  
5 over on that table over there. Mike's got it for  
6 you. You're all right. You're all right.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you. There we  
8 go.

9 Carol Overland, 1110 West Avenue,  
10 Red Wing, Minnesota.

11 And you can also get more information at  
12 the Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line, at  
13 [www.Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line.org](http://www.Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line.org).

14 I started waking up because I started to  
15 read this. So it was useful.

16 First, let's see. Looking at page 45,  
17 also the no action alternative, which is addressed  
18 on page S-6 and then also on page 45. I wanted to  
19 encourage a correction in the flip notes, and maybe,  
20 you know, in the text, too, because it talks about,  
21 first of all, the last paragraph on page 45, where  
22 it talks about under the Power Plant Siting Act,  
23 need is not to be evaluated in the environmental  
24 impact statement, and that's not correct. Under  
25 216E.02, subdivision 2, there it talks about

0009-1

0009-1 cont'd

28

1 questions of need, including size, type, and timing,  
 2 alternative system configuration and voltage must  
 3 not be included in the scope of environmental review  
 4 conducted under this Chapter. That would be, then,  
 5 the Power Plant Siting Act environmental review, but  
 6 that doesn't address the DOE environmental review  
 7 here. So I think maybe quoting that part instead of  
 8 just putting the citation there would be useful.

9 And then further down it says -- let's  
 10 see. Oh, it also quotes from 216E.03, subdivision  
 11 5, which there it says the Commissioner shall not  
 12 consider whether or not the project is needed. And  
 13 that addresses the commissioner of Commerce, I would  
 14 imagine, which we're changing the rulemaking, I  
 15 thank the Public Utilities Commission, but that's  
 16 technical. But that's, again, not related to the  
 17 DOE. And in this proceeding there has not been an  
 18 environmental impact statement for the certificate  
 19 of need, this is the first environmental impact  
 20 statement, and so I think, you know, for NEPA  
 21 compliance that should talk about need. And so it's  
 22 something you should address.

23 What really got my dander up, though, I  
 24 was reading through this and I saw some references  
 25 to the Mesaba Project. And the one that was most

0009-1  
Continued

0009-2

The purpose and need for DOE's action and decision is described in Section 1.2.2 and the MN PUC certificate of need process is discussed in Section 1.3.2 of the EIS. The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163 (Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-3

The Mesaba Project has not been formally withdrawn and it has an existing permit.

0009-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-3

0009-3  
Continued

1 concerning to me, I mean, it's mentioned 22 times,  
2 if you do a search on Mesaba you come up with 22  
3 times where it talks about the Mesaba Energy  
4 Project. And on page 663 -- I'll check for sure,  
5 just a minute. The Mesaba Project, I've been  
6 dealing with that since 2001 when they first  
7 proposed it before the legislature and it just won't  
8 go away, but it's not being built. On page 663 it  
9 says, flip note 88, the Mesaba Energy Project is now  
10 expected to be a combined-cycle natural gas plant.  
11 No. And so I think the credibility of the EIS is  
12 really harmed by any reference to the Mesaba  
13 Project, which is not happening. They were issued a  
14 permit, but it's not happening.

15 And I believe that the interconnection  
16 agreement has been at MISO, has been revoked or  
17 cancelled or withdrawn. So check that out, because  
18 the Mesaba Project is not happening. Julie  
19 Jorgensen is now on to some solar in my community of  
20 Red Wing with our illustrative mayor who was the  
21 lobbyist for Sand Company. Anyway, there's  
22 questionable parts of them all doing something else  
23 now. So I think any reference to the Mesaba Project  
24 really should be reconsidered, it doesn't have any  
25 relevance to this.

0009-4

The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project and its 250 MW capacity is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163 (Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-5

The reliability benefits of the proposed Project were studied extensively as part of the Applicant's certificate of need process. The MN PUC concluded that the line would improve reliability for the transmission grid in the area.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0009-4

0009-5

1 Another issue is, looking at that no  
 2 action alternative, page 45, which is a short  
 3 version on S-6, I'm back there again. First, it  
 4 talks about not taking delivery of the 250 to 133  
 5 megawatts, that would be an impact, and there's no  
 6 substantiation of that and so I'd like to know, you  
 7 know, where that comes from. And also cost benefit.  
 8 And, granted, Michigan versus EPA was about  
 9 rulemaking, it's not -- this is not rulemaking. But  
 10 the importance of specifying cost benefits is really  
 11 important here. And I see a lot of conclusory  
 12 statements, but I don't see real statements of what  
 13 the benefits are.

14 The second paragraph there, that it would  
 15 not be available during a contingency on the  
 16 existing 500 kV transmission line to reduce loading  
 17 and improve performance. So system reliability  
 18 would be adversely impacted. The electrical system  
 19 has to be able to function if something goes out.  
 20 And we can presume that the system is reliable right  
 21 now and that it can function if something goes out.  
 22 So that needs substantiation, because that would  
 23 imply that the system isn't reliable as it is, but  
 24 it is. So a cite to the electrical studies, put  
 25 links in there, if there's something that does

0009-5 cont'd

31

1 relate to this, but I just don't think that's an  
2 accurate description.

3 Fourth -- or third, the future North  
4 Dakota wind generating option would be adversely  
5 impacted. How does this project affect the  
6 impact -- what impact does North Dakota wind  
7 generation have on this project, what impact does  
8 this project have on North Dakota wind? It's not  
9 connected to North Dakota. Is it related to the  
10 line that Minnesota Power bought and will be  
11 bringing over and using for wind, you know,  
12 dedicating that to wind? Or, you know, what's the  
13 connection here because I don't see it. And  
14 benefits should be really clearly laid out.

15 I think that would be it for now, and  
16 I'll have some more later, but not all that much. I  
17 mean, in writing. Or next time.

18 Thank you.

19 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Carol.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Thanks, Carol.

21 Okay. A show of hands, since nobody  
22 filled out my card. Alan, do you want -- okay. If  
23 you would please move over to the mic or have the  
24 mic -- just bring the mic over to yourself, whatever  
25 way you want to do it.

0009-5  
Continued

0009-6

Section 2.2.3 discusses the North Dakota Wind Energy Renewable Optimization Strategy.

0009-6

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
  
JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Lake of the Woods School  
236 15th Avenue SW  
Baudette, Minnesota

July 15, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 farmers journal or from an academic study, from a  
2 Canada university or a United States university  
3 somewhere, some kind of documentation that shows me  
4 some more of that, that may cause us to beef that  
5 section up if we need to.

6 Okay. Are you fine? You can make some  
7 more comments, if you'd like.

8 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: No, I don't have  
9 time to do that, but I will send something.

10 MR. BILL STORM: And did I give you a CD  
11 copy?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I don't need a CD  
13 copy, I can get it online.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Oh, you can get it  
15 online? Some people, depending on what kind of  
16 online system you have, it's a big document to pull  
17 it all down.

18 Okay. Anybody else want to speak on the  
19 record?

20 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I have a procedural  
21 question.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Carol, go ahead.

23 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: This is fairly  
24 quick. Given that there's a federal aspect of this,  
25 do you do the -- like record of decision process in

0010-1

The response to the comment is provided in the transcript following this comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0010-1

1 this as far as the federal part of it, how does that  
2 get into the state?

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay. Well, it's a  
4 separate decision from the state decision. And as I  
5 said in my opening remarks, that we would issue the  
6 final EIS and we would have to wait a minimum of 30  
7 days before we issue the record of decision. That  
8 does not mean that on day 31 DOE will issue it, it  
9 just means that's a cooling off period that's  
10 required.

11 Right after you do the environmental  
12 review, you get it out in the public, and then the  
13 agency sort of sits back and takes some time to  
14 deliberate and think, right. Then we may issue a  
15 record of decision. The timing of the record of  
16 decision issuance is based on a couple of different  
17 factors. Yes, the final EIS, as well as making sure  
18 that we have fully complied with our consultation  
19 responsibilities under Section 106, the National  
20 Historic Preservation Act, that was mentioned, as  
21 well as Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. So  
22 there are other things that need to happen. We  
23 typically get those things done before we issue our  
24 record of decision and we talk about those  
25 consultations in the record as well as the decision.

1                   So there will be a record of decision,  
2                   it's required as part of the process, as you know,  
3                   but the exact timing of that, you know, it depends,  
4                   right, as this process moves forward, but it would  
5                   not be sooner than 30 days after the final is  
6                   issued.

7                   MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And then for you,  
8                   Mr. Storm, then, how does that fit with the state's  
9                   process and the ALJ's recommendation going to the  
10                  PUC? Will there be an ALJ recommendation and/or a  
11                  PUC determination prior to the record of decision by  
12                  the feds?

13                  MR. BILL STORM: The way the process is  
14                  working is the state and fed joint efforts are only  
15                  surrounding the environmental review. Once the  
16                  environmental review is completed, the processes are  
17                  again separated.

18                  DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Once that final is  
19                  issued, the final EIS.

20                  MS. CAROL OVERLAND: The final EIS?

21                  DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yes. Right.

22                  MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay.

23                  MR. BILL STORM: Are you okay, Carol?

24                  MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Well, yes. That's  
25                  clear, yes.

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - ROSEAU  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
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10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Roseau Civic Center  
19 121 Center Street East  
20 Roseau, Minnesota

21 July 15, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

24

1 that failed. So what I'll do is if anybody wants to  
2 speak tonight, please raise your hands if you want  
3 to speak.

4 Okay. We'll start out with Carol. Carol  
5 Overland, please state and spell your name. Turn  
6 your mic on.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

8 Carol Overland, I'm an attorney, and my  
9 address is 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing, Minnesota.

10 And I'm not representing anyone at this  
11 point in the certificate of need process. I want to  
12 make sure that everyone knows that the buy the farm  
13 option is an option here. That if they do want to  
14 take your land, they can take -- you can require  
15 that they take the entire parcel, not just a small  
16 piece of it. And I'll have more comments later on  
17 if I have a chance to look at the EIS.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

20 Anyone else want to speak on the record  
21 tonight -- today, this morning?

22 MR. TODD LUND: I would.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Please step up to  
24 the mic and state and spell your name, please.

25 MR. TODD LUND: My name is Todd H. Lund,

0011-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in  
response to this comment.

0011-1

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
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3  
4 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS

5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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1 has passed, is there anybody who would like to speak  
2 tonight on the record about the draft environmental  
3 impact statement?

4 Carol, we will go to you first then, and  
5 then when Carol is done we will call for another  
6 show of hands.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

8 Carol Overland, 1110 West Avenue,  
9 Red Wing. You can also check out the Not-So-Great-  
10 Northern-Transmission-Line. Just Google that and  
11 information will appear there and the EIS is also  
12 available there.

13 On the way over, something I noticed, and  
14 I did a search of the EIS and I couldn't find  
15 anything about it. There are bees everywhere.  
16 Everywhere you go up here, I'm shocked, I've never  
17 seen so many. We have a lot of honey places down  
18 near Red Wing, but all along 11, beehives  
19 everywhere, up and down 72, up and down 46. So I  
20 don't see anything in here on the impact of  
21 transmission on bees, and I think that that should  
22 be in here. That's the easy part.

23 Oh, and also on Mesaba, it's mentioned 22  
24 times, there's a 23rd mention of Mesaba but that's  
25 not related to the Mesaba Energy Project. And as I

0012-1

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property. Where it is not possible or reasonable to re-route the proposed transmission line to avoid existing bee colonies, the hives would have to be relocated.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0012-2

The Mesaba Project has not been formally withdrawn and it has an existing permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0012-1

0012-2

0012-2 cont'd

26

1 understand it, thanks to David Moeller, he just  
 2 mentioned that the generation interconnection  
 3 agreement, or the MISO queue position is gone. It's  
 4 gone, history. That's an indication there's nothing  
 5 happening there. And for those of us who have been  
 6 involved with it for the last 10 years, 12 years, 13  
 7 and 14 years, it was 2001 for me, no, nothing is  
 8 happening on the Mesaba Project. So any reference  
 9 to that should be taken out to increase the  
 10 credibility of the EIS.

11 The other thing that really struck me was  
 12 I saw that Lauren Azar is listed as the NEPA  
 13 advisor. My first dealings with her were in 1999,  
 14 2000, on the Arrowhead project, where she was  
 15 representing American Transmission Company, which  
 16 came into being during the Arrowhead project while  
 17 we were at the Wisconsin PUC about it.

18 My next dealing with her was at the  
 19 Wisconsin PSC when she was a PSC commissioner. Then  
 20 the next dealing after that, she was appointed by  
 21 Obama to be one of the co-chairs of the RRTT, I  
 22 think it was called, the Rapid Response Transmission  
 23 Team, I think it was, to help promote transmission  
 24 and make sure transmission projects that are applied  
 25 for get approved. And I see her listed here as one

0012-2  
Continued

0012-3

In accordance with 40 CFR &sect;1506.5(c), a disclosure statement to avoid conflict of interest was executed by Ms. Azar and is available in Appendix T of the EIS. No changes have been made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0012-3

1 of the people working on this. It's in section 8.

2 It says she has 21 years of experience,  
3 but as I understand it, it's 21 years of  
4 transmission promotion. And so I don't think that  
5 she would pass a conflict of interest scrutiny. I  
6 think that's something that should be looked at. I  
7 wonder, here it is, page 674, it was her as the NEPA  
8 advisor. And I know she's had experience in  
9 promoting transmission, but as far as NEPA  
10 experience, I'm not so sure. And I've had three  
11 projects that she's been involved in. So I think  
12 that that's something that's a problem. She's not  
13 unbiassed in any sense, she's had a career of  
14 promotion of transmission.

15 So that is it for today. And, again, I  
16 urge people to check out Not-So-Great-Northern-  
17 Transmission-Line. Google that, and you'll find out  
18 more information on this project.

19 Thank you.

20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Carol.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

22 Okay. Anyone else want to speak on the  
23 record?

24 Okay. Ma'am, would you please come  
25 forward and state and spell your name for the court

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18 AmericInn  
19 1500 Highway 71  
20 International Falls, Minnesota

21 July 16, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 help facilitate your search.

2 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Could I address  
3 something about the gravel pit?

4 MR. BILL STORM: Come forward, Carol, and  
5 have another go at it.

6 Please state and spell your name. I'm  
7 just making you do that because --

8 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Carol Overland. I  
9 do believe our court reporter knows it too well.

10 Gravel pits, it's important that the  
11 DEIS, and I haven't done a search of it for this,  
12 the Henshaw effect has an impact on gravel pits  
13 where you have dust and then you have the corona  
14 from the transmission lines, and then the corona  
15 means that it attaches to the dust, and the dust,  
16 when you breathe it in, attaches to your lungs, and  
17 it is carcinogenic and then you can end up very  
18 easily with lung cancer. It's a very serious  
19 problem. It's called the Henshaw effect, it's been  
20 known for -- well, since, like, the Arrowhead  
21 project 20 years ago. It's long-standing, a lot of  
22 information about that, and it should be covered in  
23 here. A transmission line shouldn't be going  
24 through gravel pits or areas where there's a lot of  
25 dust. Mining of any sort can be a problem around a

0013-1

In 2004, the National Radiological Protection Board of the UK published an independent review on particle deposition in the vicinity of power lines and their potential effects on health ([http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140629102627/http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb\\_C/1194947415038](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20140629102627/http://www.hpa.org.uk/webc/HPAwebFile/HPAweb_C/1194947415038)).

This review concluded that although most the physical processes of ionization of air do happen, "it seems unlikely that corona ions would have more than a small effect on the long-term health risks associated with particulate air pollutants, even in the individuals who are most affected. In public health terms, the proportionate impact will be even lower because only a small fraction of the general population live or work close to sources of corona ions."

Further, the World Health Organization published in 2007 a similar statement in Monograph No 238 on Extremely Low Frequency Fields ([http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/elf\\_ehc/en/](http://www.who.int/peh-emf/publications/elf_ehc/en/)), indicating that high-voltage power lines "produce clouds of electrically charged ions as a consequence of corona discharge. It is suggested that they could increase the deposition of airborne pollutants on the skin and on airways inside the body, possibly adversely affecting health. However, it seems unlikely that corona ions will have more than a small effect, if any, on long-term health risks, even in the individuals who are most exposed."

0013-1

Section 7.2.2.4 of the EIS identifies the presence of currently active areas of so-called "scram" mining located approximately four to six miles west of the proposed routes and variations. The anticipated alignment for all other proposed routes and variations are located more than 2,000 feet from existing or proposed scram mining facilities in the area. Although corona ions can be dispersed by wind and some can transfer charge to aerosols and air pollutants, only those individuals living or working in the immediate vicinity of sources of corona ions have the potential to be exposed to particulate air pollutants.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 transmission line, or transmission can be a problem  
2 near a mine of any sort.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

5 Okay. Coming back to the general room.

6 Does anyone want to make a comment?

7 Would you please come forward, ma'am?

8 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Could I ask a  
9 question?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can ask a question,  
11 but it may not be answered tonight, it will be in  
12 the final.

13 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: It's a  
14 question of whether I can find information in here,  
15 so it might be a comment relative to the  
16 accessibility of information. Would that be  
17 acceptable?

18 MR. BILL STORM: Sure. Just state and  
19 spell your name and go for it.

20 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: My name is  
21 Anne Marguerite Coyle, professor of biology is my  
22 presence today. A-N-N-E, M-A-R-G-U-E-R-I-T-E,  
23 C-O-Y-L-E.

24 And my question is in reference to -- I  
25 will be honest, I have not read the entire thing at

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS

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16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

17  
18 Timberlake Lodge  
19 144 SE 17th Street  
20 Grand Rapids, Minnesota

21 July 22, 2015

22  
23  
24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Good morning. Carol  
2 Overland, 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing.

3 And you can also find more information at  
4 Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line. Google  
5 that and things will show up.

6 That last comment was interesting  
7 because, yes, people can have an impact. I don't  
8 think there are any intervenors in this, are there?

9 MR. BILL STORM: There are no intervenors  
10 on this other than Minnesota Power. Not  
11 intervenors, the only party is Minnesota Power.

12 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. So there's no  
13 intervenors, and that's the main way that people can  
14 have an impact, is to intervene in a proceeding.  
15 And so all that's left, because there are no  
16 intervenors, is making comments now. So it is  
17 really important to do that and to be as specific as  
18 you possibly can. And to have your neighbors write  
19 comments in, put letters in the paper to get it in  
20 the news, that would help too.

21 But, you know, it does concern me that  
22 there are no intervenors here, so really the  
23 contested case isn't really contested. Also, during  
24 the contested case, which is that the week of  
25 August 5th, was it like the 5th and the 6th?

0014-1

0014-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 MR. BILL STORM: It begins the week of  
2 August 5th and goes on to the next week, the August  
3 12th week.

4 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: And is that public,  
5 is the notice out?

6 MR. BILL STORM: Mike's indicating that,  
7 yes, they released a notice.

8 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Okay. And I will  
9 look that up and I will publish that on the  
10 Not-So-Great-Northern-Transmission-Line. At that  
11 you have the option of questioning the utility  
12 witnesses, so it's important to do that if you're  
13 interested. And to do that you need to, you know,  
14 look at the application, look at these materials,  
15 see what's going on and question them very  
16 specifically. But you do have that right and so if  
17 you do want to do that, you're welcome to do it,  
18 it's very important.

19 Thank you.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

21 Okay. Anyone else want to make a  
22 comment?

23 Richard, do you want to make a comment?

24 Richard, please step to the mic, state and spell  
25 your name.

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

AmericInn  
1500 Highway 71  
International Falls, Minnesota

July 16, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 reporter and make your comment?

2 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: My name is Carol  
3 Avelsgaard, A-V-E-L-S-G-A-A-R-D. And I am from  
4 Northome, I own the lumber gravel pit, which is  
5 smack dab in the middle of one of the proposed  
6 routes.

7 I mean, do I have to wait until the  
8 August comments, or can I say now that I am  
9 concerned about this?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can say now what you  
11 feel like saying, Carol. What we're here for  
12 tonight is to collect information on the draft  
13 environmental impact statement. If you feel a need  
14 to go above and beyond that charge and make a  
15 statement, that's fine with me.

16 What I would encourage you to do, though,  
17 is recognize that that statement is probably not so  
18 relative to the document itself, so I would  
19 encourage you to then again come to the contested  
20 case hearings, speak to the judge, and provide the  
21 judge with the information of how personally,  
22 professionally, this project affects you.

23 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I assume I can do  
24 that by providing written comments? Because I do  
25 not live here.

0015-1

Potential impacts to aggregate resources are discussed in  
Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS.

0015-1 No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 MR. BILL STORM: You can certainly do  
2 that by written comment. Did you get notice of this  
3 meeting in the mail?

4 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Yes.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Then that means  
6 you're on our list.

7 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I own the  
8 property. I operate the gravel pit.

9 MR. BILL STORM: You will then get notice  
10 of the hearing. That notice should be coming out  
11 any day, right, Mike?

12 MR. MIKE KALUZNIAK: Yes.

13 MR. BILL STORM: So you'll get notice of  
14 the contested case hearing for August and in that  
15 will be how to submit written comments. So just  
16 follow those instructions and your comments will be  
17 accepted and will carry as much weight as if you  
18 were at the hearing yourself.

19 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Yes. In your  
20 experience, are other people impacted by having a  
21 line go through their place of business?

22 MR. BILL STORM: Again, this is not a  
23 session for us to go back and forth. But if you  
24 want to finish your comment, you're more than  
25 welcome to.

0015-1  
Continued

1 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: That's all I can  
2 say.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Okay, Carol. What I  
4 recommend you do is, for sure, if you don't think  
5 the draft environmental impact statement identifies  
6 your property --

7 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: Let me look.

8 MR. BILL STORM: You don't have to do it  
9 tonight, you've got until August 10th.

10 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I'd like to know.

11 MR. BILL STORM: I'll give you a CD copy  
12 before you leave, make sure you check with me, and  
13 look at the section of that document that talks  
14 about where your property is and whatever the  
15 variation is that goes across your property --

16 MS. CAROL AVELSGAARD: I'm going to.

17 MR. BILL STORM: -- and if you don't  
18 think this adequately describes it, please submit  
19 that in writing to us so that we can correct that in  
20 the final.

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Also, ma'am, the  
22 gentleman back at the maps, his name is Mike, he  
23 knows this document very well, as well as the maps,  
24 and can help you identify where your property is at  
25 and the location in the document and so that will

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 22, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - GRAND RAPIDS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Timberlake Lodge  
144 SE 17th Street  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

July 22, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1           You want to speak.

2           MR. ROBERT BURBIE: I have a question.

3           MR. BILL STORM: Sir, please come to the  
4 mic, state and spell your name for the court  
5 reporter.

6           MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Robert Burbie,  
7 B-U-R-B-I-E.

8           My question is the permits haven't been  
9 issued yet, right? That comes after your hearing,  
10 right? On all of this proposed environmental stuff?

11          MR. BILL STORM: If you're referring to  
12 the downstream permits from the other agencies,  
13 MnDOT, DNR --

14          MR. ROBERT BURBIE: I mean the big  
15 permits from the states, from the state, the main  
16 one you're trying to get on what you do on the  
17 routing and all that. And crossing the state line,  
18 into Canada from the United States, is there a  
19 permit for that?

20          DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The Presidential  
21 permit has not been issued.

22          MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Now, once it's  
23 issued, how long is that good for?

24          DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: How long is it good  
25 for?

24

0016-1

0016-1

Information is added to Section 1.3.1.3 regarding Minnesota Rule 7850.4700 (Delay In Route or Site Construction) states: If construction and improvement of a route or site have not commenced four years after the permit has been issued by the commission, the commission shall suspend the permit. If at that time, or at a time subsequent, the permittee decides to construct the proposed large electric power generating facility or high voltage transmission line, the permittee shall certify to the commission that there have been no significant changes in any material aspects of the conditions or circumstances existing when the permit was issued.

Information is added to Section 1.2.2 regarding the Presidential permit, which does not have an expiration date.

1 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Once you get the  
2 permit, you got so long before you get the line in,  
3 right?

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: We can address that  
5 in the document, yeah.

6 MR. BILL STORM: We'll answer that in the  
7 final.

8 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Okay. I was kind of  
9 curious because I know they put deadlines on these  
10 permits. If they run out you got to go through this  
11 whole system again, don't you?

12 MR. BILL STORM: We'll discuss that issue  
13 in the final, we'll answer that question in the  
14 final.

15 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Okay. I was kind of  
16 wondering about that.

17 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

18 MR. BILL STORM: Yeah. We don't want to  
19 give you inaccurate information tonight so let us  
20 look at it and then we'll answer in the final.

21 MR. ROBERT BURBIE: Yeah, and I don't  
22 want you to give me the wrong answer.

23 MR. BILL STORM: I understand. Thank  
24 you.

25 Anyone else want to speak?

DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Bigfork School  
100 Huskie Boulevard  
Bigfork, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay, sir, please.

2 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: My name is David  
3 Christenson, C-H-R-I-S-T-E-N-S-O-N.

4 I live over on Deer Lake year round, have  
5 for 20 years. And I don't know if there's any other  
6 Deer Lake folks here, so I might be the unauthorized  
7 spokesperson for the Deer Lake Association. I have  
8 discussed this line since it was proposed a couple  
9 of years ago with several of my neighbors, and a lot  
10 of them are part-time out-of-staters. And I can  
11 overwhelmingly say that very few are for the blue  
12 proposed route because it goes right along our Deer  
13 Lake western border, within roughly a mile through  
14 pristine land and habitat and crosses the Deer Creek  
15 that feeds our watershed. The watershed is about  
16 25,000 acres.

17 And I haven't read the EIS report yet,  
18 but I'm going to. I have commented before at other  
19 meetings about my disapproval of the proposed blue  
20 route through that area around Deer Lake. And I do  
21 see that there was what they call a variation that  
22 was done in the last year. Is that right? That  
23 that was done in last year, Bill?

24 MR. BILL STORM: It came through scoping.  
25 The scoping decision was released on January 8th of

0017-1

0017-1

The EIS discusses major watersheds for each project section. Deer Creek is a sub-part of the East Section major watersheds described in Section 5.5.4.1. General impacts to surface waters in the East Section are described in Section 5.5.4.1.4.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 this year.

2 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: Okay. So I guess  
3 my comment is from the EIS standpoint is the blue  
4 proposed route to me makes a huge impact on our  
5 environment, especially in that watershed, which  
6 there's three main lakes and hundreds of smaller  
7 lakes around that area. And it crosses a lot of  
8 different water area shed, and including, like I  
9 said, our lead watershed area that feeds the chain  
10 of lakes around there.

11 The Effie variation, to me anyway, and  
12 several of my neighbors, is a lot better route.  
13 Because if you look at the maps, it doesn't really  
14 come close to a lot of major waterways or  
15 watersheds, to my knowledge.

16 So that would be my comment. And I guess  
17 I'll just say that, you know, I appreciate this  
18 forum, and being able to speak in the United States  
19 still, and for our opinions, but wherever you put  
20 the line, I'm sure you're going to upset some folks.  
21 And from an environmental standpoint, the proposed  
22 route, at least in that section in that Deer Lake  
23 watershed is, in my view, going to be a disaster.

24 Thank you very much.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you very much for

0017-2

The EIS discussed impacts to surface waters, including lakes, in Section 5 and 6. Impacts to Deer Lake specifically are discussed in Section 6.4.1.4.1.

0017-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

AmericInn  
1500 Highway 71  
International Falls, Minnesota

July 16, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 transmission line, or transmission can be a problem  
2 near a mine of any sort.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

5 Okay. Coming back to the general room.

6 Does anyone want to make a comment?

7 Would you please come forward, ma'am?

8 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Could I ask a  
9 question?

10 MR. BILL STORM: You can ask a question,  
11 but it may not be answered tonight, it will be in  
12 the final.

13 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: It's a  
14 question of whether I can find information in here,  
15 so it might be a comment relative to the  
16 accessibility of information. Would that be  
17 acceptable?

18 MR. BILL STORM: Sure. Just state and  
19 spell your name and go for it.

20 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: My name is  
21 Anne Marguerite Coyle, professor of biology is my  
22 presence today. A-N-N-E, M-A-R-G-U-E-R-I-T-E,  
23 C-O-Y-L-E.

24 And my question is in reference to -- I  
25 will be honest, I have not read the entire thing at

1 all, in fact, I just looked at it tonight, I'm new  
2 to this whole issue and I'm new to Minnesota, in  
3 fact, so I'm familiar with issues in North Dakota.

4 But one of my concerns is that at a quick  
5 glance I'm having difficulty finding information  
6 concerning a number of wildlife issues that are of  
7 great concern to Minnesota, one of which are cedar  
8 areas that are critical habitat to deer, deer  
9 populations across the state. So those locations of  
10 known cedar areas, as well as their relevance to the  
11 gray wolf population and other animals that feed on  
12 deer. So that would be something of concern that I  
13 would ask.

14 Also, with respect to the Northern  
15 Goshawk, I don't see that specifically listed, and  
16 it could be because I couldn't find it in all the  
17 details. I did see the Great Owl mentioned, but the  
18 Northern Goshawk is obviously a Minnesota species of  
19 concern. In addition to that, just the general  
20 raptors of concern, the Bald and Golden Eagle Act,  
21 which is definitely something to be taken into  
22 consideration, and raptors in general with the  
23 raptor friendly development and construction of  
24 these lines, has that been considered and addressed  
25 in your EIS, and to what extent. And I just

0018-1

Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS discusses potential impacts to wildlife and rare species. In addition, the Biological Assessment in Appendix R discusses potential impacts to federally listed species, including the gray wolf and designated critical habitat.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0018-1

0018-2

Potential impacts to rare species are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. In addition, these chapters of the EIS generally discuss potential impacts to migratory birds (such as the northern goshawk) and eagles. As discussed in Section 2.11.1 of the EIS, the Applicant would incorporate industry best practices, which are consistent with the Avian Powerline Interaction Committee (APLIC's) 2012 guidelines. In addition, the MN PUC Route Permit could require that the Applicant develop and implement an Avian Protection Plan. The Applicant would coordinate with the MnDNR and other appropriate agencies in the development of an Avian Protection Plan.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0018-2

1           couldn't find it and I would like to be able to see  
2           that more readily accessible, those issues.

3                         That's what I have just at a glance, and  
4           I think those should be accessible within the 30  
5           minutes that I had to access them and so I guess  
6           I'll make the rest of the comments in written form.

7                         Thank you.

8                         MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9                         DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: And I'll address  
10          just one thing with that. That's okay, and they are  
11          geographically, since some of the resources --

12                        MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: That's  
13          typical. I would also think from a briefing on  
14          environmental issues, to have that consolidated so  
15          those issues you wouldn't have to piece through  
16          every section.

17                        DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Maybe what helps is  
18          up front there is a summary, and that kind of helps.  
19          But just so you know, in terms of process, and I  
20          mentioned this in my opening comments, we are  
21          undergoing consultation under section 7 of the EIS  
22          with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. And they  
23          are a cooperating agency and so they had review and  
24          input into this and so those issues are ongoing and  
25          the proper addressing of those issues is ongoing as

1 well.

2 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Right. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your  
5 comment. I encourage you -- I did give you a CD,  
6 correct?

7 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Yes.

8 MR. BILL STORM: I encourage you to go  
9 through the CD. You have until August 10th to  
10 formulate it. And is the document searchable?  
11 Yeah, the document is searchable on the CD, yes, it  
12 is.

13 Okay. Coming back to the general room.  
14 Anyone want to make a comment on the record about  
15 the draft EIS?

16 Okay. Alan, sure, do you want to come  
17 up, please state and spell your name and have at it.  
18 Is that my wet copy?

19 MR. ALAN MULLER: That's your wet copy.

20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Reading in the  
21 rain, right?

22 MR. ALAN MULLER: Actually, the dampness  
23 of this can be attributed to my dog.

24 My name is Alan Muller, M-U-L-L-E-R, I'm  
25 a resident of Red Wing, Minnesota. And I offered

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
  
JULY 16, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - LITTLEFORK  
  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
  
AND  
  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Littlefork Community Center  
220 Main Street  
Littlefork, Minnesota

July 16, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1           Written comments, August 10th, submit  
2           your written comments. (Phone ringing) That's me,  
3           that's pretty inappropriate. My information is  
4           there, Julie's information is there. You can fax  
5           it, e-mail it to us. You don't have to send it to  
6           both of us, we're going to share comments, but you  
7           can send it to both of us if you want. You can also  
8           submit your written comments electronically. You  
9           can do it through the DOE's website and you can do  
10          it through our website. So you can also comment  
11          electronically, if you want.

12           That's it. So that's basically the  
13          process in a nutshell. I did have someone fill out  
14          a card, yay, so after I call this gentleman up, when  
15          I call you up, please state your name and spell it  
16          for the record so the court reporter can get it  
17          down. Speak slower than I do. I sort of race, but  
18          Janet knows me so she can keep up. But for her  
19          sake, maybe speak a little slower than I do.

20           So the first person is William Gary.

21           MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Gray.

22           MR. BILL STORM: Gray, sorry. Please  
23          come to the mic and state and spell your name.

24           MR. WILLIAM GRAY: William Gray, spelled  
25          W-I-L-L-I-A-M, G-R-A-Y.

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0019-1

0019-1

Section 5.2.1.6 of the EIS provides a discussion of the airstrips and potential impacts. Please note that within the C2 Segment Option Variation Area, the Airstrip Alignment Modification is included as a means to minimize impacts to the airstrip south of Littlefork (described in Section 4.3.2.5).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 My concern is the C2 segment that runs  
2 south of Littlefork. I have an air strip there.  
3 I'm a flight instructor, instrument flight  
4 instructor, also a mechanic and mechanical  
5 inspector. I have student pilots, I have sport  
6 pilots. I have regular pilots. I have people  
7 coming in and out for maintenance. I have  
8 ex-students come in and visit with me occasionally.  
9 And I have a problem with the safety of having that  
10 line, if chosen. The placement of it is real bad.  
11 If you're downwind to the land you have reduced  
12 power and you're descending and you are descending  
13 into wires and that does not sound like a healthy  
14 setup to me.

15 That's all I guess I need to say at this  
16 point in time. I'll probably be talking to you  
17 again.

18 MR. BILL STORM: If I may, William, your  
19 air strip, where you're located, are you located  
20 along the blue or the orange, or do you know what  
21 variation route you're located next to?

22 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Well, it's that  
23 alternate segment that runs south of Littlefork,  
24 they call it C2.

25 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. C2 alternative.

1 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: If they want to have  
2 the blue line, that's fine, that's several miles  
3 away from me and I don't consider that to be a  
4 problem. But I really have a problem with power  
5 lines when you're on a takeoff or landing. The most  
6 likely spot for you to have an engine failure or  
7 power reduction is on takeoff. And then also when  
8 you reduce power, and when you hit the power when  
9 you go out and I'm doing that over wires, to me  
10 that's not cool.

11 Thank you.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, William. I  
13 appreciate your comment. I encourage you to come in  
14 August when the ALJ is here so you can tell her your  
15 personal story and how C2 would impact you so that  
16 can get on her record and then she can consider that  
17 for not only her findings of fact but her  
18 recommendation going forward.

19 MR. WILLIAM GRAY: Okay. I will be here.

20 Thank you.

21 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. That was the only  
22 card I had. I'm batting like zero on these cards.

23 Anybody want to speak on the record, have  
24 a question? Anybody interested in looking at the  
25 maps, want to take a few minutes to look at the maps

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
  
JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Kelliher Old School Center  
243 Clark Avenue North  
Kelliher, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 had. But I will certainly go with the show of hands  
2 if somebody wants to speak.

3 Come on up, sir, and state and spell your  
4 name for the court reporter. And speak into the mic  
5 over there. Thank you, Mike.

6 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Mike Handzus,  
7 H-A-N-D-Z-U-S. And I'll just try to keep it brief  
8 and to the EIS statement. But we have property in  
9 section -- or township 155, range 29, section 28 and  
10 33.

11 Regarding this power line, I guess, for  
12 us we just first found out about it April 25th of  
13 this year so we're trying to play catchup here. But  
14 that's one of the proposed routes, right through the  
15 line, or through the center of the property.

16 I tried to cover the EIS as best we  
17 could. But one area I didn't think that it touched  
18 on was, like, through our property there will be 24  
19 acres of forest that would have to be cleared, and  
20 what kind of impact that would have on the area.  
21 And, also, we were planning on a cabin, which would  
22 amount to right down the center of the property  
23 where this power line is scheduled and I think that  
24 would need to be addressed also.

25 Just a couple other things that I had

0020-1

Impacts to forests as a result of clearing are addressed in Chapters  
5 and 6 of the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0020-1

1 concerns on as it relates to the EIS. The -- I  
 2 don't think it covers the fact -- or I didn't see  
 3 anything to the effect that once they clear the 200  
 4 feet, that they have to go in with a chemical to  
 5 kill the vegetation and what that effect would have  
 6 on the property. You couldn't do anything organic,  
 7 you know, under those circumstances.

8 And maybe just touch on the fact that in  
 9 that area is a real fragile ecosystem, and most of  
 10 the year is pretty much standing water, and the  
 11 effect of having large equipment going in there,  
 12 what effect that would have. It's, like I say, the  
 13 soil is so fragile there. And, I don't know, they  
 14 kind of touch on the different types of wildlife  
 15 that are in there, but what effect that would have  
 16 on them also.

17 And, let's see. I guess that's pretty  
 18 much it. I'm just concerned of the effect it would  
 19 have on the area being as fragile of a system as it  
 20 is in that area.

21 Thanks.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Mike. Mike,  
 23 do you want to submit anything in writing today or  
 24 do you want to follow up during the comment period?

25 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yeah, I'll put

0020-2

Potential impacts and avoidance and minimization measures regarding wetlands (soil) and wildlife are discussed in Chapters 2, 5, and 6 of the EIS. Avoidance measures will be further developed through the permitting process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0020-2

1 something together here a little later.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get a disk?

3 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yes.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

5 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Just now.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else?

7 Yes, ma'am, please step to the mic and  
8 state and spell your name and say your piece.

9 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Mary Lou  
10 Hufnagle, M-A-R-Y, L-O-U, H-U-F-N-A-G-L-E. We live  
11 in Koochiching County.

12 I'm a little ways from the line, but my  
13 one concern, too, was the spraying of herbicides to  
14 keep the vegetation down around this line. And some  
15 of that stuff is pretty wicked, it gets into the  
16 water and it's there forever. And, also, you know,  
17 other things it could kill, too, you know.

18 But I had -- one question I have was the  
19 maintenance of the lines, is this done by U.S.  
20 citizens and that, or do they have Canadian people  
21 that come down and maintain the lines in case there  
22 should be a problem or something like that?

23 MR. BILL STORM: Mary, we will address  
24 your question in the final EIS, but we will take up  
25 that question and we will address that.

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
  
JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Kelliher Old School Center  
243 Clark Avenue North  
Kelliher, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 something together here a little later.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get a disk?

3 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Yes.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

5 MR. MIKE HANDZUS: Just now.

6 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else?

7 Yes, ma'am, please step to the mic and

8 state and spell your name and say your piece.

9 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Mary Lou

10 Hufnagle, M-A-R-Y, L-O-U, H-U-F-N-A-G-L-E. We live

11 in Koochiching County.

12 I'm a little ways from the line, but my

13 one concern, too, was the spraying of herbicides to

14 keep the vegetation down around this line. And some

15 of that stuff is pretty wicked, it gets into the

16 water and it's there forever. And, also, you know,

17 other things it could kill, too, you know.

18 But I had -- one question I have was the

19 maintenance of the lines, is this done by U.S.

20 citizens and that, or do they have Canadian people

21 that come down and maintain the lines in case there

22 should be a problem or something like that?

23 MR. BILL STORM: Mary, we will address

24 your question in the final EIS, but we will take up

25 that question and we will address that.

0021-1  
 Section 2.11.1.4 of the EIS specifies that an approved herbicide would be used for vegetation clearing during construction, only with the approval of the landowner or land manager. Similarly, Section 2.12.1 of the EIS refers that during Project maintenance and operation, vegetation may be cleared using a combination of mechanical and hand clearing and herbicides, where allowed and approved by the landowner. Prior to maintaining vegetation in a particular area, the Applicant would make an effort to notify affected landowners.

With respect to the potential contamination of water associated with herbicide spraying, Section 2.11.1.6 of the EIS states that "no petroleum, herbicides, or pesticides, or hazardous chemicals of any kind should be mixed or otherwise handled in wetland areas." The Applicant would be required to implement best management practices to avoid any potential spill of herbicides near water sources.

The Applicant states in the Route Permit Application that the proposed Project would be maintained by the Applicant and it's contractors.

0021-1 No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0021-2  
 As mentioned in Section 5.2.1.8 of the EIS, maintenance and emergency repairs would be performed by existing firms and contractors. No new full-time or part-time workers are expected to be hired to operate, maintain, or perform emergency repairs on the proposed Project.

0021-2 No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: I was just  
2 curious. But that was my one concern, was that  
3 spray of herbicides around the line.

4 MR. BILL STORM: I understand.

5 MS. MARY LOU HUFNAGLE: Thank you.

6 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you,  
7 Mary Lou.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. I had to get  
9 somebody else. Anybody want to speak?

10 Okay. I do want to remind you that the  
11 written comment period is open until August 10th.  
12 Please submit your comments to either me or Jules on  
13 the draft EIS.

14 I do want to encourage and remind  
15 everybody that we will be back up here, or I will be  
16 back up here with the administrative law judge,  
17 Judge O'Reilly, in August for the contested case  
18 hearing. And, like I said, that is an opportunity  
19 for you to not only comment on the environmental  
20 issues, but to step up and address specific issues  
21 that you may have concerning any of the routes or  
22 the impacts of the routes.

23 It also is an opportunity for you to  
24 cross or question Minnesota Power's experts who put  
25 their application together and get some direct

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Timberlake Lodge  
144 SE 17th Street  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

July 22, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 get it there, but if you go back three slides you  
2 gave two numbers that should be on the  
3 correspondence and I only had one of them and I sent  
4 it to you guys so I want to make sure I had the  
5 other one.

6 MR. BILL STORM: That would be the docket  
7 number, it's TL-14-21 --

8 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: And EIS-0499.

9 MR. BILL STORM: That's the DOE number.

10 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. I  
11 believe. But for this point, as long as we sent it  
12 to you, that's as much as we can do here until the  
13 contested hearings would be in place?

14 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct.

15 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you.

18 Anyone else want to speak on the record?

19 Okay, sir, please step to the mic, state  
20 and spell your name.

21 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Mike Hughes,  
22 H-U-G-H-E-S.

23 When I first went to the meeting before,  
24 I looked at all the evidence, and I still feel like  
25 I'm David trying to fight Goliath. You know, do

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0022-1

0022-1

The response to the comment is provided in the transcript after the comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 these comments as an individual make a difference?

2 And, if so, have you seen that happen? Where a  
3 comment has made a change in the statement and a  
4 change on a direct route that were taken that were  
5 other than those applied for by the utility company  
6 itself? In other words, we're trying to fight a big  
7 utility company and what do I as an individual have  
8 to say that would change everything?

9 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. The short answer,  
10 and we try not to have a dialogue here, but I can't  
11 help myself.

12 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: No, it's a process  
13 question.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Yes. In the 14 years  
15 I've been doing this, I've seen many dockets where  
16 routes that were proposed by citizens were  
17 ultimately picked by the Commission.

18 MR. MIKE HUGHES: So what we do or say or  
19 what we do write down is taken seriously?

20 MR. BILL STORM: I would agree with that  
21 statement.

22 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Okay.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, sir.

24 Okay. Ms. Overland, please step to the  
25 mic, state and spell your name.

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Bigfork School  
100 Huskie Boulevard  
Bigfork, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0023-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 variation.

2 MR. DENNY PAVEK: It is the red route,  
3 and there are a few people that live there  
4 year-round. So that's where we as the cabin owners  
5 association would like to see it go.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9 Does that spur anybody? Anybody else  
10 want to speak?

11 MR. JOHN KANNAS: I will.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yes, sir. State and  
13 spell your name, please.

14 MR. JOHN KANNAS: Sure. My name is John  
15 Kannas, K-A-N-N-A-S.

16 I'm a supervisor in Balsam Township and  
17 there are three routes that cross Balsam Township.  
18 We understand the line is going through, and the  
19 town board is in support, and all the residents,  
20 that we want the blue route through Balsam, not the  
21 alternative route, which is the green route or the  
22 yellow or orange route, which slices the township  
23 right in the middle, right through the main populous  
24 area. And the other is the abandoned Minnesota  
25 Power line, but, again, we don't want that, we want

0023-1

1 to see it as far east of the township as possible.

2 So that's all I have to say. But thank  
3 you for letting us talk.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your  
5 comment.

6 Anyone else?

7 Okay. Yes, sir. Please state and spell  
8 your name.

9 MR. CHRIS VIERE: Chris Viere, V-I-E-R-E.  
10 And I'm commenting on the environmental review.

11 One of the things that you do, is you  
12 aggregate the overall view is some of the micro, you  
13 know, easements that happen along different routes.  
14 And those, you know, aren't necessarily reflected in  
15 detail in certain areas.

16 So one of the things I want to kind of  
17 highlight here, on the orange route that comes  
18 through Effie and it passes through County Road 27,  
19 we go through and if you go you'll see this various  
20 important cultural artifacts.

21 Everybody here is familiar with the  
22 Knights, I have property next to them, I got to know  
23 them, very good people. James Knight was an  
24 environmentalist and a historian. And the route  
25 would pass right through that country. And so

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
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PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Timberlake Lodge  
144 SE 17th Street  
Grand Rapids, Minnesota

July 22, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0024-1

Section 6.4.3.1 and Map 6-61 of the Final EIS are updated to denote your cabin as a residence.

26

1 is the deadline for written comments. You can  
2 submit them either to me or Jules or to both of us.  
3 E-mail, U.S. mail, fax, and then there are  
4 electronic ways to do it, too. You can also submit  
5 your comments electronically through the DOE website  
6 and through the DOC website. Again, you only have  
7 to submit your comments in one spot, if you want,  
8 you can do it multiple times, if you want, but we  
9 are going to share the comments. So that's how you  
10 do it.

11 So that's the state process, the fed  
12 process, and now I'd like to turn it over to why  
13 we're here, which is to get your comments on the  
14 draft environmental impact statement.

15 So I did have one person fill out a card,  
16 so I will call on that person first. Kathy Kook?  
17 Krook. I didn't want to call you a crook.

18 MS. KATHY KROOK: I'm an honest crook,  
19 though.

20 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. The best kind.

21 MS. KATHY KROOK: My name is Kathy Krook,  
22 Kathy with a K, K-R-0-0-K.

23 And I just want to state that I will be  
24 sending in a correction to one of the buildings on  
25 our property that is in one of the proposed routes.

0024-1

1 It's listed as a nonresidential. It's a cabin that  
2 we use on a weekly basis. In fact, we use it  
3 year-round. So I will be sending in that comment.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kathy.

6 Okay. Next? Anyone else?

7 Sir, please step to the mic and state and  
8 spell your name.

9 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Rodney Charles  
10 Toomi, T-O-O-M-I.

11 If I understood everything both of you  
12 said, that right now if we already sent an e-mail to  
13 both of you with our concerns, that is as much as we  
14 can do at this time, and the contested hearings will  
15 be coming up in August and that will be the next  
16 step, correct?

17 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct, sir.

18 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: I'm also  
19 guessing everything that was shared on the slides is  
20 also on the website, or is there information that  
21 you presented that would not be in the website?

22 MR. BILL STORM: I don't think -- I'll  
23 put the slides on the website.

24 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. My last  
25 question is, and if you put it on the website I can

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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July 22, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 MR. RICHARD LIBBEY: I'm Richard Libbey,  
2 R-I-C-H-A-R-D, L-I-B-B-E-Y, Grand Rapids.

3 And originally I thought this was going  
4 to be an argument over which route we preferred, but  
5 we're supposed to discuss the EIS and I didn't study  
6 the EIS. And I have a few comments on the main  
7 route area that I'm interested in, the Effie  
8 variation, it is the orange and the blue route that  
9 are the shortest routes that go across country from  
10 point A to point B. And the Effie variation is the  
11 route that was proposed by the citizens advisory  
12 committee that was made up of the county and  
13 township people and an environmental group.

14 But, well, following the transmission  
15 line is the longer route, apparently will have less  
16 environmental impact, but one of the main concerns  
17 of Minnesota Power is that having three large power  
18 lines in one corridor affects system reliability due  
19 to possible storm damage. Some possibilities are a  
20 tornado, ice storms, or straight line winds. And in  
21 their application, part of it, they mentioned that  
22 there are mitigations that they can do that would  
23 make it possible for them to follow the line more  
24 and reduce the possibility of the storm events  
25 affecting the system reliability. In fact, they are

0025-1

0025-1

The EIS addresses weather-related issues in Section 2.5.8 and Section 2.8.3 addresses the weather study and BMPs. In addition, Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather study that the Applicant would conduct to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. This weather study is available on edocket 14-21, document 20158-113594-06 (Exhibit 83). Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted by the Applicant to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-1 cont'd

33

1 going to parallel a 500 kV line north of this and  
 2 that's where the section mentions what they can do  
 3 to parallel a line. And if you have a 230 alongside  
 4 of it, they say that three lines is too risky, but  
 5 if they can follow a 500 kV line and use mitigation,  
 6 I would think they could do the same thing on the  
 7 Effie alternative. Some of the mitigation they've  
 8 mentioned is more robust towers. You can also put  
 9 in an interrupter that can break the circuit if they  
 10 go down so it doesn't disrupt the grid as much.  
 11 They mention having circuit breakers, and then they  
 12 also mentioned that if there is an event that takes  
 13 down the lines, even if it's one of them, they could  
 14 have spare parts stockpiled in the area that would  
 15 be ready and available to get the system up and  
 16 running again.

17 I was a control operator for Minnesota  
 18 Power for many years and I understand built into the  
 19 system is that all power plants have to have reserve  
 20 capacity and they have to prove that they can add a  
 21 certain amount of power in a certain amount of time  
 22 and maintain it for up to four hours. So if it does  
 23 go down, there's things built into the grid that can  
 24 compensate for the loss of these lines, or bring in  
 25 power from other systems, and if it's a cascading

0025-1  
Continued

0025-2

Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS discusses the additional measures the Applicant has proposed to maintain system reliability where the proposed Project would be constructed in parallel with existing 500 kV or 230 kV transmission lines.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-2

0025-2 cont'd

34

1 event they can isolate different areas. But I was  
2 wondering if the EIS could perhaps get some more  
3 detail on what it would take to make the line more  
4 robust and make it so that it could parallel the  
5 other two lines.

6 Another issue they have is in used  
7 voltage, where the fear of one line is out and the  
8 workers are working on that line, there's a  
9 possibility of the voltage being transmitted through  
10 the air and induced into that line endangered  
11 workers. But I know out east there are power line  
12 situations where there are five lines this size in a  
13 corridor and they can do it out there, I would think  
14 we could do it here.

15 You know, there's people that work on the  
16 lines, they do the proper scoping and grounding that  
17 makes it safe, I'd like to know if these are, you  
18 know, significant issues or to what extent is this  
19 really a problem. We know they go cross-country,  
20 I'm 100 percent there's going to be forest  
21 fragmentation, invasive species brought in, and the  
22 impact from that. I think the issue is going to be  
23 the environment versus the grid sustainability. I'd  
24 like to get a little better handle on what the  
25 issues are there and what can be done.

0025-2  
Continued

0025-3

Induced voltage is discussed in Section 5.2.2.4 of the EIS. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-3

1                   It also appears on what the cost sharing  
 2                   is on this. I believe Minnesota Power is less than  
 3                   50 percent on this and so Manitoba Hydro would be  
 4                   picking up a sizeable part of the bill. And also  
 5                   I'd like an estimate about what the property taxes  
 6                   are that the county will receive from this line.  
 7                   I'd like an idea of how many dollars per mile they  
 8                   will get out of it, they get paid for the line  
 9                   impacting the environment.

10                   And then when it comes to clearing the  
 11                   lines, I'd like a little more detail on how it's  
 12                   going to be done and when it's going to be done.  
 13                   When you go through, you're going to have to remove  
 14                   trees, and I'm wondering if you're going to just cut  
 15                   the trees off and leave some undisturbed in certain  
 16                   areas and have access roads or are they going to  
 17                   bulldoze the entire line so you have bare soil that  
 18                   opens it up to invasive species. And, if so, how  
 19                   they're going to prevent carrying seeds and so forth  
 20                   along in all their gear and their cribbing that they  
 21                   put across so it doesn't spread up the line.

22                   Probably not as important if they're  
 23                   paralleling the existing power line because there's  
 24                   already two lines there where that has already been  
 25                   done. The orange and blue routes go across country

0025-4

0025-4

Based upon recent estimates of the proposed Project's total cost and property taxes, the Applicant estimates that the transmission line would generate annual property taxes of approximately \$40,000 to \$60,000 per mile. The two substations would generate approximately \$1.7 in annual property taxes. The Applicant estimates that the proposed Project's total annual property tax would be \$11.1 million for the Project overall. Based upon current state and local taxing district rates, approximately 1/3 of property taxes would go to the state's general fund. The remainder would be distributed the among the county and other local taxing jurisdictions traversed by the proposed Project.

Cost sharing between Manitoba Hydro and the Applicant is outside the scope of this EIS. The MN PUC certificate of need process is the mechanism for evaluating and addressing this issue.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-5

0025-5

Chapter 6 of the EIS identifies that the MN PUC Route Permit could also require the development of a Vegetation Management Plan as a permit condition, which could include plant surveys along the permitted ROW, incorporate vegetation clearing, and management of invasive species. The MN PUC typically requires the Applicant to prepare a plan in coordination with MnDNR as a condition of the Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 in virgin territory, I think it would be much more  
2 critical that they follow best management practices.

3 I guess that's mostly what I've got right  
4 now. I'm going to submit some additional comments  
5 when I have time to read it more. I didn't read the  
6 whole thing yet.

7 Another thing I would like to mention,  
8 though, is that there's a website on the web, it's  
9 the Minnesota Tornado History Project, and they have  
10 an interactive map that documents every known  
11 tornado that is known to man since I think 1950.  
12 And it shows the path of the tornado, the date, and  
13 the track that it took. And I know when I've looked  
14 at that and you look in the area of the Effie  
15 alternative it shows no tornados since the time it  
16 has been recorded. So I'd like to get a little more  
17 information on what the possibility is of a storm  
18 coming that would actually impact these lines.

19 You know, Bill had mentioned before he's  
20 seen footage after tornados have gone through and  
21 the power lines are left standing and the homes are  
22 gone. So they must have some estimation of what  
23 force winds will impact the towers and the  
24 separation there that is between the proposed orange  
25 and blue routes, and then the Effie variation is

0025-6

Electrical system reliability and weather events are discussed in the Section 5.3.7 of the EIS. Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather study that the Applicant would conduct to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. This weather study is available on edocket 14-21, document 20158-113594-06 (Exhibit 83). Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted by the Applicant to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-6

1 really significant. I'd like some data on, like,  
 2 when a straight line wind comes, what the track is.  
 3 We had one here several years back and it started at  
 4 Lake Winnie (phonetic) and traveled all the way to  
 5 Grand Rapids. So if the separation of line is only  
 6 three, four miles in that case, is it really  
 7 significant for that separation. If they're  
 8 together will it really make a difference. And you  
 9 can also look at the tornado tracking on the chart  
 10 and you'll find that bigger tornados have a longer  
 11 track, so what is the likelihood, if they're right  
 12 together or if there's several miles separation is  
 13 that really significant.

14 So another issue is the earth worms. I'm  
 15 not sure if you're aware of that. But my son worked  
 16 for the Chippewa National Forest and they're real  
 17 concerned about the spread of earth worms. Unknown  
 18 to most people, they aren't native to the United  
 19 States, and when they start spreading through the  
 20 forest they go at a very slow rate, but they  
 21 decompose a lot of the bitter that's on the ground,  
 22 in other words, the leaves and so forth, and they  
 23 have an impact on what grows there. Like all those  
 24 things that are impacted and they end up changing  
 25 the forest type to more a grasslands area. So if

0025-6  
 Continued 0025-7

The invasion of earthworms into forests occurs primarily through dumping of fishing bait. While it is possible construction equipment could transport seeds of invasive plant species, it is unlikely that construction equipment would transport living earthworms along the construction site.

As discussed in Chapter 6 of the EIS, the Applicant may be required to conduct pre-construction field surveys for rare species as a condition of the MN PUC Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-7

1 they choose either the orange or blue route and  
 2 introduce worming to it, that can have impacts and  
 3 so they would have to have mitigation to avoid that.

4 And I'm wondering when the rare plants  
 5 survey will be done. I know they mentioned it in  
 6 their -- certain few rare plant species, but I think  
 7 that's just historical. At archeological sites  
 8 there's several listed in there. And I'm just  
 9 wondering if you're going to do a more thorough  
 10 evaluation of that or if that comes when the final  
 11 route is chosen. And it did show an archaeological  
 12 site on the Effie route, and I'm just wondering,  
 13 they said it hasn't been investigated to the point  
 14 where, you know, it has complete significance, but  
 15 it is a significant site and if that route is chosen  
 16 I'm wondering what mitigation they can do to  
 17 preserve that site. For instance, you know, place  
 18 the towers so they're not in the area or avoided  
 19 during construction.

20 Another idea is you mentioned in there  
 21 just generically that a 150-foot high tower can be  
 22 visible for miles, and in a shrub land area there is  
 23 swamp or it is forested or hilly where the view shed  
 24 will be less, and I'm wondering if it's possible to  
 25 have a view shed map drawn up where we'd have to

0025-7  
 Continued

0025-8

Viewshed maps have not been prepared as part of the EIS. The concept for the assessment of visual impacts is stated in Section 5.3.1.1: "The 1,500 foot ROI for aesthetic resources was identified because the proposed Project is most likely to be visible within this near-foreground distance zone and views of the proposed Project from aesthetic resources within this distance zone have the greatest potential to result in visual impacts for sensitive viewers." Visual simulations, provided in Appendix N of the EIS, were prepared for seven viewpoints within the study area to represent typical views of the proposed Project. These photo simulations are intended to provide reviewers with a sense of what the transmission line would look like from various distances and in various landscape settings within the study area.

Bass Lake and Balsam Lake are greater than 1,500 feet from the proposed routes and variations. Although the transmission line may be visible from these locations and surrounding areas, there is less potential for the proposed Project to result in significant visual impacts for sensitive viewers beyond the near-foreground distance zone. Visual impacts are likely to be greater for snowmobile trails, recreation trails, and other visually sensitive resources occurring within the near-foreground distance zone.

In an area where a proposed route or variation results in a visual impact, it may be possible to minimize or mitigate the impact by adjusting the alignment, micro-siting structure locations, reducing structure heights, darkening the finish on structures to reduce color contrast, using non-specular conductors, and/or feathering vegetation edges of cleared rights-of-way to reduce contrast.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-8

1 check the height of the towers for spacing and see  
2 if it's going to have critical impact on different  
3 areas. If you look at the map, and the view shed is  
4 wide, it's this wide on the map and it is narrow  
5 like this then we can see if it's going to impact  
6 Bass Lake Park or some of the local lakes that it  
7 goes by and crosses the Big Bog that is east of  
8 Balsam Lake that is a site of high biological  
9 diversity. And, you know, there's snowmobile trails  
10 and recreational trails across there now, there are  
11 no roads or anything, but the impact on tourism and  
12 so forth from power lines that take away from your  
13 enjoyment of the outdoors.

14 I was wondering if it's possible, at  
15 least in the critical areas, to check what the view  
16 shed is. Minnesota Power said that the reason  
17 they're spacing their towers at thousands of feet is  
18 because it's cheaper that way. The further you put  
19 them apart and the higher you build them it's  
20 cheaper. If you put them lower or closer together  
21 they cost more, but your view shed is less, and I  
22 would assume the towers would be more robust and  
23 less susceptible to blow down. So I was wondering  
24 if some of those issues could be considered in the  
25 EIS.

1 Thank you.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

3 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Rich. I look  
4 forward to you digging deeper into the EIS and your  
5 further comments. I think some of the issues you  
6 brought up, as you dig deeper in the EIS you'll find  
7 some answers, but we will certainly address the  
8 comments you made tonight in the final EIS and any  
9 comments you make written post this meeting.

10 Okay. Anyone else want to speak on the  
11 record?

12 Okay. Before I wrap it up, because I  
13 always come back to people several times to try to  
14 prod some comments out of them, but remember, the  
15 written comments are due August 10th, and you can  
16 send them to either me or Jules or both of us. U.S.  
17 mail, e-mail, fax, electronically through our  
18 websites, or my comment sheet that's on the table,  
19 that'll work, too. So remember that date.

20 Also remember in August, and the notice  
21 should be circling around, if you got a copy of this  
22 notice, that means you're on our list, so you should  
23 get a copy of Mike's notice on the contested case  
24 hearing. I encourage you strongly to also attend  
25 the contested case hearings, and that is the spot

1 where you get to ask Minnesota Power direct  
 2 questions, you know, about if you have issues about  
 3 tower spans or you have issues about what kind of  
 4 vegetation control you're going to have. Any of  
 5 these issues, they will have their people there to  
 6 answer the questions. It is also the opportunity  
 7 for you to, if you have a preference on an  
 8 alternative or you have an idea for conditions that  
 9 you would like the judge to consider for the route  
 10 permit, that is the point to bring those issues up.

11 So before we wrap up, going once?

12 Anybody want to -- okay, Rich, step up to the mic  
 13 and have another go at it. State and spell your  
 14 name, please.

15 MR. RICHARD LIBBEY: Rich Libbey,  
 16 L-I-B-B-E-Y.

17 One other thing I forgot to mention was  
 18 that one of the mitigation strategies for the power  
 19 line was to do a climactic study. As I recall in  
 20 one of the first hearings at the Federal Energy  
 21 Regulatory Commission, is they're supposed to do a  
 22 study on the whole line as to the vulnerability to  
 23 storms. And they were going to put it in storm  
 24 damage, apparently, you know, they have to pass the  
 25 FERC study before they're allowed to build the line.

0025-9

Section 5.3.7.2 of the EIS describes the weather studies that the Applicant would conduct a weather study to address unexpected transmission line outages due to extreme weather events and equipment failures. Based on the results of the weather study, the design criteria for the proposed Project may be adjusted to increase the robustness of the 500 kV transmission line design.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0025-9

1 I was wondering if that was completed or if I heard  
2 it right or is there actually a FERC study out there  
3 that's assessing the possibility of a serious storm  
4 event.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Rich, we'll  
6 look into that.

7 Okay. Sir, please step to the mic.  
8 State and spell your name again.

9 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Yeah. Is there  
10 anywhere in the EIS that lists the costs of going  
11 different routes? Financially what it is from route  
12 A, B, or C?

13 MR. BILL STORM: The costs on the various  
14 routes is in the EIS.

15 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Okay.

16 MR. BILL STORM: The alternatives  
17 relative to the preferreds, I guess.

18 Okay. Let's bring it around again.  
19 Anyone want to speak on the record? Going once?  
20 Going twice?

21 Remember, you have until August 10th to  
22 get your written comments in. Remember the hearings  
23 start in August for the contested case hearings.

24 And I'm going to bring it to my last  
25 call. Anybody?

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
3  
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - KELLIHER  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
6 AND  
7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Kelliher Old School Center  
19 243 Clark Avenue North  
20 Kelliher, Minnesota

21 July 21, 2015  
22  
23  
24

25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 Ronald Lindner, if you wouldn't mind  
2 stepping up to the mic. There you go, Ronald.

3 MR. RONALD LINDNER: Good morning. My  
4 name is Ronald B. Lindner, that's L-I-N-D-N-E-R. I  
5 reside over by Mizpah, Minnesota. I am quite close  
6 where the projected power line will hopefully run  
7 through sometime.

8 And I support this project, I think it's  
9 the right direction. Let's face it, we're all faced  
10 with energy problems today, with our coal-fired  
11 plants, nuclear plants, nobody wants to build. This  
12 is coming off of water in Canada, let's face it,  
13 that's probably what all these environmentalists  
14 don't quite understand yet, that this is where we  
15 want to get our power from.

16 And I own land right just above -- just  
17 below the power line there, and my wife and I have  
18 discussed it, and I was part of the process ever  
19 since they've been aligning there and I've looked at  
20 it. And I've lived in Koochiching County since  
21 1938, so that makes me about 78 years old. And I  
22 hear some of the people come in from the outside, we  
23 can't do this, we can't do that. We need what we  
24 got in northern Minnesota, the only thing we got to  
25 get is something up here that we can use for

0026-1

0026-1  
Continued

1 year-round, and that's one thing we do use is power,  
2 electricity. How many of you have electricity in  
3 your house? Nobody, I guess.

4 Well, I enjoy my electricity, it's not  
5 cheap, I belong to North Itasca, but I guess I've  
6 been there since you know when. So, anyway, I've  
7 lived there all my life and I strongly support this  
8 power line. And I think the direction we've got to  
9 go is let's get it down here. We've got to look  
10 forward to what our schools are doing today, we've  
11 got good schools in Kelliher, we've got good schools  
12 in Northome, we should be very proud of that. I am,  
13 I know that. I graduated from Northome, my wife  
14 graduated from Northome.

15 And I think people are just on the wrong  
16 track when they listen to all these eight balls out  
17 there, and that's what I'll call them. And I have  
18 this creek, if you'll notice on the map over there,  
19 that creek goes through my land in two different  
20 chunks through it. I love that creek there, the  
21 only thing I don't love is the people who want to  
22 continue to destroy beaver that are not where they  
23 should be. And we track and try to control our  
24 beaver and we want to keep them there because that's  
25 what keeps our water in our creek. We just went

1 through a drought there, where some eight ball shot  
2 and was taking care of the beaver problems themself  
3 without permission, and it didn't hurt a thing.  
4 Where this stream comes through my property, it goes  
5 on north of me, goes out into the swamp up in the  
6 north, it is the best filtering system in the world  
7 up here in this Bog up here and through that. We've  
8 got a great filtering system between Red Lake and  
9 down where I live. And that creek is very short  
10 lived. It comes from this drainage over to the east  
11 of where I live at, and it's not going to hurt  
12 anything.

13 And I've been protecting the beaver on my  
14 place as much as I can. And when we went through  
15 the drought here for two years, that creek was the  
16 first time ever to get bone dry. I mean, it  
17 practically went dry. We lost all our minnow  
18 population in there, but they're starting to recover  
19 now because somebody's taking care of the beaver and  
20 given us something on the land down there.

21 But I think we're in the right direction  
22 here, they have a good route picked through there.  
23 It's not going to really destroy anybody's property  
24 anywhere in that south part of the county where it's  
25 going. It's on the edge of the swamp out there and

0026-1  
Continued

1 it's already in the swamp, a lot of it. And it's  
2 great place and this is a great place to live.

3 How many of you live in Koochiching  
4 County here? There's two. Anybody else? How about  
5 Beltrami County? Three. Yeah, I don't know where  
6 you guys live at, but I think we're in the right  
7 direction here of getting the power down here to us.  
8 And I know our county board, I see our county  
9 commissioners over there, I guess I see where they  
10 voted to support the project, which I think they  
11 should be smart enough to know that.

12 But, anyway, I will support this right  
13 through to the end, whether we get it here or it  
14 goes up on the north end of the county. It's going  
15 to go somewhere and we certainly can use it in this  
16 end of the county. And maybe down the line we can  
17 draw our power off from this power. I'd be happy to  
18 have water-powered electricity coming into my place,  
19 I don't know how much longer I'll be here, that's  
20 not up to me.

21 But I think people have the wrong idea  
22 when we talk about building. Our country has -- we  
23 have suffered up here. I've been through hardships  
24 all my life. I was born and raised on a farm up  
25 here in a small place and the hardships are there.

1 And we cannot hold our young people up here, and  
2 I'll tell you that right now, we need our young  
3 people back up here. And we're going to get it  
4 through jobs. And electricity certainly can help us  
5 to bring jobs to south Koochiching and north  
6 Beltrami, wherever. You all know what the age  
7 bracket is in these areas now. Let's try to bring  
8 something back to this part of the country that we  
9 can tap into or we can get power and be productive.  
10 We know the Iron Range is up and down over there,  
11 but that's a lot of self destruction over there,  
12 too, but they're trying to get cheaper power so they  
13 can stay in business, too. And business has to make  
14 money. If people don't know it, if a business don't  
15 make money, they don't stay in business.

16 So I encourage you to get back and  
17 support this project. And, like I say, I'm going to  
18 follow it through, as long as they have meetings I'm  
19 going to be at them. And I hope if you've got  
20 something to say or if you're opposed to get up here  
21 and say it.

22 So I thank you.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Ron.

24 MR. RONALD LINDNER: You bet.

25 MR. BILL STORM: That was the only card I

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - ROSEAU

5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Roseau Civic Center  
19 121 Center Street East  
20 Roseau, Minnesota

21 July 15, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 that failed. So what I'll do is if anybody wants to  
2 speak tonight, please raise your hands if you want  
3 to speak.

4 Okay. We'll start out with Carol. Carol  
5 Overland, please state and spell your name. Turn  
6 your mic on.

7 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: Thank you.

8 Carol Overland, I'm an attorney, and my  
9 address is 1110 West Avenue, Red Wing, Minnesota.

10 And I'm not representing anyone at this  
11 point in the certificate of need process. I want to  
12 make sure that everyone knows that the buy the farm  
13 option is an option here. That if they do want to  
14 take your land, they can take -- you can require  
15 that they take the entire parcel, not just a small  
16 piece of it. And I'll have more comments later on  
17 if I have a chance to look at the EIS.

18 Thank you.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Carol.

20 Anyone else want to speak on the record  
21 tonight -- today, this morning?

22 MR. TODD LUND: I would.

23 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Please step up to  
24 the mic and state and spell your name, please.

25 MR. TODD LUND: My name is Todd H. Lund,

1 T-O-D-D, H, L-U-N-D.

2 I think that crossing significant  
3 portions of agricultural property is probably not a  
4 very good idea due to the fact that the increasing  
5 size of equipment, tractors are weighing 55,000  
6 pounds, the drills that they're pulling are equally  
7 the same weight. If there were an error in any type  
8 of auto steer or anything where the operator doesn't  
9 have control, the damage would be, you know,  
10 life-threatening.

11 And there is an existing power line that  
12 could be probably paralleled, with many miles of  
13 forest, coming across the border, where there's  
14 probably very good crossings. Considering this  
15 power line is for public use, I think that the  
16 majority of the property should be public. We all  
17 use it, that land is not a tax-based land. We pay  
18 taxes, we bought this land. The amount of turns and  
19 inconvenience and the danger to ourselves and our  
20 young farmers is never going to go away once the  
21 power line is established. It's something that  
22 we'll be living with the rest of our lives. The  
23 existing power line appears that it probably crossed  
24 the least amount of public property. And I think  
25 that's probably maybe where it should try to lie.

0027-1

0027-1  
During construction, the Applicant would comply with all applicable OSHA requirements and would **implement standard construction, mitigation, and operation and maintenance practices developed from experience with past projects as well as industry-specific BMPs, as specified in Section 2.13 of the EIS. Compliance with OSHA's standards for occupational health and safety along with** implementation of BMPs would avoid and minimize impacts on public and worker health and safety resulting from the construction and operation of the proposed Project, regardless of the route or variation.

0027-2

0027-2  
The Border Crossing 500kV and 230kV variations evaluated in Section 6.2.1 reflect your preference to parallel existing transmission lines where the proposed Project would cross the U.S. and Canadian border.  
No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1                   That's about all I have to say. Thank  
2                   you.

3                   DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you,  
4                   Mr. Lund.

5                   MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your  
6                   comment. And, again, I encourage you to participate  
7                   in the hearings next month and tell the judge why  
8                   you prefer one route over the other and why you  
9                   think one route might be problematic and another  
10                  more advantageous.

11                  Anyone else who wants to speak tonight --  
12                  this morning? The week is young yet.

13                  DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The day is young.

14                  MR. BILL STORM: Okay. We do have review  
15                  copies of the document out here. We certainly have  
16                  staff people that can help you if you want to talk  
17                  about a particular -- look at a particular map and  
18                  maybe talk about a particular thing. But if no one  
19                  wants to speak on the record tonight -- or today?  
20                  Going once? Twice?

21                  Okay. Remember that you have until  
22                  August 10th to submit written comments on the draft  
23                  environmental impact statement. And I strongly  
24                  encourage you, if you have route preferences or  
25                  issues that you think one route or another have and

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING  
  
JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
AND  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Lake of the Woods School  
236 15th Avenue SW  
Baudette, Minnesota

July 15, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 MR. ALAN MULLER: I'd be happy to yield  
2 to the people here who are local, or I can speak  
3 now.

4 UNIDENTIFIED: I'd like to hear what you  
5 have to say.

6 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: State and spell  
7 your name, please.

8 MR. ALAN MULLER: Alan Muller, A-L-A-N,  
9 M-U-L-L-E-R.

10 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: The mic is not on.

11 MR. ALAN MULLER: Is it on now?

12 My name is Alan Muller, A-L-A-N,  
13 M-U-L-L-E-R, and I'm a resident of Red Wing,  
14 Minnesota.

15 What I know about these draft EIS  
16 documents is essentially what I've read between this  
17 morning's hearing and the present one. So I have  
18 some questions, some thoughts for you, and the  
19 answers to some of my questions may be in here and I  
20 may have missed them so I apologize if that's the  
21 case.

22 First, this is a -- formally this is a  
23 federal hearing on the record, am I right, and it's  
24 an informal state proceeding. Will the transcript  
25 of this meeting and others like it be in the public

1 record?

2 MR. BILL STORM: Yes.

3 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yes.

4 MR. ALAN MULLER: Let me just sort of go  
5 in order on the bullet points on here.

6 At page 5, at section 1.2.4.1, there's  
7 reference to the National Historic Preservation Act  
8 and requirements for consultation with the Indian  
9 tribes, et cetera, and that is addressed in slightly  
10 more detail further into the report.

11 But it was bothering me that I saw all  
12 this procedural stuff, but it didn't say anything  
13 about what the Indian tribes have to say about this  
14 project. And I really think that that's a rather  
15 significant deficiency. And maybe the tribes and  
16 the bands involved don't have an opinion about it or  
17 didn't express one, but I can't tell by this  
18 document. And the preferred way of addressing that  
19 would have been to have an appendix containing  
20 letters from those tribes rather than Barr  
21 Engineering's interpretation of what they had to say  
22 because Barr Engineering is not a neutral party.

23 Okay. Now, there is a certain amount of  
24 discussion here about regional energy demand in  
25 northeastern Minnesota and the capacity of this

0028-1

DOE has conducted government-to-government consultation with federally recognized Indian tribes pursuant to Seciton 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The discussion of DOE's tribal consultation is presented in Section 5.3.3.1 Archaeology and Historic Architectural Resources of the EIS. Further documentation of ongoing consultation with the federally recognized Indian tribes is provided in the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-1

0028-2

The MN PUC determined that the proposed Project and its 250 MW capacity is needed by the Applicant in eDocket #12-1163 (Certificate of Need).

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-2

0028-2 cont'd

34

1 line. And the information seems vague and  
 2 unsubstantiated. For example, there's reference to  
 3 increase in industrial load, and perhaps industrial  
 4 load is increasing, but anyone reading Minnesota  
 5 newspapers have seen story after story about large  
 6 loads shutting down due to the depression or low  
 7 prices in the iron mining industry. So if, in fact,  
 8 the load is increasing, it would be nice to see that  
 9 substantiated in some way other than them writing,  
 10 or perhaps marketing ambitions of the utilities of  
 11 the area.

12 But let me backtrack with another  
 13 question. I understand that from a Minnesota point  
 14 of view, questions of need are off the table because  
 15 there's been a certificate of need proceeding and  
 16 the PUC did, in fact, grant a certificate of need  
 17 for this project. And is that correct?

18 MR. BILL STORM: Yes.

19 MR. ALAN MULLER: There are places in  
 20 here that say that and there are other places that  
 21 talk about the certificate of need proceeding as  
 22 something that's ongoing and I think those should be  
 23 updated to be consistent.

24 From a federal point of view, and this is  
 25 unfamiliar to me, I have never looked before at a

0028-2  
Continued

0028-3

Section 1.3.2 of the Final EIS is updated to state the Certificate of Need was granted on June 30, 2015.

0028-4

The proposed alternatives are fully analyzed in the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-3

0028-4

1 Presidential permitting matter, it stated that the  
 2 federal interest is in the border crossing. But  
 3 it's also stated in here that the rest of the  
 4 project is regarded as a connected action, and in a  
 5 NEPA sense, which it obviously is. So that has, to  
 6 a certain extent, been evaluated in the DEIS. But  
 7 it certainly does not appear to me that it has been  
 8 evaluated in a substantial way.

9 And Ms. Overland made reference to this  
 10 at page 45, and I don't have the section number,  
 11 three-quarters of a page or a little bit less than  
 12 three quarters of a page is devoted to comments on a  
 13 no build alternative. That's three-quarters of a  
 14 page out of 940 pages in these two documents alone.  
 15 And that certainly does not suggest to me that this  
 16 DEIS reflects a substantial or meaningful or useful  
 17 consideration of alternatives.

18 What's actually evaluated here in fine  
 19 detail are route alternatives. And I think that the  
 20 authors of the document should be commended with the  
 21 detail that they've addressed that, but that is not  
 22 what the National Environmental Policy Act means by  
 23 alternatives. And it mocks the intent of NEPA to  
 24 say that, to represent that as meaning the federal  
 25 government's obligations to look at alternatives to

0028-4  
 Continued 0028-5

The decision of DOE is to determine whether to permit or not permit the transmission line. DOE does not assess the entire realm of potential alternatives (e.g., generation or conservation alternatives) as part of their NEPA review. DOE's responsibility is to consider the alternative put forth by the utility in the their Presidential permit and not to review the utility's resource planning process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0028-5

1 this project. I hope I've stated that clearly.

2 Now, with regard to the capacity of the  
3 line, and let me find, if I can, the proper citation  
4 for that. We can look at page 30, section 2.8.1,  
5 expected power transfer capability. And there are  
6 various other mentions throughout the document. For  
7 example, there's mention of a 250 megawatt power  
8 purchase agreement by the applicant. Then there is  
9 mention of the applicant's interest in having, at  
10 page 19, at having a power transfer capability of  
11 883 megawatts. And then again back at page 30,  
12 there's reference to, quote, at least 750 megawatts,  
13 unquote. And elsewhere, and I'm not able to find it  
14 at the moment, which I apologize, there have been  
15 references to significantly higher numbers for the  
16 actual capacity of the line. And that leaves  
17 entirely unresolved, in my opinion, the question  
18 about whether there's a reasonable relationship  
19 between the scale of this project and the  
20 applicant's stated purposes. If, in fact, the  
21 applicant needs 250 megawatts of additional power  
22 transfer capacity, it probably doesn't make sense.  
23 It makes sense for DOE or the state to sign off on a  
24 project that has perhaps several times that power  
25 transfer capability, and it might be motivated by a

0028-5

Continued

0028-6

0028-6

Section 2.8.1 of the EIS states that the proposed Project is designed to increase the total transfer capability between the U.S. and Manitoba by up to 883 MW. Section 2.8.1 was revised to correctly identify 883 MW.

1       desire to engage in market transactions and power or  
2       something that one can have an opinion about, but  
3       they're not discussed in the document.

4               Okay. I think I have a number of more  
5       comments that I might make here, but I think I'll  
6       just write down on what I've said and thank you for  
7       considering that.

8               DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

9               MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

10              Anyone else want to take the opportunity  
11     to speak?

12              MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Yeah I'll do that.

13              MR. BILL STORM: Please state and spell  
14     your name for the court reporter.

15              MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Marshall Nelson,  
16     M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L, N-E-L-S-O-N. Lake of the Woods  
17     County.

18              1600 pages. It's a lot to go through to  
19     find out what's relevant. You know, I can't sit  
20     here and comment on the west section or east  
21     section, I don't live there, I have no intricate  
22     knowledge of the area and I have no business  
23     commenting on specifics to that.

24              Like I said, when I got here tonight, I  
25     don't know what the proper term is, I have one, but

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Lake of the Woods School  
19 236 15th Avenue SW  
20 Baudette, Minnesota

21 July 15, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0029-1

The response to the comment is provided in the transcript.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

51

1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Again, anybody  
2 else? Any questions, comments, concerns about the  
3 draft EIS that you'd like to put on the table?

4 Alan, would you like to have another go  
5 at it?

6 MR. ALAN MULLER: Just a technical or  
7 procedural question for Julie, if I may.

8 What are the legal criteria for the  
9 issuance of a Presidential permit for a border  
10 crossing facility? And does the legal burden lie on  
11 the applicant to demonstrate that such a permit  
12 should be issued? And, if so, what does the  
13 applicant have to show? I mean, in a general sense.

14 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: There isn't so much  
15 a legal burden. What we have, and if you look at  
16 10 CFR part 250, Carol, I believe, pulled up the  
17 exact point -- or 205, sorry, 205. Which is our  
18 Presidential permit application regulations that lay  
19 out very specifically the process for applications  
20 as well as the contents of the application,  
21 including any electric system information, project  
22 information, environmental information, all of those  
23 things.

24 DOE -- and this is discussed in the  
25 regulatory context section of both the summary as

0029-1

1 well as the Chapter 1 section in the EIS, where we  
2 talk about our Presidential permit decision. As  
3 part of the Presidential permit decision, the DOE  
4 accepts applications for border crossing,  
5 international border crossings from an applicant, as  
6 well as information related to, as I stated,  
7 environmental, the electric reliability system. We  
8 then vet that information through the NEPA process.

9 DOE makes the determination of whether or  
10 not to issue a Presidential permit based on a couple  
11 of different things. A large consideration is what  
12 we sort of characterize -- is what's characterized  
13 in statute as public interest. What falls under  
14 public interest in a very large part is the  
15 potential environmental impacts related to not only  
16 the border crossing, but as you pointed out, to what  
17 we call the connected action, which is the  
18 transmission line. We look at those things.

19 We also work and we have to have  
20 concurrence with the Department of State, as well as  
21 the Department of Defense for the project, to make  
22 sure that they concur on our issuance of the  
23 Presidential permit. Within their aspect, they're  
24 considering state considerations as well as  
25 considerations related to national security and

1 national defense.

2 DOE then also considers and makes a  
3 determination related to electric system  
4 reliability. And then any other factors that are  
5 relevant to the particular application that is in  
6 front of us.

7 So those are the variables that are laid  
8 out to us in statute and that are also laid out in  
9 the regulations as part of our decision and that are  
10 discussed in section 1 and the summary of the  
11 document.

12 MR. ALAN MULLER: Thank you. That's  
13 helpful. I realize, and some of that you did say  
14 before and I heard it, but it wasn't clear to me  
15 what you meant.

16 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: That's okay.

17 MR. ALAN MULLER: Could you give us any  
18 background information on how many such permits are  
19 processed through your organization and how many of  
20 them are granted versus how many of them are denied?

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: The number, I mean,  
22 the actual, the overall number of how many  
23 Presidential permits, I mean, the program has been  
24 in place since 1979, maybe 1980'ish, and I don't  
25 have that institutional memory. I can tell you that

0029-2

Detailed information about DOE's Presidential permit program, including but not limited to all Presidential permits issued by the Department, are available on DOE's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability web site at:  
<http://energy.gov/oe/services/electricity-policy-coordination-and-implementation/international-electricity-regulation-3>.

No changes were made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0029-2

1 the -- what we respond to and how busy we are in the  
2 Presidential permit arena depends on how many  
3 applications we get. And we don't solicit for these  
4 applications, they come to us and we respond to them  
5 in a timely manner.

6 We recently issued a Presidential permit  
7 for a 336 1000 megawatt line, a DC line going from  
8 the international border between New York and Quebec  
9 and surveying a substation in Queens. We are  
10 considering and we currently have a draft EIS out  
11 for New England Powerlink, which is 160 miles, if I  
12 remember correctly. That also is a DC line. We're  
13 considering Northern Pass, which is a 500 kV in the  
14 state of New Hampshire, roughly to the tune of about  
15 180 miles. So we have a lot, and Great Northern,  
16 obviously, and we have others that are anticipated.

17 The DOE, in its history, and, again, I  
18 would have to look back so I can't say unequivocally  
19 how many applications we received and what we  
20 denied. Sometimes some of the applications go away,  
21 I mean, so there are those, and so I would have to  
22 do some digging to give an accurate and a precise  
23 response to that question.

24 MR. ALAN MULLER: Well, I was asking  
25 because I have the impression in Minnesota that

1 applicants for certificates of need for transmission  
2 lines always get them with very few exceptions. And  
3 that the process, although it's long and complex,  
4 has some of the characteristics of a rubber stamp as  
5 a whole. And I'm curious to know whether the data  
6 for how the U.S. DOE handles the permits form the  
7 same impression. I'm not speculating, but it's a  
8 reasonable question from the standpoint of members  
9 of the public who would like to know how seriously  
10 their concerns really are taken.

11 And that is all I have to say. So thank  
12 you.

13 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you, Alan.

15 Has that spurred anybody else's  
16 consciousness? Anybody want to speak on the record?

17 Okay. I'll give you a few minutes to  
18 sink in. Speak. Speak.

19 Okay. Thanks for coming out. The  
20 program doesn't work if people don't participate.  
21 Remember that the written comment period deadline is  
22 August 10th, your comments to me and Jules about the  
23 draft EIS.

24 Remember that I'll be back up here in  
25 August for two weeks with an ALJ, an administrative

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 16, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - INTERNATIONAL FALLS  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
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15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 AmericInn  
19 1500 Highway 71  
20 International Falls, Minnesota

21 July 16, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 well.

2 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Right. Thank  
3 you.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your  
5 comment. I encourage you -- I did give you a CD,  
6 correct?

7 MS. ANNE MARGUERITE COYLE: Yes.

8 MR. BILL STORM: I encourage you to go  
9 through the CD. You have until August 10th to  
10 formulate it. And is the document searchable?  
11 Yeah, the document is searchable on the CD, yes, it  
12 is.

13 Okay. Coming back to the general room.  
14 Anyone want to make a comment on the record about  
15 the draft EIS?

16 Okay. Alan, sure, do you want to come  
17 up, please state and spell your name and have at it.  
18 Is that my wet copy?

19 MR. ALAN MULLER: That's your wet copy.

20 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Reading in the  
21 rain, right?

22 MR. ALAN MULLER: Actually, the dampness  
23 of this can be attributed to my dog.

24 My name is Alan Muller, M-U-L-L-E-R, I'm  
25 a resident of Red Wing, Minnesota. And I offered

1 some comments on this document a couple of days ago  
 2 and I didn't complete those comments, but I had a  
 3 few hours to look through this and so I want to add  
 4 a couple of comments to the ones that I have already  
 5 made.

6 At page 113, which is delineated as  
 7 section 5.2.1.4, there is a discussion of property  
 8 values, effects on property values. And there is a  
 9 paragraph at the bottom of the right-hand column on  
 10 page 113 that says in the few studies that detected  
 11 decreases in sales price, those effects ranged from  
 12 2 to 9 percent and in a few cases the sales price  
 13 actually increased. And the intent of this section  
 14 appears to be to argue that in the construction of  
 15 this transmission project is not likely to have a  
 16 substantial effect on the value of the properties  
 17 through which it passes or approaches.

18 And I suggest to you that this is a  
 19 conclusion that is unlikely to be correct and  
 20 certainly is not a conclusion that is well  
 21 substantiated by the material in here. What I would  
 22 like to see would be some sort a quantitative  
 23 discussion of the number of properties in total that  
 24 would be impacted and some defensible summation of  
 25 the likely total decrease in property values that

0030-1

0030-1

Forecasting more than a general estimated percentage change in property values attributable to construction of the proposed Project is not feasible given that the number and type of properties in proximity to the ROW has not yet been determined and the vast number of variables that affect property values and changes in value cannot be assessed. Within your comment, you questioned the validity of the approximate two to nine percent decrease in property values, and a few instances of sale price increases, from the literature review by Jackson and Pitts (2010) of 17 studies conducted between 1954 and 2009. This review is published in the peer-reviewed Journal of Real Estate Literature by the American Real Estate Society, whose membership consists of academics, researchers, and practicing professionals and is a respected analysis. Another study used to support the property values discussion was one by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (2000) which showed that proximity to a high-voltage transmission line does not always cause property value decrease, and when it does, property value decrease can range from 1 to 14 percent. This summary conclusion was drawn from the Commission's analysis of 30 papers, articles, and court cases and is considered a comprehensive literature review that was vetted by the state of Wisconsin. Also included in the property values discussion are results from studies by Weber and Jensen (1978) and Jensen and Weber (1982) that looked specifically at the effects of transmission lines constructed on or near agricultural land. Weber and Jensen (1978) found no effect on agricultural land sale prices, while Jensen and Weber (1982) found agricultural land sale price decreases from 0 to 20 percent, depending on the level of disruption to farm operations. Appendix J, Property Value Supplement, of the Great Northern Transmission Line Project EIS contains a lengthier discussion of these literature reviews than is included in Section 5.2.1.4 but all studies are considered to be valid property value analyses.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 would occur from building this project rather than  
 2 just kind of a page of denial and hand waving. So,  
 3 you know, I think that the DEIS is certainly  
 4 unsatisfactory at this point in how it approaches  
 5 that.

6 Now, let me move to the discussion of  
 7 electric and magnetic fields, which begins on page  
 8 141 and is identified as section 5.2.2.1. I'm sure  
 9 it's well known to everyone in the audience and  
 10 certainly to the authors that the magnitude of  
 11 electric fields is generally related to the voltage  
 12 on the line, and the magnitude of magnetic fields is  
 13 generally related to the current flowing through the  
 14 line.

15 And I see a number of tables here, and  
 16 they predict magnetic field strengths, but they  
 17 don't associate these predicted -- the numbers,  
 18 which are in some cases carried out to four  
 19 significant figures, and these are not tied to any  
 20 particular current values or power transmission  
 21 values and that makes them rather meaningless.  
 22 Particularly since, as I previously testified, this  
 23 seems to be some contradictory information about the  
 24 actual power transfer capability of this line, which  
 25 would be associated with different levels of

0030-1  
 Continued

0030-2

Section 5.2.2.1 the EIS summarizes the predicted intensity of electric and magnetic fields calculated by the Applicant based on two main operational scenarios:

Scenario 1: Stand-alone 500 kV Transmission Line. EMF from the proposed Project transmission line structures only. Electric and magnetic fields are predicted for three types of structures: guyed Delta tower, guyed V-tower, and self-supporting tower at an operating current level of 2,000 amperes.

0030-2

Scenario 2: 500 kV Transmission Line Paralleling Existing Transmission Lines. Electric and magnetic fields are estimated from the proposed 500 kV transmission line operating in parallel with the existing 500 kV, 230 kV, and 115 kV transmission lines. Depending on the configuration, operating line current levels vary.

Predicted magnetic fields from a total of six cases are calculated at average and peak levels. The modeling cases report magnetic fields with maximum current supported by each type of 500-kV transmission structure, ranging from 1,024 to 2,000 amperes.

EMF modeling scenarios and results in Section 5.2.2.1 are revised based on updated modeling results provided by the Applicant (Appendix Y). The revised version of Table 5-22 indicates the current levels supported by the structures modeled.

0030-2 cont'd

38

1 current. So I think this information is  
2 unsatisfactory.

3 These tables need to have a column that  
4 clearly specifies what amperage, what current values  
5 are associated with these magnetic field strengths,  
6 and it needs to be clear that we need to receive  
7 information on the actual maximum amperage that the  
8 line could sustain. As it is, we don't have that.

9 Okay. Now, let me back up, if I may, to  
10 a discussion of climate change and greenhouse gas  
11 emissions. And this begins, roughly speaking, at  
12 page 111, and is delineated as section 5.2.1.3. And  
13 there's verbiage in here that suggests that the  
14 likely effect of building this project would be a  
15 reduction in greenhouse gas emissions due to the use  
16 of more hydropower and the burning of less fossil  
17 fuels. And there is also a suggestion that it would  
18 facilitate the integration of greater amounts of  
19 wind capacity in North Dakota. Which, if it  
20 occurred, would probably also have a beneficial  
21 effect on reducing climate forcing emissions. But  
22 everything in here is extremely vague, it rather  
23 reads like something that was patched together out  
24 of different documents. And it would be extremely  
25 helpful to have some numbers assigned to this. Just

0030-2  
Continued

0030-3

The addition of 250 MW of capacity from renewable energy sources will reduce the average GHG emissions per megawatt hour (MWH) of energy generated in the region. The exact value would depend on many variables, from growth in demand to the addition or closure of other new sources of energy to the implementation of state and federal GHG emission restrictions. It would be difficult to quantify the exact reductions in emissions. However, it is very likely the region would see a reduction in GHG emissions as a result of the action, therefore there will be no potential for an increase in GHG emissions and a qualitative discussion was determined to be adequate for this analysis.

0030-3

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 what reduction in the use of fossil fuels is  
 2 anticipated, is associated with that 250 megawatt  
 3 power purchase agreement with Minnesota Power and  
 4 Manitoba Hydro that's cited here, and whether the  
 5 information in here is associated with that 250  
 6 megawatt power purchase agreement or some  
 7 significantly larger power transmission. Again,  
 8 there are contradictory numbers in various parts of  
 9 the report as I previously testified. So I'm  
 10 suggesting here that some clarity and at least some  
 11 roughly quantitative assessment of different  
 12 scenarios would perhaps give this some credibility.

13 Now, moving on in the same section there  
 14 is a discussion of criteria air pollutants. And  
 15 then that begins on page 111 and the discussion then  
 16 jumps back to discussions of climate change. But  
 17 it's not very clear here whether the authors are  
 18 attempting to discuss emissions of criteria air  
 19 pollutants associated with the construction of the  
 20 project or the operation of the project, and it  
 21 would be very helpful to have some clarification of  
 22 that so we know what is actually being said here.

23 And I'll just close here by referring to  
 24 what Ms. Overland has previously said. It seems to  
 25 me that the authors and consultants of this report

0030-4

Project impacts for criteria pollutants as well as climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are discussed for construction as well as operation, maintenance and emergency repair of the proposed Project in Section 5.2.1.3 of the EIS. Construction related criteria pollutant and climate change and GHG emissions are discussed under the "Construction Impacts" heading while operational emissions of criteria pollutants and climate change and GHG emissions are discussed under the "Operations, Maintenance, and Emergency Repair Impacts" heading.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0030-5

Thank you for your comment. The intent of the Draft EIS comment period is to allow for members of the public, including those opposed to the line, to have the opportunity to review the analysis in the document.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0030-4

0030-5

1 are parties that have a history of working for the  
2 electricity industry, and particularly the power  
3 transmission industry, and perhaps that's a reason  
4 why so much of the general tone of this report seems  
5 to me to be that of an advocacy document rather than  
6 a neutral and objective evaluation of the project.

7 So I would recommend that you obtain some  
8 sort of peer review, perhaps peer review from some  
9 parties who have been involved in opposing  
10 transmission lines and advocating for alternatives,  
11 there certainly are such people around. Because  
12 really the responsibility for peer reviewing a draft  
13 environmental impact statement should not fall on  
14 the general public.

15 Okay. I think that's what I have to say  
16 at the moment.

17 Thank you.

18 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you, Alan.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

20 Okay. With that, anyone else who would  
21 like to take the opportunity to provide comment,  
22 questions on the draft environmental impact  
23 statement?

24 Okay. I want to remind you that the  
25 comment period for this phase of the document review

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JULY 15, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BAUDETTE

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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Lake of the Woods School  
236 15th Avenue SW  
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July 15, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1           desire to engage in market transactions and power or  
2           something that one can have an opinion about, but  
3           they're not discussed in the document.

4                     Okay. I think I have a number of more  
5           comments that I might make here, but I think I'll  
6           just write down on what I've said and thank you for  
7           considering that.

8                     DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay.

9                     MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Alan.

10                    Anyone else want to take the opportunity  
11           to speak?

12                    MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Yeah I'll do that.

13                    MR. BILL STORM: Please state and spell  
14           your name for the court reporter.

15                    MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Marshall Nelson,  
16           M-A-R-S-H-A-L-L, N-E-L-S-O-N. Lake of the Woods  
17           County.

18                    1600 pages. It's a lot to go through to  
19           find out what's relevant. You know, I can't sit  
20           here and comment on the west section or east  
21           section, I don't live there, I have no intricate  
22           knowledge of the area and I have no business  
23           commenting on specifics to that.

24                    Like I said, when I got here tonight, I  
25           don't know what the proper term is, I have one, but

1 I probably shouldn't say it out loud in public. I  
2 tried to pick out a few things and we got a comment  
3 period going on yet, I'm sure there will be more  
4 submitted by myself. But here's just a couple  
5 things. And I'm glad we have copies here because I  
6 wasn't going to print it out.

7 Page 168 you talk about precision farming  
8 systems. Kind of an oxymoron here. Page 168,  
9 middle of the page, precision farming systems. And  
10 I'm quoting here, just part of it. Transmission  
11 lines have the potential to interfere  
12 with RTK and standard GPS used for precision  
13 farming. In further discussion in another section  
14 here, which, I apologize, I didn't get to yet, but,  
15 I mean, it says that it can happen, but since  
16 potential impacts related to precision farming  
17 systems are not expected from the proposed project,  
18 so it's not discussed any further. I mean, it says  
19 it can, but you don't expect any, even though on  
20 this blue route crossing agricultural land, I don't  
21 understand how you can say that it has potential but  
22 you don't expect any. You know, you're  
23 contradicting yourself there. I guess in the final  
24 I'd appreciate a little more detail or explanation.

25 Like I was telling you, I do experience

0031-1

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-1

1 problems with the 230 we got there. It's not that  
2 it shuts it down, it limits the capabilities of the  
3 very expensive technology that we purchased to  
4 operate more efficient, you know. It does that,  
5 what can you do, and it is kind of specific to where  
6 you're at right under the structure, but when you're  
7 going to come across our ag land we're not going to  
8 stop farming that specific right-of-way.

9 And nobody else is standing in line, I do  
10 have a couple other things real quick.

11 Page 204. And this is discussing  
12 agricultural impact. It is reciting in 2010.  
13 There's been a huge explosion of agriculture in  
14 Roseau, Lake of the Woods, and Koochiching County  
15 since 2012. I disagree with you that the principal  
16 commodities are sugar beets and wheat. I guess I've  
17 been here most of my life and I don't know anybody  
18 who grows sugar beets. I don't know how that got in  
19 there, but this data here I do not agree with. If  
20 you looked at more current data from what the ag  
21 economics are, there's been a big shift, and that  
22 the impact on this ag land, not just the precision  
23 farming or whatever, but there is more to it than  
24 that.

25 There's been a lot of government land,

0031-1 cont'd

40

1 CRP, different programs on land and stuff like that,  
 2 and it's come out as being actively farmed as we  
 3 speak and land sales and a lot of that in the past.  
 4 So that's one spot I think you guys want to take a  
 5 look at.

6 Aerial spraying. 205. Yeah. You know,  
 7 and I understand maybe you're not discussing it  
 8 further than Chapter 6, as far as this around the  
 9 transmission lines and trying to line them up with  
 10 whatever makes sense for travel and, geez, you'll  
 11 have to use land base. Well, that's what I said  
 12 when I come in here tonight. It doesn't matter. I  
 13 can't get out there right now to spray this crop  
 14 with a land unit because it's wet. And, obviously,  
 15 if you look out the window, it's getting hit again.  
 16 If you can't get an airplane to fly it, what do I  
 17 do? You know, I'm struggling with this, I'm making  
 18 my way around this power line, it's been there since  
 19 the '70s, this is, like I said, my grandfather  
 20 started this, now it's my problem. I've been  
 21 getting around it different ways, trying to line up  
 22 to the edge of this thing, you know. Now you're  
 23 going to come through here and will cut the whole  
 24 dang section in half again and eliminate everything  
 25 we got on that particular section. This, and I can

0031-1  
 Continued

0031-2

Impacts to agriculture are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-2

0031-2 cont'd

41

1 put this in writing and to the ALJ judge, but this  
 2 is the stuff that needs to be addressed because land  
 3 isn't always the easy alternative. And I'm glad you  
 4 included it in this, I guess, and this is the first  
 5 time I've mentioned it after talking to you guys and  
 6 so I did mention about it.

7 One other question before I give up the  
 8 mic here is what's the ramifications on recreation?  
 9 You know, I know I have neighbors that have a power  
 10 line going through their property, they have deer  
 11 stands and different things, and every time the guys  
 12 come through to clean up the power line or come  
 13 underneath there they come through and tear it down.  
 14 So if the idea is if you're going to come through  
 15 here and destroy my aesthetics out my kitchen  
 16 window, and you're going to destroy my farming  
 17 practices and make it more difficult because of the  
 18 technology I've invested in, and on top of all this  
 19 you have to take out my recreation? I think -- is  
 20 that in here somewhere?

21 MR. BILL STORM: There is sections on  
 22 recreation and the impacts.

23 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Can you tell me  
 24 where I'd find it?

25 MR. BILL STORM: No. But there are

0031-2  
 Continued

0031-3

Discussion of impacts on Recreation and Tourism resulting from the proposed Project are in Section 5.2.1.9. The EIS discussion for Recreation and Tourism is limited to activities on public lands. Impacts to landowners as a result of the proposed Project are discussed relative to Displacement in Section 5.2.1.1 and Land Use Compatability in Section 5.3.1.2.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0031-3

1 sections for the west, central and east that talk  
2 about the impact or potential impact that the  
3 proposed route and the alternatives may have on  
4 recreational activities.

5 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay. And does  
6 that specifically address recreation by private  
7 landowners on their own property once this thing  
8 goes through, or is it just -- 'cause I know you're  
9 looking as the whole, I mean, I see that term used a  
10 lot in here, as a whole, as a whole, as a whole.  
11 Specifically to that, 'cause it means I can't have  
12 my deer stand, and my dad wants to hunt in  
13 retirement, you know, and that's just another --

14 MR. BILL STORM: I understand your  
15 comment --

16 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay.

17 MR. BILL STORM: -- and we'll look back  
18 at it in the context of the comment you made to see  
19 if there's any more we can do to capture that  
20 individual impact that you're talking about.

21 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Lastly, Alan here  
22 or somebody asked about the policy on public record,  
23 all these comments here today. Where and when will  
24 I find those?

25 MR. BILL STORM: When the meetings are

1 over and the comment period is over, I will gather  
2 all the comments, the oral transcripts and the  
3 written comments, and I will post them on my  
4 website, the website that was up there previously.  
5 And I will post them on the PUC website, Mike's  
6 group -- that's probably not the right way to say  
7 that. It's what we call the PUC website, even  
8 though I think it's actually the Department of  
9 Commerce that runs it, but it's eDockets. And it'll  
10 be on the federal site so you can find it there,  
11 too.

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: But we're not going  
13 to see these comments until --

14 MR. BILL STORM: You'll see the comments  
15 once the comment period closes. Well, actually, no,  
16 you'll see them two times.

17 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: You'll see them  
18 twice. You will see them when the comment period  
19 closes, the actual comments, and then the individual  
20 comments will be recorded in the comment response  
21 document, as well as an indication of where in the  
22 document we've changed things or how we dealt with  
23 it and the nature of how we dealt with that. And it  
24 points you back so you can go back to the document.  
25 And that final will have tracked changes to show

1 where we made changes as well so it will make it  
2 clear.

3 But they will be posted as the comments  
4 on the website and then they will also again be  
5 captured in the comment response document that will  
6 be part of the final.

7 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I got this from  
8 Minnesota Power, notice of the meeting and stuff  
9 like that, I also got an e-mail. And I hate to  
10 bring it up, I'm not sure where I got it from, that  
11 the draft EIS was available for review. I'm on that  
12 list. Will I get all of the things you just talked  
13 about as a commenter? This was the thing we talked  
14 about last October, was is that we have a problem  
15 getting information to people on the land that it  
16 didn't cross, you know, and I was one of them that  
17 lived right next to it. It's a long story.

18 MR. BILL STORM: If you signed up for our  
19 project list -- did you get a notice from us?

20 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: From Minnesota  
21 Power.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Yeah, they mailed -- did  
23 you mail it out under our envelope?

24 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: It was a Minnesota  
25 Power envelope.

1 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Before you leave  
2 tonight, on the back table on the green card, just  
3 fill out your name and your address and I'll make  
4 sure you get on my project list.

5 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: That would be good.

6 MR. BILL STORM: And once you're on the  
7 project list, when the notice of hearing, which is  
8 going to be in August comes out, you'll get it, and  
9 when the final EIS is available, you'll get that  
10 notice, too. And you can always check my website or  
11 eDockets to see if anything has been posted. But  
12 after the comment period closes on August 10th, give  
13 me a few days to maybe a week and you'll be able to  
14 see all the comments plus the transcripts on our  
15 websites.

16 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: What I'm concerned  
17 about is I want to see all the comments before we  
18 have the hearing. Is that going to be possible?

19 MR. BILL STORM: No, there's an overlap,  
20 you probably will not see them before the hearing.  
21 But, again, the comments that we're talking about  
22 now are comments on the draft environmental impact  
23 statement. The hearing is about the whole permit  
24 application, whether you believe they should get a  
25 permit, and if they should, what the route should

1 be, what an alternative route should be, or what  
2 conditions should be attached to that permit.  
3 That's where you can ask, because all of Minnesota  
4 Power's engineers and their witnesses who provided  
5 information for the route permit will be at those  
6 hearings, and you can ask them directly questions  
7 that you don't think the record, including the draft  
8 EIS, but the whole record haven't been answered.

9 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Right. I'd like to  
10 see comments from everybody, it would be nice to  
11 have all that.

12 MR. BILL STORM: If you go to my website  
13 you will see all the comments that I've gotten  
14 during the scoping period, and you'll be able to see  
15 these, but, like I said, there is some overlap about  
16 when this comment period ends and when the hearing  
17 starts. Usually we like to have a week of  
18 separation between those two things, but because of  
19 the nexus between us and the feds it just didn't  
20 work out that way.

21 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: Okay. I have your  
22 card. And I'll use it.

23 MR. BILL STORM: And what I would  
24 encourage you to do, two things. One, certainly  
25 come to the hearing next month to tell the ALJ what

1 you think about the proposed project and what you  
2 think about the various routes that are on the  
3 table. For the draft environmental impact  
4 statement, you mentioned -- because we do talk about  
5 the high-tech GPS units that farmers use, and is  
6 there possible interference with these transmission  
7 lines. And I haven't looked at that section since  
8 it was written and so I don't know if the two lines  
9 equal that or are really in conflict if you take  
10 them in context. I think the context might be that  
11 there is a potential there, but from the literature  
12 searches that we've done, the potential seems  
13 minimal, and that's why the conclusion is this line  
14 probably won't have that effect.

15 If you, through your trade association or  
16 through your farmers journals or through even your  
17 equipment manufacturing manuals, if you have  
18 information that relates to the impact of these  
19 transmission lines on that type of equipment, point  
20 me in that direction and I will make sure that  
21 information gets put in the final EIS. As long as,  
22 you know, I'll review the information, and there's a  
23 lot of stuff on the web, and if you send me  
24 something from 18 aliens, I might not put that  
25 forward. But if you sent me something from a

1 farmers journal or from an academic study, from a  
2 Canada university or a United States university  
3 somewhere, some kind of documentation that shows me  
4 some more of that, that may cause us to beef that  
5 section up if we need to.

6 Okay. Are you fine? You can make some  
7 more comments, if you'd like.

8 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: No, I don't have  
9 time to do that, but I will send something.

10 MR. BILL STORM: And did I give you a CD  
11 copy?

12 MR. MARSHALL NELSON: I don't need a CD  
13 copy, I can get it online.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Oh, you can get it  
15 online? Some people, depending on what kind of  
16 online system you have, it's a big document to pull  
17 it all down.

18 Okay. Anybody else want to speak on the  
19 record?

20 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: I have a procedural  
21 question.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Carol, go ahead.

23 MS. CAROL OVERLAND: This is fairly  
24 quick. Given that there's a federal aspect of this,  
25 do you do the -- like record of decision process in

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Seven Clans Casino  
19 10200 Highway 89  
20 Red Lake, Minnesota

21 July 13, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 to study that, going, you know, into the future, so  
2 that if there is a problem you can work on it.  
3 'Cause it would be something where you'd want to  
4 monitor that over several years. I think that would  
5 be a mitigation measure to put into this document as  
6 well.

7 And then just to talk about the rare  
8 species plants, that's something that needs to be  
9 looked at. And, again, that needs to be looked at  
10 as part of your study going forward on this project.

11 Let's see what else I've got. Gentlemen?

12 MR. JOE PLUMER: I have something I want  
13 to say.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Are you done?

15 MR. KADE FERRIS: I'm not done yet, but  
16 I'll let these guys in.

17 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Good evening. I'm  
18 Charles Olson, I have just a very short comment.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Can you state and spell  
20 your name for the court reporter?

21 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Charles Olson,  
22 O-L-S-O-N.

23 I haven't had a chance to read the whole  
24 environmental impact statement, that fault likes  
25 with me. I did, however, look over the table of the

1 contents, both the condensed view there and through  
 2 the books. And what I see is it's done in a vacuum.  
 3 And it's really just examining just a very narrow  
 4 scope. And we know when we look at the environment,  
 5 we know that that's not true, that it is communities  
 6 with stuff all the way around.

7 So I would like to see in the final  
 8 environmental impact statement a section devoted to  
 9 what the power company is planning to do to minimize  
 10 the needs for more of these power lines, minimize  
 11 its needs through solar panels and other renewable  
 12 resources. And what other projects are going on in  
 13 Minnesota and what they have for that so we can  
 14 actually have that macro view at some point.

15 It's almost -- it's virtually required,  
 16 because as we go further down and we find more and  
 17 more on environmental damage, we build more and more  
 18 structures, such as pipelines, transmission lines  
 19 and stuff like that, at some point we have to quit  
 20 looking at it in a vacuum and start looking at them  
 21 in a macro sense.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Charlie.

23 Next?

24 Please state and spell your name.

25 MR. JOE PLUMER: My name is Joe Plumer,

0032-1

Although Minnesota does not have a general statewide energy plan, the MN PUC does review long-term generation and transmission planning for individual utilities. First, the MN PUC reviews and approves the utility's integrated resource plans, which are to consider different options for transmission and generation, including demand reduction and renewables. Then, as the utility seeks approval for individual projects such as this one, the MN PUC considers these alternatives before it decides whether the project is needed and how to meet that need (Certificate of Need). A summary of the Minnesota certificate of need process is provided in EIS Section 1.3.2.

0032-1

In addition, the DOE's Federal Action is to determine whether to permit the international border crossing that is a part of the proposed Project. DOE does not have a role in reviewing an applicant utility's resource planning process. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
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22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 from the public. As I said before, please state and  
2 spell your name, speak slowly, slower than I gave my  
3 thing, and make your comment, put your question on  
4 the record, and we'll go on from there.

5 So first up.

6 MR. KADE FERRIS: First off, my name is  
7 not Bill.

8 MR. BILL STORM: I know, I'm sorry.  
9 Although it's such a good name, I don't know why  
10 everybody is not Bill.

11 MR. KADE FERRIS: I guess it's the  
12 handlebars that I shaved in last week.

13 Well, my name is Kade Ferris, the  
14 archeologist and anthropologist for Red Lake Nation.

15 And in reviewing this document, there is  
16 a lot of things that we need to look at. I know  
17 some of this stuff in here is very general. I know  
18 you guys, you know, have put volumes of work in  
19 here.

20 Right off the bat, I guess, is when  
21 you're talking about human settlement, in section  
22 S.8.1 in the beginning here, and in section 6.2.1.1  
23 as well, it's looking at -- you're looking at this  
24 as a place that's kind of void of human settlement  
25 for the most part. There's no residences, churches,

0033-1

As discussed in Section 5.2.1 of the EIS, high voltage transmission line projects, like the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line project, have the potential to impact human settlement in a variety of ways, including potential displacement of humans which can be assessed by evaluating the presence or absence of human settlement features like residences, churches, schools, etc. The EIS also goes on to assess the potential for impacts to humans from the project in terms of several other closely related resource areas, including, noise, public health and safety, transportation, air quality, electronic interference, and property values. No change is made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-1

0033-1 cont'd

0033-1  
Continued

0033-2

Impacts to property values are discussed within Section 5.2.1.4 and conclude that potential impacts to property values resulting from construction and operation of the proposed Project, if any, would range from no effect to a 20 percent reduction based on conclusions from the literature review included in Appendix J. While the proposed routes and variations do not cross any of the Red Lake Nation's ceded lands, some of the proposed routes and variations do cross wilderness areas that may be utilized by Red Lake Nation members for hunting, trapping, fishing and gathering; those potential impacts are discussed in Section 5.2.1.8, as part of the impacts to Natural Resource Based Economies. The EIS also acknowledges in Section 5.3.1.3 of the EIS impacts to the Red Lake Nation Band of Chippewa Indians ceded lands.

0033-2

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-3

The assessment of visual impacts relies on the approach stated in Section 5.3.1.1 that, "The 1,500 foot ROI for aesthetic resources was identified because the proposed Project is most likely to be visible within this near-foreground distance zone and views of the proposed Project from aesthetic resources within this distance zone have the greatest potential to result in visual impacts for sensitive viewers." Visual simulations, provided in Appendix N, Photo Simulations, of the EIS, were prepared for seven viewpoints within the study area to represent typical views of the proposed Project. These simulations are intended to provide reviewers with a sense of what the transmission line would look like from various distances and in various landscape settings within the study area.

0033-3

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) used for considering potential adverse effects from the proposed Project on historic architectural sites or for assessing traditional properties is discussed in Section 5.3.3.1 and is included in the draft Programmatic Agreement developed for the proposed Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The draft Programmatic Agreement is included in Appendix V of the EIS. Within the EIS the direct APE is the anticipated 200-foot ROW and the footprint of the other elements of the proposed Project. The indirect APE includes the direct APE plus a one mile radius on each side of the

1 schools. That's the comment, or that's the first  
2 thing that's drawn out of here, is you're looking at  
3 not affecting human uses, or human settlement, or  
4 human activities in the area.

5 But as far as the property value, I think  
6 it's important that an assessment is done on how  
7 this could affect the Red Lake Nation's property  
8 value for those lands up in the ceded area, because  
9 that is something that has not been considered by  
10 this project as it stands. And I think that would  
11 be something that would be very important to do,  
12 especially since it's not just, say, the price of  
13 the land, but it's the use of the land now and in  
14 the future and how people either can or can't use  
15 those lands. So I think that that's something that  
16 needs to be looked at.

17 You talked about aesthetics, which is a  
18 really important thing. I think it would be very  
19 important to look at that as well. As you are close  
20 on many of these, the routes through the Red Lake  
21 land, and I'm not sure that the 1,300-foot view shed  
22 is accurate. I think it's very arbitrary and I  
23 think that that needs to be looked at as well.

24 1,500 is another one that we're talking about as far  
25 as feet for historical architectural sites, but as

anticipated alignment of the proposed transmission line or the center of the footprint of the other elements of the proposed Project.

0033-3 cont'd

0033-3  
Continued

0033-4

Chapter 2 of the EIS discusses temporary and permanent access roads that are proposed as a part of the project. Permanent access roads would generally be within the ROW and are planned by the Applicant as unimproved roadways with no grading or filling. Section 5.3.1.2 of EIS is updated with a discussion that acknowledges that public access is generally expected to occur in areas where access was previously not possible due to the introduction of temporary and permanent roads that would be put in place as part of the proposed GNTL Project.

0033-4

0033-5

As a federally-recognized tribal nation with an interest in the general area of the Project, Red Lake Nation is a cooperating agency that has a degree of authority, responsibility, and involvement in the environmental review process. Additional information regarding consultation with Red Lake Nation is provided in the EIS. Discussion of impacts from the proposed Project to Red Lake Forest Projects, Inc. is discussed within the Socioeconomics (Section 5.2.1.8) discussion of "Natural Resource-Based Economies."

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-5

1 far as traditional use of the area, 1,500 feet might  
2 not be adequate depending on what a person is doing,  
3 when they're doing it, and for what purpose.

4 Again, looking at land use compatibility.  
5 It would be really, I think, important there to look  
6 at what -- not just the impact of the project itself  
7 now, but have you looked at what type of things  
8 might occur in the future on this. So how this  
9 project would be through access roads that you're  
10 going to use to maintain things, will that create  
11 any kind of new land use in the area? Are people  
12 going to have better access to land that they didn't  
13 have access to previously, and maybe they'll start  
14 to drain it and farm it. Has that been considered?  
15 I'm not sure it's even considered in here.

16 Again, 6.2.1.2, land-based economics.  
17 You're looking at agriculture, you're looking at the  
18 international boundary, you're looking at forestry,  
19 but the question here is have you talked to the Red  
20 Lake foresters about this? Because Red Lake has a  
21 very strong, ongoing forestry activity up in that  
22 area, and I think that it would behoove you guys,  
23 before you issue the final EIS, to speak to, to  
24 engage, and to get information as much as we can, if  
25 not now, but for implementing the project. If

27

1 anything needs to be done to engage Red Lake  
2 forestry on that, because there are a lot of  
3 activities that go on up there and it's something  
4 that needs to be looked at.

5 Architecture and archaeological  
6 resources. I like the classes you guys did. I'd  
7 like to know, and I really can't -- I guess I'm not  
8 a big fan of this idea of 126 different locations  
9 that you consider high potential areas. As far as  
10 for archeology, there's been little or nothing in  
11 the environmental impact statement on traditional  
12 cultural properties. The Red Lake tribe will be  
13 happy to work with you on that.

14 You know, I mentioned earlier about out  
15 by Roseau where the tribe has an old village that  
16 belonged to one of the tribal members in the 1800s.  
17 His name is Mikinaak. And Mikinaak was right there  
18 by Roseau Lake where the river came in, and two of  
19 your lines will be crossing in that area. And this  
20 first was very important, not just, you know, as a  
21 member of the Red Lake tribe, but also it was  
22 important historically to that area because when  
23 there was, I guess, a panic where the farmers  
24 thought there was going to be an Indian uprising,  
25 and they all left to escape being killed, I guess,

0033-6

0033-6

A draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) is developed for the proposed Project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800.4(b)(2)). The draft PA being developed for the proposed Project is included in Appendix V of the EIS. The PA will:

Allow for the adjustment of the APE to ensure that direct and indirect effects on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)-listed or -eligible cultural resources are properly considered. NRHP-listed or -eligible resources may include, but would not necessarily be limited to, archaeological resources; architectural, built, or aboveground resources; properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a federally recognized Indian tribe; and/or TCPs. Stipulate the need for additional cultural resources investigations within the APE to identify and evaluate resources for NRHP-eligibility. Such investigations would address the identification of archaeological and architectural, built, or aboveground resources within the APE and evaluate these resources for NRHP-eligibility by qualified consultants. Address the identification and evaluation of TCPs by qualified consultants to identify TCPs, which may include properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to a federally recognized Indian tribe, and evaluate these properties for NRHP-eligibility. Include obtaining background information from written and oral sources on the prehistory and history of the area, such as the story of Mikinaak and his people's interaction with farmers in the 1800s near the Red Lake Tribe's village by Roseau.

28

1 which never, of course, was going to happen,  
 2 Mikinaak and his people fed and watered cattle and  
 3 livestock to make sure they didn't die. And he was  
 4 a really important part of history in that Roseau  
 5 area. And I think it would be really important as  
 6 part of this project to hear some of those stories  
 7 and to get that information out so that it can be  
 8 noted that this area is Ojibwe land, but more so,  
 9 it's not something where is it vacated for any other  
 10 reason than people diminished those lands. So I  
 11 think that would be really important to do in terms  
 12 of satisfying that part. I know there's an  
 13 agreement and we can do great stuff with that. I  
 14 will definitely have to give some props to the  
 15 Department of Energy for working with the Red Lake  
 16 Nation on going over that PA, and I think it would  
 17 provide some great information moving forward on  
 18 this project as well.

19 There's a lot of other things in here  
 20 that, I mean, I could go on and on and talk the rest  
 21 of the night, if you'd like.

22 But some of the other key things, just  
 23 looking at the natural environment area, is things  
 24 like water resources. Again, you know, is your  
 25 project, by having these different, like I said,

0033-6 cont'd

0033-6  
Continued

0033-7

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected the Applicant will identify the locations for all permanent and temporary access roads, laydown areas, stringing areas, fly-in sites, and structure locations. They will work with the federal and state agencies to develop survey plans, conduct fieldwork, and determine the wetland and other resource impacts for the project. This information will be needed in order to complete the federal and state permitting processes. Draining of land for agricultural purposes is not identified as a reasonably foreseeable action and it is not part of the proposed Project, therefore is not included in the EIS.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-7

0033-7 cont'd

29

1 access roads, staging areas, which are they  
 2 permanent or not? That's something that needs to be  
 3 answered in here. And, if so, could that have an  
 4 impact on water resources in the area, if people  
 5 decide they're going to start draining the land and  
 6 use some of that land up there and they have access,  
 7 that's a big concern.

8 Also, you know, vegetation. You're  
 9 removing a lot of areas and keeping them clear and I  
 10 think that needs to be looked at from a tribal  
 11 perspective going forward. It's not so much germane  
 12 here to the EIS in that sense, but I think you need  
 13 to mention that as a mitigative measure, that you'll  
 14 work with the tribe to identify plants and other  
 15 resources like that that will or can be affected,  
 16 and trying to, I guess, get ideas from the tribe to  
 17 better manage those up in that area because we know  
 18 what the long-going cumulative impacts might be to  
 19 some of those plant colonies.

20 Wildlife. I have mentioned this probably  
 21 a good dozen times at the PA meetings. It was not  
 22 so much in that sense a culture resource issue, but  
 23 it's also a natural resource issue. These large  
 24 power lines, you're going to be creating these  
 25 gigantic slots of more or less predator highway for

0033-7  
Continued

0033-8

Impacts to vegetation are discussed in Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIS. Chapter 6 of the EIS identifies that the MN PUC Route Permit could also require the development of a Vegetation Management Plan as a permit condition, which could include plant surveys along the permitted ROW, incorporate vegetation clearing, and management of invasive species. The MN PUC typically requires the Applicant to prepare a plan in coordination with the MnDNR as a condition of the Route Permit.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-8

0033-9

Thank you for providing this information. The references are added to Chapter 9 of the EIS. We have reviewed the documents that you referenced regarding ungulates and smaller animals and their use of transmission line corridors. The studies indicate that ungulates cross transmission line corridors unlike road corridors which act as barriers. Predators may use the corridors more often which would deter use by ungulate and other smaller animals. In addition, animals with young will avoid corridors of any type because they don't provide cover for their young to hide from predators. The results are inconclusive for reindeer for the selected study areas - but there were extenuating circumstances (roads and dams) which may limit their need to cross the transmission line corridors. The documents provide some methods to reduce the effects of corridors on ungulates, which primarily involve returning the corridor back to an intermediate level of successional forest that provides more habitat (cover, food, etc.).

0033-9

Following full review of the studies pointed to by the commenter for any new information relevant to the proposed Project, no changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0033-9  
Continued

1 a lot of hunters, but also for natural predators  
2 such as the wolf, and a lot of movements in order to  
3 get access and I guess they hunt for subsistence.  
4 And so I think that's something that needs to be  
5 examined going forward. It might not be something  
6 that you really need to address here, but it's  
7 something that should be addressed, I think, as far  
8 as this project goes.

9 I think you need to make sure that you're  
10 working with the Red Lake DNR on some of the  
11 activities that happen up in that area. And what  
12 you can do to work with Red Lake DNR going forward  
13 into the future as far as monitoring some of those  
14 things that happen there as far as is there going to  
15 be an effect. We don't know, it's hard to tell. A  
16 lot of studies have taken place that say that there  
17 can or can't be an effect. There's some Norwegian  
18 studies that I've read, deer and other game don't  
19 want to cross those areas. Not because it's a  
20 gigantic wild area that is traveled by a person or a  
21 wolf, but because you've got those high-voltage  
22 lines. And there's speculation that those  
23 high-voltage lines can keep them from moving  
24 naturally.

25 So I think working with the tribe's DNR

1 to study that, going, you know, into the future, so  
2 that if there is a problem you can work on it.  
3 'Cause it would be something where you'd want to  
4 monitor that over several years. I think that would  
5 be a mitigation measure to put into this document as  
6 well.

7 And then just to talk about the rare  
8 species plants, that's something that needs to be  
9 looked at. And, again, that needs to be looked at  
10 as part of your study going forward on this project.

11 Let's see what else I've got. Gentlemen?

12 MR. JOE PLUMER: I have something I want  
13 to say.

14 MR. BILL STORM: Are you done?

15 MR. KADE FERRIS: I'm not done yet, but  
16 I'll let these guys in.

17 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Good evening. I'm  
18 Charles Olson, I have just a very short comment.

19 MR. BILL STORM: Can you state and spell  
20 your name for the court reporter?

21 MR. CHARLES OLSON: Charles Olson,  
22 O-L-S-O-N.

23 I haven't had a chance to read the whole  
24 environmental impact statement, that fault likes  
25 with me. I did, however, look over the table of the

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DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE  
MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

AND

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
Woods, and Roseau Counties

PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

Seven Clans Casino  
10200 Highway 89  
Red Lake, Minnesota

July 13, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 where they lie as far as the preferred route and the  
2 alternate route. And if there's anything that can  
3 be done, we would like that to be avoided. These  
4 are lands that we don't yet know the exact  
5 description.

6 Okay. Did you get that okay, Janet?

7 COURT REPORTER: I did. Thank you.

8 MR. JOE PLUMER: Thank you.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Kade, do you want  
10 to continue?

11 MR. KADE FERRIS: Yeah.

12 I think, you know, Joe made a really good  
13 point about the route and, you know, I guess what's  
14 going to be the main route.

15 But, also, I think as far as the  
16 construction procedures, that was something I know  
17 I've been -- I'd love to see something as far as  
18 where you're planning on doing the staging access  
19 roads, not just for ongoing maintenance, but also  
20 construction. You put those roads in, take those  
21 roads out, how you're going to restrict or allow  
22 access to those areas, because once a road is  
23 somewhere people love to use it. So that's going to  
24 be a real big issue that you need to make sure that  
25 you address in this document, is how you're going to

0034-1

As discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected the Applicant will identify the locations for all permanent and temporary access roads, laydown areas, stringing areas, fly-in sites, and structure locations. They will work with the appropriate federal and state agencies to develop survey plans, conduct fieldwork, and determine the wetland and other resource impacts for the project. This information will be needed in order to complete the federal and state permitting processes.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0034-1

1 deal with those roads. Because the second there's a  
 2 road, then all of a sudden we're going to be hunting  
 3 on those areas and going back there and doing your  
 4 things and that's, I guess, an impact that needs to  
 5 be examined in here.

6 I think that Charlie made a good point as  
 7 well as far as how does this tie into future  
 8 projects. You know, is this going to satisfy your  
 9 need for the next five years or 10 years or 20 years  
 10 as far as this line from Canada? Do you see this  
 11 becoming, I guess, a conduit for future additional  
 12 projects and how this can open that up? 'Cause  
 13 that's one of the things that I've always tried to  
 14 stress, is the second you do something, it makes it  
 15 easier to do something else. And I think that's  
 16 exactly what Charles was trying to say, is the  
 17 second you do a project, it goes through, now all of  
 18 a sudden, hey, wait, we have to have a substation  
 19 here or we're going to have to put in additional  
 20 lines because we have additional need, and is that  
 21 going to be addressed adequately as far as, you  
 22 know, sufficiency of this project for a specific  
 23 amount of time, because that's something people will  
 24 definitely want to know.

25 I know, as far as -- what's the section?

0034-1  
 Continued

0034-2

Although Minnesota does not have a general statewide energy plan, the MN PUC does review long-term planning for individual utilities. First, the MN PUC reviews and approves the utility's integrated resource plans, which are to consider different options for generation, including renewables. Then, as the utility seeks approval for individual projects such as this one, the MN PUC decided whether the project is needed and how to meet that need (Certificate of Need). The MN PUC certificate of need process is discussed in Section 1.3.2 of the EIS.

0034-2

Chapter 7 of the EIS addresses the cumulative impacts of "reasonably foreseeable" future actions in the US. Other more speculative actions are outside the scope of analysis for this document.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0034-2 cont'd

36

1 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Can I ask, when you  
2 say for a specific amount of time --

3 MR. KADE FERRIS: I guess how long is  
4 this going to be sufficient for the state of  
5 Minnesota? I mean, meeting your needs as a power  
6 company? Is it five years, 10 years, 20 years? How  
7 long do you see it satisfying your needs before you  
8 have to go after more lines or, as Charles said, go  
9 after alternative energy.

10 I know hydro is an alternative energy in  
11 a sense, it's green energy, and that's great, you  
12 don't have to have more coal and that kind of thing  
13 and so that's very commendable. But, it's still --  
14 it's not, I guess, as green as other forms of energy  
15 could be, because you have to knock out of a lot of  
16 trees and so that's the idea there.

17 A long-eared bat, I assume you guys have  
18 a head's up on that one. I know that they're --  
19 that's one of the things that I think is something  
20 that needs to be looked at, too, is how much is this  
21 habitat -- or how are you going to address it, and  
22 that came out recently so you have to make sure you  
23 address that adequately in here.

24 All right. Okay. Here we are. Other  
25 than that, we're going to provide some written

0034-2  
Continued

0034-3

The Biological Assessment, added to the EIS in Appendix R, discusses potential impacts to the northern long-eared bat, as well as avoidance and minimization measures intended to protect this Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species.

0034-3

1           comments. But, yeah, those are just some of the  
2           things that are, you know, definitely of issue.

3                     Anything else gentlemen?

4                     MR. JOE PLUMER: I can't think of  
5           anything right now.

6                     MR. KADE FERRIS: But, I mean, this is a  
7           huge document. And we're glad, you know, that you  
8           are moving forward, that we have a plan at least to  
9           satisfy some of these studies.

10                    And I want to thank Department of Energy  
11           and I want to thank Minnesota Power for allowing Red  
12           Lake to be a cooperator and see the studies ongoing  
13           to help satisfy the EIS. And I think that's where  
14           we'll be here shortly, and we'll definitely provide  
15           some more written comments as well, and we'll be  
16           writing those to Julie at the Department of Energy.

17                    So thank you.

18                    DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

19                    And I just wanted to ask a question for  
20           clarification. As a cooperator, this is an ongoing  
21           discussion, so I know Al, he is the director for  
22           DNR, and the forestry falls under his department?  
23           Is that correct?

24                    MR. KADE FERRIS: Yes.

25                    DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: I just wanted to

1 make sure.

2 MR. KADE FERRIS: Right. And that's  
3 important, you know, is to talk to them directly,  
4 because there's a lot of guys on staff and they have  
5 a lot of things to do. So if, you know, in  
6 implementing some of those things, we have those  
7 guys directly seeing, you know, what type of things  
8 and work they have to do that would make, I guess,  
9 their jobs easier, but also make their management go  
10 more smooth. 'Cause there's a lot of lands that are  
11 up there, our target over the next several years for  
12 them is for harvest, and then there's always the  
13 issue of -- and I don't believe you mentioned that  
14 in here, but forest fires and cleanup. Because you  
15 guys run the risk of having forest fires rip through  
16 this area where your transmission line is, and when  
17 that happens, how is that going to affect things,  
18 like cleanup of those areas, you might want to plop  
19 that in here as an extra item.

20 Okay. Thanks, guys.

21 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kade.

23 Anyone else want to go on the record  
24 tonight?

25 Okay. If not, I do want to remind you,

0034-4

Plans associated with the proposed Project would be developed following selection of the final route by the MN PUC. As a standard practice, the Applicant follows industry standard protocol for fire prevention during construction, including but not limited to:

- a. Maintain orderly work sites.
- b. Regularly inform workers on fire danger, particularly in high fire danger seasons and areas.
- c. Identify and communicate emergency contact information for the appropriate work location.
- d. Fire extinguishers available on all equipment.
- e. Use of fire spotters during hot work (welding, grinding, etc.).
- f. Conduct open burning only by and in accordance with burning permit.
- g. Requiring construction contractors to act expeditiously to extinguish wildfires and to do everything reasonably within a contractor's power, both independently and on request of any duly-authorized representative of the United States, to prevent and suppress fires on or near the job-site, including making available such construction personnel and equipment as may be reasonably obtainable for the suppression of such fires.

0034-4

The Applicant regularly inspects all of its transmission lines during operation and for maintenance. In the case of a wildfire, lines would be inspected for integrity following an event. The Applicant would work in coordination with responding fire department or other agencies with regard to aerial application of chemical fire retardants that may have corrosive or other deleterious effects to transmission system facilities. Final protocols for fire management would be further defined in the general conditions of the proposed Project in the permitting phase of the process.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Bigfork School  
19 100 Huskie Boulevard  
20 Bigfork, Minnesota

21 July 21, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0035-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 your comment.

2 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Did you get an  
3 electronic copy of the draft to take with you?

4 MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: No, I'd like one.

5 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Okay. We'll make  
6 sure you get one before you go.

7 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Anyone else who  
8 wants to speak?

9 Yes, sir. If you would step to the mic  
10 and state and spell your name.

11 MR. DENNY PAVEK: My name is Denny Pavek,  
12 P-A-V-E-K.

13 And I wasn't planning to speak, but  
14 listening to a couple of folks talk here I wanted to  
15 just state the gentleman, Dave Christenson, says it  
16 for us, too. We're in Deer Lake, we have a  
17 homeowners association, I represent the 50 cabin  
18 owners up there, and we fully support, as it's  
19 called, I believe, the Effie route. I believe  
20 that's the red route, is that correct?

21 MR. BILL STORM: We have not assigned  
22 colors.

23 MR. DENNY PAVEK: The map has colors,  
24 though.

25 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Yeah, the Effie

0035-1

1 variation.

2 MR. DENNY PAVEK: It is the red route,  
3 and there are a few people that live there  
4 year-round. So that's where we as the cabin owners  
5 association would like to see it go.

6 Thank you.

7 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

8 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you.

9 Does that spur anybody? Anybody else  
10 want to speak?

11 MR. JOHN KANNAS: I will.

12 MR. BILL STORM: Yes, sir. State and  
13 spell your name, please.

14 MR. JOHN KANNAS: Sure. My name is John  
15 Kannas, K-A-N-N-A-S.

16 I'm a supervisor in Balsam Township and  
17 there are three routes that cross Balsam Township.  
18 We understand the line is going through, and the  
19 town board is in support, and all the residents,  
20 that we want the blue route through Balsam, not the  
21 alternative route, which is the green route or the  
22 yellow or orange route, which slices the township  
23 right in the middle, right through the main populous  
24 area. And the other is the abandoned Minnesota  
25 Power line, but, again, we don't want that, we want

DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
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JULY 13, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - RED LAKE

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Seven Clans Casino  
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Red Lake, Minnesota

July 13, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 contents, both the condensed view there and through  
2 the books. And what I see is it's done in a vacuum.  
3 And it's really just examining just a very narrow  
4 scope. And we know when we look at the environment,  
5 we know that that's not true, that it is communities  
6 with stuff all the way around.

7 So I would like to see in the final  
8 environmental impact statement a section devoted to  
9 what the power company is planning to do to minimize  
10 the needs for more of these power lines, minimize  
11 its needs through solar panels and other renewable  
12 resources. And what other projects are going on in  
13 Minnesota and what they have for that so we can  
14 actually have that macro view at some point.

15 It's almost -- it's virtually required,  
16 because as we go further down and we find more and  
17 more on environmental damage, we build more and more  
18 structures, such as pipelines, transmission lines  
19 and stuff like that, at some point we have to quit  
20 looking at it in a vacuum and start looking at them  
21 in a macro sense.

22 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Charlie.

23 Next?

24 Please state and spell your name.

25 MR. JOE PLUMER: My name is Joe Plumer,

1 P-L-U-M-E-R.

2 My comment has to do with the route.

3 I've talked with Minnesota Power about this concern,  
4 and it has to do with I would say that overall on  
5 balance that the tribe would prefer, you know, the  
6 blue line, the blue route. Mainly because Minnesota  
7 Power has done a pretty good job of avoiding all the  
8 tribe ceded lands, known ceded lands. And my  
9 comment right now has to do with the unknown ceded  
10 lands.

11 And the tribe has been recently informed  
12 of a decision of the field solicitor, or not the  
13 field, the main solicitor in Washington, that this  
14 issue involving Bolstad leaned parcels was finally  
15 resolved 70 years after the restoration order of the  
16 ceded lands. And it was decided in the tribe's  
17 favor. And what that means, bottom line, is there's  
18 going to be about 66,000 acres coming back to the  
19 tribe, but we don't know the exact legal  
20 descriptions yet.

21 So I would just like it to be noted that  
22 we don't know where they're all located, we know  
23 they're in five northern counties, and once we have  
24 the exact descriptions, we'll get those to Jim of  
25 Minnesota Power as soon as possible just to see

0036-1

0036-1

DOE recognizes the Red Lake Tribe's concerns regarding potential impacts on tribal lands and understand that the tribe will be coordinating with the Applicant regarding the locations of ceded lands that would be restored to the tribe per the recent resolution of disputed Volstead land parcels. Additionally, as discussed in Section 1.3.1.4 of the EIS, once a route is selected and a permit is issued, the Applicant would contact landowners to gather information about their property and their concerns and discuss how the ROW would best proceed across the property.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

1 where they lie as far as the preferred route and the  
2 alternate route. And if there's anything that can  
3 be done, we would like that to be avoided. These  
4 are lands that we don't yet know the exact  
5 description.

6 Okay. Did you get that okay, Janet?

7 COURT REPORTER: I did. Thank you.

8 MR. JOE PLUMER: Thank you.

9 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Kade, do you want  
10 to continue?

11 MR. KADE FERRIS: Yeah.

12 I think, you know, Joe made a really good  
13 point about the route and, you know, I guess what's  
14 going to be the main route.

15 But, also, I think as far as the  
16 construction procedures, that was something I know  
17 I've been -- I'd love to see something as far as  
18 where you're planning on doing the staging access  
19 roads, not just for ongoing maintenance, but also  
20 construction. You put those roads in, take those  
21 roads out, how you're going to restrict or allow  
22 access to those areas, because once a road is  
23 somewhere people love to use it. So that's going to  
24 be a real big issue that you need to make sure that  
25 you address in this document, is how you're going to

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JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK

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Bigfork School  
100 Huskie Boulevard  
Bigfork, Minnesota

July 21, 2015

COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 reporter can follow you.

2 Try to focus your comments on the draft  
3 EIS. I'm not going to cut you off if you want to  
4 comment on something else, but I'm asking you to  
5 focus your comments on the draft EIS. And written  
6 comments to either me or Jules or both, it doesn't  
7 matter, by regular mail, e-mail, snail mail that  
8 sort of information. You can also comment  
9 electronically. If you go to the Commerce website,  
10 there's a link that you can comment electronically.  
11 If you go to the fed's website there's a link there,  
12 too.

13 So that's the fed and the state process  
14 and I'm going to turn it over to the public. No one  
15 filled out a card so I'm just going to go with a  
16 show of hands.

17 Does anyone want to speak on the record  
18 tonight?

19 Okay, sir, I ask that you step to the  
20 mic, state and spell your name, and try to speak  
21 slowly and deliberately, unlike I do, for the court  
22 reporter. Thank you.

23 MR. DANIEL SIGFRID: My name is Daniel  
24 Sigfrid, S-I-G-F-R-I-D. And I own property on this  
25 proposed route, the blue route.

1 I'm going to ask you a question. I see  
2 your process. You're buffaloing the people who own  
3 property along this route. You said that the EIS  
4 draft just came out and before that in 2014  
5 everybody was notified when you did the route.  
6 Nobody was notified. Nobody. I've got people who  
7 live there, I live in the Cities, I own property up  
8 here, and you did your scoping decision and nobody  
9 was notified.

10 You said there was a public hearing. I  
11 see that in the record there was a public hearing.  
12 But nobody got notified about the public hearing.  
13 So you tell me how you can come out here now and you  
14 tell me that there's nothing we can do anything  
15 about it anymore. Yeah, you've got your process  
16 between the federal, state, but you forgot about the  
17 people who own and live and have property up here.

18 I read every piece of mail I get. I  
19 never got it. People I know, right here, five or  
20 six of them were never notified. Now you're telling  
21 us it's too late to show you an alternative, it's  
22 too late to raise a fuss. You guys are buffaloing  
23 us. You're on a path.

24 I also know the people who own this  
25 company, Minnesota Power, it's not a Minnesota

0037-1

0037-1

Notification of the proposed Project was provided in a manner consistent with DOE and MN PUC requirements and outlined in Section 1.4.4 of the EIS. Additionally, as described in Section 2.3.1, the Applicant hosted numerous public involvement meetings throughout the route selection process to provide Project information and solicit feedback from the public.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-1 cont'd

24

1 company. I also know the shareholders, the  
 2 politicians who bought into this three, four years  
 3 ago when it was done underneath us. Now you show up  
 4 and you just want to show a process which relates,  
 5 we don't know, because you never notified us.  
 6 Bullshit.

7 This is a wilderness. This is a  
 8 beautiful place in Minnesota. You talk about green,  
 9 this is the green alternative, that's the opening  
 10 paragraph, hydropower from Manitoba. Do you know  
 11 when they back up their river in Manitoba what it'll  
 12 do with fishery and the wildlife up there? Then  
 13 you're going to cut 276 miles of wilderness out of  
 14 the state of Minnesota wilderness. I'm not talking  
 15 about farmland, I'm talking about wilderness. 276  
 16 miles of green trees that don't grow back again.  
 17 And you're saying this is green, this is good for  
 18 the state, this keeps us from doing another coal  
 19 plant. The need for electricity isn't even there  
 20 and evidently this is forward-looking. People  
 21 invested. The state capitol, who bought stock in  
 22 this deal, in this parent company that owns  
 23 Minnesota Power. They're the only ones who are  
 24 going to make money. They're the only ones who are  
 25 going to benefit.

0037-1  
 Continued 0037-2

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in  
 response to this comment.

0037-2

0037-3

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-4

The condemnation process and the Buy the Farm provision are summarized in Sections 2.9.1 and 2.9.2 of the EIS, respectively.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-4

1           The wildlife, the deer hunters. I have a  
 2           small piece of land. I've been coming up here 30  
 3           years. We have people from all over the United  
 4           States that come up here. We took a vote 10 years  
 5           ago, if you want to bring electricity to our deer  
 6           shacks, they voted 10 to nothing, no. This is our  
 7           solitude, this is our beauty, these are our timber  
 8           wolf, these are goose, these are white tail deer,  
 9           links, bobcats, pine martin.

10           You're going to wipe out 276 miles and  
 11           pay these people who own this property for a  
 12           200-foot stripe through their property, which is  
 13           nothing. Or you're going to go, why don't you do  
 14           buy the farm provision. You people know about the  
 15           buy the farm provision? They have to buy your  
 16           property. You want to know what, the state gets the  
 17           last laugh on that. If you decide to do the buy the  
 18           farm provision, that they buy your property, within  
 19           90 days they condemn it and they'll drag you through  
 20           court on the price of your property for eight years.

21           And now we get a letter and it's too late  
 22           to speak, it's too late to talk. You're dealing  
 23           with Minnesota people here, good people who love  
 24           this land.

25           And it's about profit, it's about people

1 making money in the future on a stock that they  
2 bought and they passed it through the state capitol.  
3 I'd like to ring all their necks, and I don't mean  
4 to be violent because I'm not.

5 So instead of going through the draft  
6 EIS, this is all beyond me. You guys are two years  
7 ahead of us. We don't even had a stand anymore. We  
8 can't complain, we can't show you an alternative  
9 route. We can't do anything. You're going to take  
10 hundreds and hundreds of years of people's lives who  
11 love this area, who love this pristine wilderness.  
12 You know what the road is called? The Wilderness  
13 Trail. What you want to do is come in and buffalo  
14 all these people, you don't even notify people  
15 before these hearings.

16 I saw the list. 12 people in Koochiching  
17 and Itasca County. My name was on there. I just  
18 saw it the other day. I was here for the Minnesota  
19 Power and they immediately took us off into little  
20 groups trying to explain this away. That was a year  
21 ago. Even that was after the scoping decision was  
22 already done.

23 So that's it. I'm not going to say any  
24 more. Except for I've got almost 30 years of  
25 family, my son, who was a helicopter pilot in the

0037-5

Neither the State of Minnesota (MN PUC) nor the U.S. Department of Energy has made a final decision on its permit for this proposed Project, and the final schedule for the DOE Presidential permit is as yet undetermined.

No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

0037-5

1       army, he was killed three years ago. Is this what  
2       he was fighting for? To get buffaloed? To run down  
3       the road? This is already a done deal. And the  
4       politicians who bought the stock already know that.  
5       That's why they invested. Two, three, four, five  
6       years ago. Now it's a done deal. Nothing we can  
7       do. Nothing we can say. It doesn't matter.

8                 Our lives, this is where I come, this is  
9       my place. Somebody is telling me be careful up  
10      there, what if you break your leg and you're up  
11      there by yourself on the deer stands. I said, Luke,  
12      he said, I don't want to come and find you dead, and  
13      I'm in Alabama training to be a helicopter pilot, he  
14      said I don't want to find you dead up there. I told  
15      him one thing. I said, you want to know what? If I  
16      die up there, there's nobody else in the world who  
17      will want to come up there and find me. And I said  
18      when you find me, I'll have a smile on my face  
19      because this is the place I love.

20                I'm done.

21                MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you for  
22      your comment.

23                Next? Anyone else want to comment on the  
24      record?

25                MR. DAVID CHRISTENSON: I will.

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 22, 2015 - 11:00 A.M. - GRAND RAPIDS

5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

8  
9  
10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499

17  
18 Timberlake Lodge  
19 144 SE 17th Street  
20 Grand Rapids, Minnesota

21 July 22, 2015

22  
23  
24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

0038-1

Thank you for your comment. No changes are made to the EIS in response to this comment.

27

1 It's listed as a nonresidential. It's a cabin that  
2 we use on a weekly basis. In fact, we use it  
3 year-round. So I will be sending in that comment.

4 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

5 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, Kathy.

6 Okay. Next? Anyone else?

7 Sir, please step to the mic and state and  
8 spell your name.

9 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Rodney Charles  
10 Toomi, T-O-O-M-I.

11 If I understood everything both of you  
12 said, that right now if we already sent an e-mail to  
13 both of you with our concerns, that is as much as we  
14 can do at this time, and the contested hearings will  
15 be coming up in August and that will be the next  
16 step, correct?

17 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct, sir.

18 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: I'm also  
19 guessing everything that was shared on the slides is  
20 also on the website, or is there information that  
21 you presented that would not be in the website?

22 MR. BILL STORM: I don't think -- I'll  
23 put the slides on the website.

24 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. My last  
25 question is, and if you put it on the website I can

0038-1

1 get it there, but if you go back three slides you  
2 gave two numbers that should be on the  
3 correspondence and I only had one of them and I sent  
4 it to you guys so I want to make sure I had the  
5 other one.

6 MR. BILL STORM: That would be the docket  
7 number, it's TL-14-21 --

8 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: And EIS-0499.

9 MR. BILL STORM: That's the DOE number.

10 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. I  
11 believe. But for this point, as long as we sent it  
12 to you, that's as much as we can do here until the  
13 contested hearings would be in place?

14 MR. BILL STORM: That is correct.

15 MR. RODNEY CHARLES TOOMI: Okay. Thank  
16 you.

17 MR. BILL STORM: Okay. Thank you.

18 Anyone else want to speak on the record?

19 Okay, sir, please step to the mic, state  
20 and spell your name.

21 MR. MIKE HUGHES: Mike Hughes,  
22 H-U-G-H-E-S.

23 When I first went to the meeting before,  
24 I looked at all the evidence, and I still feel like  
25 I'm David trying to fight Goliath. You know, do

1 DOC - 14-21 - DEIS PUBLIC MEETING  
2 DOE - EIS-0499 - DEIS PUBLIC HEARING

3  
4 JULY 21, 2015 - 6:00 P.M. - BIGFORK  
5 MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

6 AND

7 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
8  
9

10 In the Matter of the Route Permit and Presidential Permit  
11 Applications by Minnesota Power for the Great Northern  
12 High-Voltage Transmission Line Project and Associated  
13 Facilities in Beltrami, Itasca, Koochiching, Lake of the  
14 Woods, and Roseau Counties

15 PUC DOCKET NO. E-015/TL-14-21  
16 DOE DOCKET NO. EIS-0499  
17

18 Bigfork School  
19 100 Huskie Boulevard  
20 Bigfork, Minnesota

21 July 21, 2015  
22  
23

24  
25 COURT REPORTER: Janet Shaddix Elling, RPR

1 to see it as far east of the township as possible.

2 So that's all I have to say. But thank  
3 you for letting us talk.

4 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you for your  
5 comment.

6 Anyone else?

7 Okay. Yes, sir. Please state and spell  
8 your name.

9 MR. CHRIS VIERE: Chris Viere, V-I-E-R-E.  
10 And I'm commenting on the environmental review.

11 One of the things that you do, is you  
12 aggregate the overall view is some of the micro, you  
13 know, easements that happen along different routes.  
14 And those, you know, aren't necessarily reflected in  
15 detail in certain areas.

16 So one of the things I want to kind of  
17 highlight here, on the orange route that comes  
18 through Effie and it passes through County Road 27,  
19 we go through and if you go you'll see this various  
20 important cultural artifacts.

21 Everybody here is familiar with the  
22 Knights, I have property next to them, I got to know  
23 them, very good people. James Knight was an  
24 environmentalist and a historian. And the route  
25 would pass right through that country. And so

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The draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) developed for the proposed Project located in Appendix V includes stipulations related to the need for additional cultural resource investigations to identify and evaluate resources potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Such investigations would:

Address the identification of archaeological and architectural, built, or aboveground resources for NRHP-eligibility by qualified cultural consultants; Address the identification and evaluation of traditional cultural properties (TCPs), which may include properties of traditional religious and cultural importance to federally-recognized Indian tribes and evaluate these properties for NHRP-eligibility; Include obtaining background information from written and oral sources on the prehistory and history of the area, including Effie County, County Road 27, and the Knight Family.

0039-1

1 before anybody would even realize what happened,  
2 they draw basically a power line right through the  
3 important part of the history. And the family is  
4 still there. So this book is available on Amazon,  
5 We Homesteaded, it's a fantastic read that really is  
6 about the environment that was here for a century  
7 and in many respects is still here.

8 And so I think that one of the really  
9 excellent things that has been done here is the  
10 Effie variation, where there's an 80 percent of the  
11 existing corridors, and I think that would greatly  
12 diminish the environmental impact.

13 Thank you.

14 DR. JULIE ANN SMITH: Thank you.

15 MR. BILL STORM: Thank you, sir.

16 Cheryl, could you get the information  
17 from that book just so that we can track it down?

18 Okay. Anyone else? Okay. I'll come  
19 back, I do three calls before I call the meeting.

20 So what I want to remind you is to  
21 comment on the draft environmental impact statement  
22 you have until August 10. If you want a CD copy,  
23 please see me and we'll make sure you get one before  
24 you leave. When you make your comment, put the  
25 docket number and the DOE number on it.