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SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING
MARSHALL - APRIL 27, 2015 - 6:00 P.M.
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of Marshall Solar, LLC
For a Site Permit for the Marshall Solar Energy Project
And Associated Facilities in Lyon County, Minnesota

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1 MS. STEINHAUER: I'm going to open it up
2 to comments. The other thing I should let you know
3 is the court reporter has a really important job.
4 She's keeping an accurate record of everything
5 that's said. So we need to break in 90 minutes. So
6 we'll open it up for comments.

7 The first person that indicated that they
8 wanted to speak is Chuck Muller or Mueller.

9 MR. MULLER: Hi. Chuck Muller,
10 M-U-L-L-E-R, C-H-U-C-K. My first question is, is
11 why is this put on prime farmland, when the farmland
12 is a natural resource, when we have been told
13 there's like 110 RFPs and we haven't been shown any
14 of that. So, really, why would that be kind of our
15 responsibility to go find more parcels of land equal
16 to this or whatever. I don't understand that.

17 And then like what kind of impacts is
18 this going to have on our environment. With all the
19 panels, is there going to be sun glare from that
20 that we're going to have to put up with, the runoff
21 of the panels. We all know there's a lot of
22 silicone in them. Silicone is not good. It's a
23 contaminated thing. What's that going to do to do
24 soils.

25 And with the inverters, are they kind of

1 like some of these transmission substations, where
2 they hum and make all kinds of racket that you're
3 going to have to sit and listen to this with.

4 And then some of the health implications
5 that I'm worried about is on the maps my site is
6 letter C on that map. That's 327 feet away from a
7 very dangerously high-voltage substation already.
8 So if you're going to put up this 62 megawatt solar
9 farm, how much more is that going to add to that.
10 What's that going to do to my health, what's that
11 going to do to my children's health.

12 We've been told, and I don't know if you
13 can prove that or not, that some of these areas are
14 cancer causing. Has there been studies and analysis
15 done with this, and not with a 50-acre solar farm,
16 with a 500-acre solar farm.

17 And then one of my other questions are
18 have they ever put one of these up at this magnitude
19 in this type of area.

20 MS. STEINHAUER: I will try to answer the
21 questions as I recall them. The first is why is it
22 on prime farmland. You alluded to many other
23 proposals that Xcel -- that were bid into the
24 process. Like you, we've only seen the three
25 projects.

1 Maybe we could take a minute and just ask
2 people to put their phone on silent. I think that
3 would help.

4 Like you, we've only seen the three
5 projects that Xcel short listed, and the power
6 purchase agreements were approved by the Commission.

7 Your question related to prime farmland.
8 There is criteria in Minnesota rule that says that a
9 large electric-generating plant should not occupy
10 more than half an acre per megawatt of prime
11 farmland unless a feasible and prudent alternative
12 -- if no prudent and feasible alternative exists.

13 So this project is sited on prime
14 farmland. Before the Commission were to grant a
15 permit, it would need to make a finding that there
16 is no feasible and prudent alternative. So that's
17 something that's developed in the record.

18 The second question related to --

19 MR. MULLER: Environmental impacts, the
20 glare from the panels, the runoff from the panels,
21 what they're constructed of, you know, what's that
22 going to do to the groundwater, that sort of thing.

23 MS. STEINHAUER: So I'll take that as a
24 comment of the things that the EA will look at
25 related to things of this particular project.

1 Glare is an issue that comes up that's a
2 little bit different than solar, so we'll get -- try
3 to see if there's some modeling that might be
4 available.

5 We'll look at the project -- At minimum
6 they'll need to have a storm water permit, which
7 will look at the grading and the sighting of the
8 area. We'll rely on a determination from DNR and
9 from the local authorities about what they view as
10 the permeability of the ground.

11 You had a question related to the noise
12 from the inverters?

13 MR. MULLER: Yes.

14 MS. STEINHAUER: They do generate a hum,
15 so we'll look at -- In the project that's cited, the
16 inverters are cited for internal -- or not internal,
17 but in the midst of the arrays, but we do look at --
18 We'll look at developing some information on what
19 the noise will be at the edge of the arrays and then
20 to different columns.

21 MR. MULLER: The health implications.

22 MS. STEINHAUER: Health implications, you
23 had some questions about EMF I believe?

24 MR. MULLER: Yes.

25 MS. STEINHAUER: That's an issue that

1 comes up with every transmission line that is before
2 the Commission. We do take a look at that. We'll
3 try to do, again, some estimates on what that is.

4 What I will say is the projects that have
5 been before the Commission, we always look at that.
6 We try to develop some information on -- with
7 estimates of what those might be. But what the
8 Commission has found and supported generally in the
9 health and science community is that electric and
10 magnetic frequencies from transmission lines, they
11 consider it to be below the threshold that would
12 cause human health effects for the general public.

13 There are some standards for linemen, for
14 people who work in this industry. And we look at
15 those, but what you would expect to see at the edge
16 of the project area would be considerably below what
17 somebody who is actually working on the lines. But
18 I can take your point and we'll look at that.

19 MR. MULLER: What about, you know, like
20 with the pregnant women, with the EMFs? Because
21 there is records where some of these substations
22 have put up where it has caused cancer to people.

23 MS. STEINHAUER: There is a lot of
24 information that is available in the public realm
25 about the health effects of electric and magnetic

1 fields. They are generated by transmission lines,
2 they're also generated by all sorts of electrical
3 things that we carry around in our pockets.

4 MR. MULLER: Right.

5 MS. STEINHAEUER: Transmission lines have
6 been studied at least since the seventies. There
7 are some studies that show a small but statistically
8 significant relationship between some types of
9 childhood leukemias in families who are located near
10 transmission lines. Those haven't been able to be
11 replicated, not that you'd want to do that.

12 But I think for me the big thing is we
13 can't -- There may be a correlation. Correlation
14 doesn't demonstrate causation. And there's not a
15 generally accepted scientific opinion on the
16 mechanism causing that.

17 I mean, with smoking, that's also been
18 studied for a while. And the health -- the public
19 record on health, they were able to demonstrate what
20 it is about smoking that's causing that. It causes
21 not only the cancer, but the high blood pressure.
22 So that part is missing, but I do take your point.

23 MR. MULLER: What about having one of
24 these built in an area where they want to put this
25 right now? They've never done that before. Any

1 studies on that? I mean, for all their analysis and
2 everything they've done, I mean, to take the scope
3 of a 50-acre farm compared to a 500-acre farm, it's
4 completely different. It's a whole other scale.

5 MS. STEINHAUER: I will say that there's
6 two projects now before the Commission that are much
7 larger scale. There's this project and then there's
8 one in the Chisago area. It's a hundred megawatt.
9 It's slightly different technology than this project
10 and there's 800 acres.

11 It's new for Minnesota. We'll be looking
12 at that, not just the size, but the particular site
13 characteristics of both of those sites.

14 I don't know if, NextEra, do you have a
15 response; have you done other projects of a similar
16 size?

17 MR. STANKIEWICZ: Yeah. We've done
18 projects similar in scale. In fact, we've done
19 projects that are significantly larger than this
20 one. We have a project operating in Desert Center,
21 California, that's 550 megawatts. I don't know
22 exactly what the acreage is, but it's several
23 thousand. So in a project in an area like this,
24 we've done one in areas that are environmentally
25 similar.

1 We have a couple of operating projects in
2 Ontario. Each one of those projects are 40
3 megawatts in size. We have a project operating in
4 the state of New Jersey, also, that's operating
5 fine.

6 There have been some other projects that
7 I personally have seen in the state of Arizona that
8 are closer into some subdivisions, individual
9 residences and things like that. NextEra has done a
10 lot of projects that are much larger in different
11 environments that aren't necessarily -- You know,
12 they're -- a project of this size hasn't been done
13 by NextEra that's close -- this close to that many
14 houses. There are others, but NextEra hasn't done
15 one.

16 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. And we'll
17 open it up afterwards. I do want to make sure that
18 we get to some other people. And if you have
19 written comments, we'll be happy to take those.

20 MR. MULLER: Yeah. I've got a lot more.
21 I'll just turn it in.

22 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. The next
23 card I have a from Ronnie Weidauer.

24 MR. WEIDAUER: My daughter will read it
25 for me because I have some voice impediments, so she

1 will read what I have.

2 MS. GEURTS: My name is Janelle Geurts,
3 G-E-U-R-T-S. It's pretty much just some questions
4 and --

5 MS. STEINHAUER: Excuse me. Could you
6 use the microphone, please, so that other people can
7 also hear?

8 MS. GEURTS: Sure, okay.

9 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.

10 MS. GEURTS: It's pretty much just some
11 questions. The statement we will file.

12 I guess one of my concerns or my parents'
13 concerns is where we're located out in this area, we
14 have the CapX 2020 lines going through. So when --
15 Where we live personally, we can hear the hum of the
16 lines right now. And we would like to know about
17 any studies that have been done in regards to
18 high-powered transmission line substations, and now
19 we're going to put 62 megawatts of solar within this
20 area.

21 And some of the concerns are could this
22 turn into a cancer cluster area, and I don't think
23 it's a question that shouldn't be asked.

24 As far as -- Well, why don't you address
25 that question.

1 MS. STEINHAUER: It seems that there were
2 two questions there. The first is the noise. And
3 the short answer to the question is I don't know
4 offhand of any projects that have looked at the
5 noise of a solar facility adjacent, what we would
6 call cumulative noise. So I will take that as a
7 comment and we'll look at that.

8 These panels, I recently finished an
9 environmental assessment for another project that
10 had the tilting panels. So there's some noise that
11 would be with that type of project that wouldn't be
12 here, but you would still see some noise from the
13 inverters and then, also, the transmission
14 interconnect to the substation.

15 MS. GEURTS: Now, how about is there
16 going to be any studies done with these transmission
17 lines going by as well as solar, as far as health
18 implications?

19 MS. STEINHAUER: I guess my answer to
20 that would be that there was an environmental
21 analysis done when the transmission project was
22 proposed. We would take a look at that. And the
23 record did not indicate that there was a significant
24 potential for significant health impacts from the
25 that project. So we would look at what would be

1 sort of the incremental difference from -- You've
2 got this. It exists here. What happens -- What
3 might be different if you add this solar project.

4 MS. GEURTS: Right. That's what we're
5 asking to be studied. We need to know that -- You
6 know, you did the study on the CapX project and
7 you're going to do it on this, but we need to know
8 the two of them together, what the results of that
9 is going to be.

10 We would also like to see a photo
11 simulation of what the substation that is going to
12 be built, what that is going to look like. We need
13 to know what that looks like. We haven't seen any
14 photographs of that. I'm sure that can be generated
15 fairly easily.

16 As far as the solar panels, we'd like to
17 see a full explanation of what they're made of, the
18 life span, what happens when they are damaged, what
19 pollutants are given off when they are damaged.

20 We would like to know about the
21 connectors and how they are ran. I know we've read
22 that some may go underground, but that might not
23 always be the case, so how are they going to
24 connect.

25 MS. STEINHAUER: Can I just ask a

1 clarifying question? When you say connectors,
2 you're talking about the electrical connection that
3 gets the energy from the panels to --

4 MS. GEURTS: Right, right, yep. We'd
5 just like to see more explanation on that.

6 How many lines are going to be running to
7 the substation in general.

8 The risk of fire, what would happen if
9 there would be a grass fire. What pollutants are
10 also given out. If these would catch on fire, what
11 can be released, what kind of problems can result to
12 our firemen going out and trying to put out the
13 fire.

14 We would like to see what studies have
15 been done as far as what speeds, top speeds of wind
16 they can resist. A matter of, what, two years ago,
17 three years ago -- And it happens within a few years
18 almost on clock work, we get a huge storm out in
19 this area and we get some crazy winds. And we just
20 want to be sure that they're not going to be going
21 through our windows like crazy.

22 And as far as the inverters, just the
23 concerns, and I think that was addressed, as far as
24 what kind of EMF was given off of that when they are
25 running.

1 Also, some concerns with the wells in the
2 area and aquifers. There is an aquifer that is
3 called the Dudley aquifer that we believe is near
4 this area. That aquifer does feed the city of
5 Marshall. We want to make sure that if there is
6 contaminants, what contaminants could happen to
7 affect that aquifer if something would happen and
8 what protections are in place that that wouldn't
9 happen.

10 Also with our wells nearby, what
11 protections are in place regarding well water and
12 how close -- What studies have been done as far as
13 how safe it is to be close to wells and water.

14 The rest is pretty much a statement just
15 on the prime farmland, I guess the statement being
16 that there is a law in place and it is being pretty
17 much disregarded through this application process.

18 And we are asking for alternative sites
19 to be sought and do not feel that it is necessarily
20 our responsibility to be doing that. But basically
21 a law is being broken and it needs to be addressed.

22 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. I would just
23 clarify with respect to the prime farmland. Were
24 the Commission to approve the project, in order to
25 make that approval it would need to make a finding

1 on the prime farmland. So I think -- My judgment
2 would be it's premature at this point to say that a
3 law is being broken, but I take your point
4 concerning the prime farmland in relation to the
5 rule. Thank you.

6 MS. GEURTS: Thank you.

7 MS. STEINHAUER: And the next person I
8 have a Dan Bolflied.

9 MR. BOLFLIED: Yeah. Dan Bolflied,
10 B-O-L-F-L-I-E-D. And I just want to address the
11 prime farmland part, whether it's a law or whatever
12 rule, of why that's not being looked at harder. You
13 know, prime farmland, like you guys even stated, is
14 a natural resource. Farmland is what puts food on
15 everybody's table in the room here, including
16 yourselves.

17 And I just think the only thing that --
18 Whether it be NextEra or NSP, Xcel, whoever they
19 are, it's pretty obvious why they want to pick the
20 site, is because of the convenience of the
21 substation and the power lines that are already
22 there. I get that part of it. But does that
23 necessarily still, just because of that, make it the
24 right place to build.

25 MS. STEINHAUER: And I take that as a

1 comment. And that's what the process is designed to
2 do, is this the right place to build it.

3 MR. BOLFLIED: Well, are they going to
4 look into that as -- You know, with these other
5 alternatives, I don't know, check, but 110 or 112
6 other sites, you know, what are they looking at.
7 You know, are we only looked at because it's
8 convenient and cheaper for them to build it here or
9 are these other alternative sites more relevant
10 because it won't be taking prime farmland out of
11 production that we can't get back.

12 MS. STEINHAUER: The way that I would
13 answer that, I don't know about -- The only three --
14 The only sites that I know about are this one, the
15 one in North Star in Chisago County and then the one
16 in Tracy. So I see your point about there being
17 other proposals. We don't have access to that.

18 But we do need to look the and Commission
19 needs to make a determination. Marshall Solar has
20 applied for a project at this site. They are --
21 There's a process for reviewing that. I don't think
22 anybody is predetermining the Commission's decision
23 on that site. They're looking at ways to better
24 understand how that site might compare to other
25 areas. To get to your question, which I think we

1 all want to answer, maybe it's not the best place,
2 but is it a reasonable place to have the project.
3 And at this point I can't answer that. That's what
4 -- We're early in the process and that's what the
5 process is designed to do, so you make a good point.

6 The next card that I have is from Tom
7 Alex.

8 MR. ALLEX: Tom Alex.

9 MS. STEINHAUER: And could you spell your
10 name? It looks like not quite the standard spelling
11 of the last name, so let's make sure we have a
12 record.

13 MR. ALLEX: You want my last name?

14 MS. STEINHAUER: If you could spell the
15 name.

16 MR. ALLEX: A-L-L-E-X. Are you ready?
17 Okay. I'd like to go a little bit different because
18 I have a real hearing disability. I don't hear
19 almost anything. I still would like to make my
20 statement, if I might, and I'm going to read it.

21 I'm Tom Alex. I live in the same
22 section as the proposed solar plant. I've lived
23 there for 45 years and I enjoy my rural setting full
24 of green and growing things. Now a proposal comes
25 along to locate me in an industrial park or

1 something similar. I'm not very happy about this.
2 My home is about one half mile north of the proposed
3 plant.

4 The proposal, as we already have in my
5 section, two substations, one a very large size.
6 The proposal says we'll have another one. We have
7 lots of electricity stuff. I just counted this
8 afternoon. We have 90 wires going in and out of our
9 section, mostly to these various substations. Only
10 a few of these provide electricity for our local
11 people. Most of it goes elsewhere.

12 I'm concerned about the health risks. We
13 have almost no information on this. You may have
14 addressed it. I probably didn't hear it.

15 Now we have a proposal for receiving even
16 more electrical stuff, including inverters, which
17 seem to cause some health risk. I don't think we
18 deserve to be a testing grounds for all the
19 possibilities that too much concentration is causing
20 us to be saturated with potential risk for our
21 health because of all the electrical fields and
22 electrical stuff. I don't want to be the guinea
23 pig.

24 The neighborhood is well united in their
25 efforts to oppose the placement of a plant in

1 Stanley Township. This area that we live in, I live
2 in, is probably one of the better agricultural areas
3 in our area. We have some of the highest producing
4 land, most valuable land. I don't know if we should
5 be taking this out -- I don't think we should be
6 taking this out of food production, when we will
7 someday be needing it, and tie it up for 25 years.

8 This plant needs to be placed in an area
9 with less population, less people and land that
10 doesn't produce nearly as much. I thank you very
11 much.

12 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. And the last
13 card I have -- It doesn't mean that this is the last
14 speaker we have. We'll open it up for questions,
15 but the last card I have is from Greg Boerboom. I'm
16 sorry about the pronunciation.

17 MR. BOERBOOM: My name is Greg Boerboom,
18 B-O-E-R-B-O-O-M. My name is Greg Boerboom, and I
19 wish to start out by stating that I fully support
20 properly located green energies, be it solar, wind
21 or other alternatives.

22 The problems I see with this project are
23 not because it is solar power, but arise because of
24 its location on prime agricultural farmland. The
25 developer has stated several times they do not have

1 the power of eminent domain to procure the land to
2 build this project. For the developer to repeat
3 this several times tells me they were not looking
4 for the most suitable site to build, but, rather,
5 the lowest cost, easiest piece of property to
6 procure for development, not factoring in the
7 suitability for solar production.

8 This proposed site is on 500 acres of
9 prime Midwest farmland, and taking 500 acres of
10 farmland out of production will cause a huge drain
11 on food and fuel production. Consider, over the
12 25-year life expectancy of the solar installation,
13 this farmland would have produced over two million
14 bushels of corn or the crop equivalent to that corn,
15 be it soybeans, wheat, oats, barley, peas, alfalfa
16 or other food crops. The food equivalent to two
17 million bushels of corn is much too large a price to
18 pay for 62.5 megawatts of solar, considering it
19 could be easily produced elsewhere.

20 Other site options to this solar
21 installation location which should be considered and
22 would be more suitable would be in more arid and
23 sunny areas, and this project should search out one
24 of those locations.

25 It could easily be located on this less

1 productive land area. Or another option, the panels
2 could be vertically fastened to the already-existing
3 wind tower poles, where power distribution lines are
4 already in place.

5 Electricity is easy enough to transport,
6 while it is impossible to develop additional
7 natural, non-irrigated food producing farmland,
8 short of destroying additional rain forest or other
9 natural habitat which has not yet been developed.
10 With a growing world to feed, we should not destroy
11 existing food-producing land to supply electricity
12 when there are other alternatives. Thank you.

13 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. I'll go now
14 by a show of hands. And we'll go until a little bit
15 after eight, and then we'll need to take a break for
16 -- well, for everybody, but especially for the court
17 reporter.

18 Yes. If you could please come up and
19 state and spell your name.

20 MR. ANDERSON: Good evening. Anthony
21 Anderson, A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N. I have two points.
22 They're kind of interrelated. And I have talked to
23 Brandon before. There's two facts here that I'm
24 looking at. One is it's a 25-year life. I'm
25 concerned about the end of life of this, cleaning up

1 the residue. Is there going to be an escrow account
2 with money deposited to assure that the clean-up of
3 what's left after 25 years or earlier.

4 The earlier I referred to is the
5 production tax that was supposed to be collected and
6 is quoted at 140,000. I can't remember what Brandon
7 said. Is that a guaranteed 140,000 or is that an
8 estimate.

9 Because looking at the layout and the
10 steepness of the panels, I think there's going to be
11 low productivity in the winter months. I think
12 you're going to have trouble with drifts and lack of
13 sunlight for the panels. So my concern there is if
14 it's an estimate of 140 and it doesn't come in at
15 that, you know, are we getting less money for the
16 county and for the township. It all depends on
17 production I'm assuming. Those are the two points
18 that I wanted to bring up, is the escrow account and
19 then is the tax revenue for production a valid
20 number.

21 MS. STEINHAUER: I can provide an answer
22 to the first question and a preliminary answer to
23 the second question.

24 The first question -- And I'm glad that
25 you asked because that is something that has been an

1 issue initially with wind projects and now also with
2 solar projects, what we refer to as decommissioning
3 of the facility at the end of its life. What
4 happens. Who is responsible for ensuring -- for
5 covering those costs, and how do we make sure the
6 money is there when it's needed.

7 The permit that will be -- Should the
8 Commission issue a permit, and even before the --
9 One thing that I think I missed was after the scope
10 comes out, the Commission will enter into the record
11 something that's called a permit site template. And
12 one of the -- And that sort of lays out -- It will
13 describe the project generally and discuss the
14 conditions under which the project is to be
15 constructed and operated. So that, in addition to
16 the EA, will be available for people to review and
17 comment.

18 But one of the things that will be in the
19 site permit is the applicant will be required to
20 submit a deconditioning plan, and that would be
21 something that the Commission will review to provide
22 some assurance that the funds -- that the necessary
23 funds to remove those are available.

24 We'll also, in the environmental
25 assessment, try to describe what the process is for

1 decommissioning -- for removing any portion of the
2 project that maybe isn't working, as well as what
3 would happen at the end of the project's life. So
4 that's the answer that I have for the first part.

5 The second part, as to the applicability
6 of Marshall Solar's estimate on the production tax,
7 it's something that we will look into to try to
8 understand how they came up with that. I don't know
9 if you have any comment on that.

10 MR. STANKIEWICZ: So the production tax
11 estimate number that we cited on there is based on
12 the current prevailing tax regulations and rules
13 that are out there and it's based on our forecasted
14 energy production, just like you thought. So it is
15 an estimate. That said, we think that the resource
16 forecasting that we do is generally pretty good.
17 One of the reasons why we have that meteorological
18 station out there is to confirm those estimates.

19 And to your point about winter
20 generation, I agree. It's going to be much lower in
21 the winter than it is in the summer; but in the
22 summer, when you have those really long days, it
23 kind of makes up for it over the course of the year
24 so it's in the production profile.

25 And my understanding of that production

1 pack, as it's currently written, is it's something
2 that's paid annually. So at the end of the year you
3 figure out what you produced that year and you pay
4 taxes on it. Make sense?

5 MR. ANDERSON: Thank you.

6 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.

7 MS. BABCOCK: My name is MariJo Babcock,
8 spelled M-A-R-I, capital J, little O, B-A-B-C-O-C-K.

9 In looking at these pictures, especially
10 on page 19, I would like to know what the base
11 underneath is going to be. Will it be grass, dirt,
12 rock; what will it be? I am concerned about dust,
13 because in the last few weeks we have been in a dust
14 bowl, as everybody here realizes.

15 MS. STEINHAUER: The proposal is, once
16 the panels -- the panels, the roads and that are
17 installed, the project would be reseeded with
18 low-growing forage. That's my understanding.

19 Jenny?

20 MS. FIELD: Yeah. We've been having this
21 discussion with both the Department of Natural
22 Resources and the Department of Agriculture. And we
23 are going to plant like either grasses or native
24 flowers. The local agriculture group is really
25 concerned about pollinators, so there was a thought

1 of putting, you know, native vegetation as well as
2 some native flowers under those panels. It can't
3 grow that high, but that's what we're planning on.

4 MS. BABCOCK: Will there be any mowing of
5 this or --

6 MS. FIELD: As Brian said earlier, we're
7 going to probably have to mow it to keep it to a
8 certain level so that it stays underneath the panels
9 so that it doesn't grow over them. So, yeah, there
10 will be some mowing.

11 MS. BABCOCK: Also there was talk of
12 wind. What about hail; what is the sustainability
13 of those panels to hail?

14 MS. FIELD: We'll let our engineer handle
15 that.

16 MR. MCCLOUD: Duane McCloud,
17 M-C-C-L-O-U-D. The standard design for hail, for a
18 zero-damage hailstone, is about one to third inch
19 diameter. If you go one to third inch diameter, you
20 can get some damage. So we've actually run -- In
21 addition to the met data for sun and wind and so
22 forth, we actually run a hail analysis on the sites
23 too. And the analysis for the site is there's some
24 risk for damage, but it's not significant compared
25 to the sites we have in west Texas, for example.

1 MS. BABCOCK: That might be, but I've
2 lived here for 40 years. We've been hailed out
3 totally three times. And this last 2011 was fist
4 size, so we get some pretty big hail. So I'll just
5 tell you that.

6 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.
7 You one more time.

8 MS. GEURTS: Janelle Geurts, G-E-U-R-T-S.
9 Our family is Resident B in the solar application
10 put forth. Just stating again that there are nine
11 residences within a half mile of this project.

12 The questions I'm asking that have been
13 asked tonight, we need to consider that this is a
14 500-acre project, 62 megawatts. And some of the
15 studies that we've seen and presentations to us, it
16 doesn't sound like they are considering apples to
17 apples here. So when I'm asking these questions,
18 I'm asking they be considered for the size and scope
19 of this project.

20 And I've been kind of checking off the
21 questions as they've been asked. These are some
22 additional questions. We are looking for an
23 explanation of GS units and electrical frequency and
24 the safe levels for humans. Will the company
25 install electrical micro surge meters on our

1 property if asked. What protections are in place
2 for that.

3 This has to do with dirt electricity.
4 We'd like an explanation of what that is and what
5 connections it has to solar as well as the
6 transmission lines that are going by in conjunction
7 with. We have some serious, serious concerns that
8 you have this huge project of CapX going by and now
9 we're going to put solar, and we're living in
10 between it all. So we need to look at everything
11 that that can pertain to.

12 Water was addressed, but I'm asking, if
13 asked, would our water wells be tested. Will they
14 be checked to make sure that they aren't
15 contaminated. What happens if they are. Who's held
16 responsible.

17 As far as environmental impacts to the
18 land, what research has been done about the loss of
19 prime farmland. Let's say this does go forward. At
20 what rate could we start losing our farmland. If I
21 understand correctly, which we believe, it's a
22 natural resource. We should be protecting this.
23 There should be studies done.

24 There has been comments in the
25 application saying that if you let farmland rest,

1 that it's good for the land. And we take different
2 -- we don't believe that's a correct statement. In
3 fact, I did do some research and find that if land
4 is -- actually, farmland is left to be laid stable
5 for that many years and not farmed, it could
6 literally damify (sic) the soil from ever being
7 farmed again. 25 years seems like a long time, but
8 is the intend to turn around and farm this land.

9 So we really need to, as a state, be
10 looking into what rate are we going to start losing
11 prime farmland if it is indeed a natural resource.
12 We do have that rule there for a reason. We need to
13 protect it.

14 I do have some concerns about water
15 runoff and water runoff patterns. It was mentioned
16 that the site, they've made it smaller and closer,
17 pushed together. That's concerning to me. We do
18 get these huge storms. Now we're going to look at a
19 huge watershed issue. We're going to have a lot of
20 water runoff. There needs to be more research done
21 now that these panels have been pushed close
22 together. We farm right up next to this. What's
23 going to happen. We need some protections in place
24 for that as well.

25 Statements in the application on pages

1 48, 50 and 64 state about the lack of knowledge of
2 drainage and tile systems, and that's simply not
3 acceptable. I understand that they're working on
4 this, but it's very, very important that we're
5 looking into this.

6 There's also statements made that when
7 they put these -- underground electrical systems are
8 placed that it could impact tile. We have to know
9 what's going on with this. It could be
10 insurmountable, once again. These tile
11 interconnects with thousands of acres. So it's not
12 just us living right here, it's thousands of acres
13 that could be impacted as well as the aquifer that
14 was addressed earlier. There's a lot going on under
15 the soil that we just don't see. We have to keep
16 that in consideration.

17 Soil erosion. And we just kind of
18 addressed that a little bit, of the planting of
19 native grasses under these panels. There's a
20 smaller project out by Slayton that's 20 acres.
21 Nothing is growing underneath it. Now, maybe they
22 never planted anything underneath it. It's a weedy
23 mess. And I would like to see some studies of
24 what's actually going to grow under these things.
25 Now that they've been pushed tighter together,

1 what's really going to grow. I mean, we need to be
2 honest here, probably not much. So we need to look
3 into what's going to happen if it's going to blow
4 like crazy because nothing is going to be growing
5 underneath it. Once again, we're looking at soil
6 erosion.

7 What studies have been done about the
8 weather patterns in our area. We haven't seen
9 anything. We've addressed the storms and the hail,
10 and that's all in conjunction with that. We need to
11 look into that.

12 We would like explanation and photos --
13 In the application there's 30- to 50-foot collector
14 line poles. What exactly are those. And what
15 exactly are gen-tie structures. When you see these
16 pictures and photos, there's no lines running
17 anywhere. But when I see something like this,
18 there's got to be something else going on. So we
19 want to see aesthetically-wise, what is this truly
20 going to look like.

21 In regards to the alternative sites, we
22 feel there are many other sites that can and should
23 be considered that are many acres in the state that
24 are lower quality land that could be used. Geronimo
25 Energy, for instance, stated that they will develop

1 marginal and abandoned industrial property near the
2 Twin Cities, where, admittedly, most of the power is
3 going. Am I correct? It's not staying in our local
4 area. It's going to feed the Twin Cities. They are
5 building in these areas rather than building one
6 massive solar plant.

7 We find it interesting that on page 52 of
8 the application, NextEra states that near the metro
9 area, land would generally be more expensive and
10 more densely populated that would not be approved to
11 be appropriate for these plants. But, rather, they
12 choose to ask that Minnesota Rule 7850.4400
13 protecting prime farmland from overdevelopment
14 basically be ignored.

15 They fail to show there is no feasible or
16 prudent sites in the state, although, like I
17 previously talked about, there was 110 different
18 proposals filed for solar plants. We feel this
19 burden needs to be placed on NextEra to research
20 alternatives. And with over 110 proposals already
21 out there, I'm sure there's somewhere to start.
22 Taking the easy way out does not make this the right
23 thing to do.

24 We would like to ask NextEra, are you
25 currently looking for any other sites? Probably

1 not.

2 In addition --

3 MS. STEINHAUER: Excuse me. That was a
4 direct question?

5 MS. GEURTS: Yes.

6 MS. STEINHAUER: NextEra, would you care
7 to respond to that?

8 MR. STANKIEWICZ: Are we looking at any
9 other sites to develop? Right now we have -- I
10 mentioned we did a series of other sites through the
11 RFP that happened in 2014. We still have some kind
12 of control over some of those sites, so there's
13 still potential options on the table.

14 But the fact of the matter is neither one
15 of those sites were selected to be carried forward
16 in the negotiated PPA. We don't have an approved
17 PPA for those sites. So we have other potential
18 projects in the state of Minnesota; but as far as a
19 replacement for this project, the PPA that we have,
20 the interconnection agreement that we have and all
21 the other things that we're working on for this
22 project are for this site. So that's where we're
23 at.

24 MS. GEURTS: Okay. Okay. In addition,
25 we would like to know, and I guess you kind of

1 addressed this, the exact processes that will take
2 place from here on how out, how the scope of the
3 assessment will be handled, how is it communicated,
4 which I think you addressed that a little bit as
5 well. Who's the lead person we should ask to talk
6 to if we have questions; is there one person?

7 MS. STEINHAUER: I'm going to be the lead
8 person on the EA.

9 MS. GEURTS: Okay. So for this
10 particular, if we have more comments, we address
11 them to yourself?

12 MS. STEINHAUER: Yes, comments. And I'll
13 make sure that you get that at least once more and
14 perhaps twice more. In case there's any confusion
15 at this stage, comments should come to me. They'll
16 get to me eventually, but it's just easier if you
17 send them to me. My contact information is on the
18 comment sheet.

19 The comments need to be received by
20 May 15th. After that we'll take a couple months.
21 We'll develop the environmental assessment, and
22 following that it will be released and available for
23 public comment. And then there will be a hearing on
24 the proposed project presided over by a judge, an
25 administrative law judge. It will be in the project

1 area, in Marshall somewhere, maybe here. And there
2 will be another opportunity for public comment at
3 that point.

4 MS. GEURTS: After this assessment is
5 done there's another time for public comment, right?

6 MS. STEINHAUER: There's a public comment
7 period. So during that period there's an
8 opportunity for anybody to comment on the
9 information that's in the assessment as well as the
10 project, why you think that it should or shouldn't
11 be built.

12 So you can comment on what you think is
13 good or bad about the project now. It will be
14 available for people to view. But that's, honestly,
15 not terribly helpful in developing the EA. But I do
16 want to let people know that there's an opportunity
17 to comment before the Judge on that.

18 MS. GEURTS: Okay. Thank you. I just
19 have a final comment that I wrote. We were notified
20 of this on December 20th, that 500 acres of our
21 neighbor's land was to be sold for this industrial
22 site and solar plant. We are fourth generation
23 farmers. We cherish the land we farm. It is our
24 personal resource that we care and tend for. It is
25 a gift that we planned to pass onto our children.

1 In fact, a petition was started in our area. Within
2 a short period of time 500 people from this area who
3 were not able to all be here tonight are opposing
4 this.

5 We're not against renewable energy at
6 all. Unfortunately, it requires square footage and
7 needs to cover a massive amount of area to produce
8 this energy. There are acres in the state that are
9 way more sensible to place this on, and quite
10 possibly it could damage our health. The technology
11 has not been proven. It is simply just too new. It
12 hasn't been around long enough. Thank you.

13 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.

14 The gentleman in green?

15 MR. WEIDAUER: My name is Ron Weidauer,
16 W-E-I-D-A-U-E-R.

17 MS. STEINHAUER: Excuse me. I want to be
18 consistent. If you could, use the microphone.

19 MR. WEIDAUER: I do have a problem with
20 my voice, so maybe it will all go flat. Janelle,
21 our daughter, is the one that's addressed our
22 concerns too. We're 100 percent for solar energy,
23 but this project from prime farmland cannot go. The
24 reason, you let these people build here, they'll go
25 anyplace in the Heartland. They'll know that they

1 can take prime farmland and put their solar panels
2 up. We need the electricity. It does not belong on
3 prime farmland.

4 I told my family, John and Janelle, if
5 this project goes, you move. You do not stay in
6 that house. You cannot set around for 15 to 20
7 years to see if you're going to get cancer or some
8 other health issue.

9 And I guess I would like to comment on
10 the seeding underneath the solar panels. We've
11 owned this farm for 50 years. Our land is on the
12 north side and on the west side of this solar field.

13 And I guess I learned something tonight that I
14 didn't know, that you can plant grass or wild
15 flowers in the shade. So I thank you for informing
16 me of that, but we don't need the wild flowers.

17 But then if it does grow, then we have a
18 fire in the fall of the year, what's going to
19 happen. They're not going to be around. Trust me,
20 they'll even burn. Thank you.

21 MS. STEINHAUER: Other comments,
22 questions?

23 Yes.

24 MR. DALE: Roger Dale, D-A-L-E. A couple
25 questions. Now, my hearing is a little goofy once

1 in a while and my wife tells me the stray voltage I
2 had a friend of mine that lived by a power line a
3 few years ago and most of his stock cows aborted. I
4 know the first gentleman mentioned about pregnancy
5 for women how far good that go. I didn't get all
6 the answers you gave for that. And where is this
7 power going? Is it being used around here or where.

8 MS. STEINHAUER: The stray voltage
9 question, that is an issue that comes up with
10 transmission lines. So we'll look at making sure
11 that that's in the record in the EA. That tends to
12 be an issue more related to lower levels, which may
13 be applicable too.

14 As far as where the power goes, it goes
15 -- So they have a Power Purchase Agreement with Xcel
16 Energy, and so it goes into the grid. Xcel does,
17 obviously, have transmission infrastructure out
18 here, which is why they're connecting at the Lyon
19 County substation.

20 But I think other people have alluded and
21 it's correct that Xcel has a large range, but most
22 of their customers are in the Cities. So it goes
23 into the system, the electronics -- I can't tell you
24 where exactly it goes.

25 MR. DALE: Well, my thought was if it's

1 going to the Twin Cities or Chicago or something
2 like that, you should be able to find some more
3 marginal land than is being proposed here. That was
4 my way of thinking.

5 Are there going to be more power lines
6 needed to transmit this?

7 MS. STEINHAUER: The project, as
8 presented, as conceived, would have mostly
9 underground connector lines that would go to the
10 project substation, and there would be a short
11 overhead transmission line between the project
12 substation and the Lyon County substation. So, yes,
13 there would be at least one additional transmission
14 line.

15 MR. DALE: Well, I know I've been farming
16 all my life, and farming around some of these power
17 lines is no fun either. With our governor pushing
18 this buffer strip, they claim it's going to be
19 125,000 acres taken out of production, and my gut
20 feeling is that's quite low.

21 With the rebuilding of some of these big
22 highways and the way these towns are expanding, land
23 is going to be at a premium. And we've been blessed
24 in this country with an abundant supply of food and
25 that could run out, so we've got to be careful.

1 This is prime land and there should be some marginal
2 land that could be used to get the job done too.

3 Thank you.

4 MS. STEINHAUER: Other comments or
5 questions? We want to make sure that people have an
6 opportunity, but I also want to respect your time,
7 given that it's kind of stuffy in here. But we are
8 here and that's why we're here, is to try to
9 understand your questions and answer those that we
10 can, take your comments. There is a period of time
11 for written comments. Those, again, are due
12 May 15th and I'll make sure to hit that again.

13 But since we're here, since the court
14 reporter hasn't given me a signal that she needs to
15 take a break right now, are there any other comments
16 or questions? Going once. We'll be here again at
17 11 tomorrow. I just want to make sure that people
18 have an opportunity. So going once --

19 Yes, the gentleman in back.

20 MR. POLFLIET: I guess I've never been
21 known not to say something, so I guess I better get
22 up there. My name is Larry Polfliet, spelled
23 P-O-L-F-L-I-E-T. This is the first meeting I've
24 been to on this. I've been hearing a lot of things
25 from, obviously, the neighboring farmers. I work

1 for the City of Marshall, been there for 27 years.

2 One thing that kind of surprises me when
3 I look at these graphs and stuff, you know, for all
4 the technology that you guys have and everything
5 else, we have drawings of public bathrooms that are
6 better than this when we build for the City of
7 Marshall. We have actually 3D stuff. We can see
8 where the stool is located and everything else.
9 That's my profession. I work at the wastewater
10 treatment facility. This is giving everybody a real
11 generic picture of what this thing is going to look
12 like to be.

13 I think it was asked before how many
14 lines are going to be there and stuff like that.
15 You know, I can't believe, you know, we're looking
16 at this for what this project is really going to be.
17 The gentleman said something, how many power lines.
18 What are these panels really going to look like
19 stacked like that and stuff like that. Is there
20 going to be a fence around this whole thing, stuff
21 like that.

22 You know, I just think a little bit --
23 Generic pictures of a telephone pole over there.
24 Can you tell me, is that going to be exactly what
25 our poles are going to look like for this? I don't

1 think so. You know, I'm just thinking one year to
2 go from 500 acres of farmland to this full blown,
3 really not anybody really knows what it's going to
4 be, honestly. We've got an idea.

5 I just think it's a pretty quick -- And I
6 don't need to get into the language part of the
7 deal, but it's pretty quick. Maybe this is how they
8 go, I don't know. I don't think it is, due to the
9 fact that it sounds to me like 500 acres is probably
10 the biggest in the area. What is -- What is the
11 next closest 500-acre-plus solar farm?

12 MR. STANKIEWICZ: That we have?

13 MR. POLFLIET: Anybody has.

14 MS. STEINHAUER: Let me try to answer
15 that.

16 MR. POLFLIET: Okay.

17 MS. STEINHAUER: There is a project
18 proposed in Chisago County, so eastern Minnesota,
19 that's an 800-acre facility. It's a hundred
20 megawatts. That is the -- This meeting for that
21 project is on Thursday, so it's coming along at
22 about the same time. There aren't any large solar
23 plants in South Dakota, North Dakota of this scale.

24 MR. POLFLIET: Can you answer me what's
25 the closest one?

1 MS. STEINHAEUER: I cannot answer that.

2 MR. POLFLIET: We'd probably want to know
3 that, what the closest one is of this magnitude or
4 bigger is.

5 With that being said, so basically nobody
6 really knows what this 500-acre deal is going to do.
7 We don't even know where the next closest one is.
8 So to say, yeah, we're going to do studies; we've
9 been doing studies, I don't think so. I mean, we're
10 sitting here and we don't even know where the next
11 closest one is of this size.

12 Proposed. I feel sorry for them people
13 too. 800 acres, 500 acres here. I guess we drew
14 the last short straw or whatever, and that's okay.

15 And I'm in agreement with the gentleman
16 and the lady that said, yeah, I'm all about this
17 green power stuff. It's great. And we are going to
18 look at something because down the road our water,
19 our power -- We're lucky we're living in this era
20 because I'm telling you... My mom and dad said, I'm
21 glad I lived in this generation because I wouldn't
22 want to be in the next. I'm getting to be about
23 sixty and I'm starting to say the same thing about
24 my grandkids.

25 But there is a line that we can do to

1 stop some things that we know is wrong, you know.
2 And I think to say this is right or wrong, I can't
3 sit here and say that it is or isn't. But I can sit
4 here and say when I look at this -- And I'm going to
5 show my ignorance because I do not know that all
6 that much about this, but I'm looking at a very slim
7 graph.

8 I see where kids would be playing in
9 several farm sites here, and I'm really a sucker for
10 kids. And for kids to be playing that close to this
11 thing that nobody knows about, there isn't another
12 one around here of this size or we know what it's
13 going to do. Nobody can tell me what this thing is
14 going to do.

15 Studies. Yeah, we'll study that and
16 we'll get back to you, and in January we'll start
17 building it. How are you going to study something
18 of this magnitude within five or six months when you
19 don't even know where the closest one is of this
20 size. I guess I doubt it, but that's all I want to
21 say. Thanks.

22 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you.

23 I see your hand. I just want to make
24 sure that other people who haven't had an
25 opportunity to speak... Other people who haven't

1 had an opportunity to speak.

2 Yes.

3 MR. WEIDAUER: Ron Weidauer again. My
4 question is to NextEra. Now, if this project is
5 built, what's next. Are you going to come in and
6 take another 500 acres of prime farmland from us?
7 You guys get your foot in the door. We probably
8 can't stop it. I don't want you on our land, but
9 somebody will pick you up just because they have
10 none.

11 And I think eminent domain -- I asked the
12 Dice boys, I talked to them, and they said that they
13 felt pressured to sell, the reason they sold. Now,
14 tonight we heard about eminent domain, but somebody
15 isn't telling the truth. I won't say lying, but
16 telling the truth. So I hate to see this happening
17 in our neighborhood. You actually broke our
18 neighborhood up with what you did and it never will
19 be the same. Thank you.

20 MS. STEINHAUER: It's almost eight. And
21 we are here for a while, but I want to make sure
22 that people have an opportunity to put out their
23 comments or questions, so going once.

24 Yes.

25 MR. MULLER: Chuck Muller. Brandon, that

1 meteorological site or whatever you called it, what
2 kind of data are you really getting out of that
3 thing; what are you looking into for studies for
4 that; what's it used for?

5 MR. STANKIEWICZ: The meteorological
6 station, the way the resource forecasting works and
7 the way we figure out how much energy we're going to
8 produce, there's basically a series of satellites
9 that are collecting what they call solar insolation
10 data. So it puts a pixel on a map on a very large
11 scale that tells us how much solar energy we think
12 is hitting the ground at various points throughout
13 the year.

14 So what we do by putting the solar
15 meteorological station out there is we try to
16 collect one year of data so that we see what
17 actually happens on the ground so that we can
18 corollate the data that we collect on site with the
19 data that's been collected via satellites and
20 cataloged for years and years and years, to make
21 sure that the energy production forecasts that we've
22 come up with based on the satellite data are
23 matching the on-site conditions. So that's one
24 thing we collect.

25 We collect temperature data, we collect

1 wind data, we collect wind speed, we collect
2 precipitation, humidity, anything else. So it's a
3 meteorological station. So we figure out what we
4 think is happening based on large-scale reports
5 versus what is actually happening on the ground, and
6 correlate everything and make sure that the energy
7 forecasts are matching.

8 MR. MULLER: And that's how you figure
9 out how much you're going to produce on this
10 500-acre farm?

11 MR. STANKIEWICZ: Yeah. The first
12 mechanism that we use to figure that out is that
13 satellite data that national organizations collect
14 and build a big database. So we take that to come
15 up with the production forecast, and then we
16 corollate the on-site data with those larger,
17 longer-term data sets to make sure that there's some
18 kind of an agreement there, where we feel
19 comfortable that the projections that we've made
20 with the long data sets match the on-site data sets.

21 MR. MULLER: I'm confused. And I'm
22 probably ignorant on this. I probably don't even
23 know what I'm talking about. But you've got all
24 these magical numbers and all your flyers all over.
25 Your little station is one 3X3 panel. When you

1 first approached my home, you were 50 feet from my
2 property line and had all kinds of panels out there.

3 Then you come back and you've got this
4 reduced version now. You backed them up from
5 everybody, squeezed them closer together and
6 everything else. I don't get how a 3X3 panel sat
7 all by itself on a hillside, you can make them
8 numbers on a 500-acre site when you've crunched
9 everything so close together now. I don't get it.
10 I don't understand that.

11 MR. STANKIEWICZ: So the piece of
12 equipment that's collecting the solar resource data,
13 we have a group of folks who actually sit in
14 St. Paul called Wind Logics that does the data
15 analysis for us. So they take that solar data, they
16 take the site layouts and all the different
17 parameters on the panel specifications, the road
18 spacing that you alluded to and all that other
19 stuff, and they build a conceptual model of the
20 project. How the technical characteristics of each
21 piece of equipment performs, what kind of electrical
22 losses there are in there, what kind of impedance,
23 and basically how the system performs, they plug in
24 that solar resource data and they can figure out
25 what the whole facility is going to do.

1 The one data point that they get on site,
2 you know, yes, it might be raining on a solar meter
3 and closer it might not be raining. But in general,
4 the one data point that they collect there for a
5 site of this size is very high quality data set over
6 the course of a year. And when you corollate that
7 to the satellite data that they get, we can get
8 pretty darn close to what we think these things
9 generate over the course of the year and over the
10 course of the project.

11 MR. MULLER: So it didn't matter what the
12 configuration was to start with to what it is now,
13 your numbers are all right?

14 MR. STANKIEWICZ: Well, the resource
15 numbers are right. And when we change the project
16 configuration, we plug that resource data in, the
17 number that comes out the other end is going to be
18 different because you've changed all the tactical
19 specifications of the project site. But the
20 resource data from that one data collection
21 equipment out there, that's good for the project
22 site.

23 MR. MULLER: Okay. Thank you.

24 MS. STEINHAEUER: Other comments,
25 questions?

1 MR. ALLEX: I'll make a comment. Mike
2 Alex, A-L-L-E-X. I don't have anything typed up
3 and I'm not a very good speaker.

4 I guess my major concern in this whole
5 thing is that the people have been disregarded. It
6 seems like we've studied solar, sun, all kinds of
7 things. I had to find out about this project -- I
8 live two miles away and I found out about it in the
9 paper.

10 My father lives a quarter mile away or a
11 half a mile away. And I went over to him that day
12 and I said, well, it looks like we have a fairly big
13 project coming fairly close to us. We kind of did
14 the math and found out it was kind of in our
15 backyard.

16 So it seems like we've done all kinds of
17 research, but we have not researched what any of the
18 neighbors feel about this. And within a very short
19 time, maybe six months, three months, something, the
20 whole thing was being permitted. And what I would
21 like to see is I would have liked to have somebody
22 come out to my place and say, hey, we're thinking
23 about doing this.

24 When CapX came through, we had five years
25 worth of meetings and five years worth of

1 information, or thereabouts, and we're not getting
2 that. If one endangered species was found on the
3 farmland, the whole thing would be cancelled. And
4 we had neighbors begging to have this put somewhere
5 else, not happen.

6 I think the people in this case need to
7 be regarded. And I understand that's what these
8 meetings are for, so I truly hope that the people
9 are listened to and proceed from there. Thank you.

10 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. Comments,
11 questions? We certainly have time for one more, and
12 then I think maybe we'll take a break, since there
13 aren't a flood of hands. Are there any other
14 comments or questions? Comments, questions going
15 once?

16 So we'll take this comment and then we'll
17 take a ten-minute break.

18 MS. BABCOCK: I'll be brief. MariJo
19 Babcock, M-A-R-I-J-O, B-A-B-C-O-C-K. In looking on
20 page 23 here, I had never seen a diagram quite like
21 this before. It looks to be a stream flows right
22 through this proposed land, especially in
23 Section 28. When you see the direction of that
24 stream, I noted it goes directly to the Redwood
25 River. My concern, again, is with all this talk of

1 protecting the Redwood River, how is this going to
2 protect the Redwood River.

3 And I'm very concerned for my neighbors
4 and their quality of life, the value of their homes.
5 And I feel they have been overlooked too. And this
6 is my statement, and I'm very sorry for what my
7 neighbors are going through.

8 MS. STEINHAUER: Thank you. I want to
9 respect people's time, but I want to get a sense of
10 if we think that there are other comments or
11 questions. If that's the case, then we'll take a
12 break. If not, then we'll look at wrapping tonight
13 up.

14 So comments going once, going twice,
15 comments going for the third time. I want to thank
16 you for coming out tonight. We'll be meeting here
17 also at 11 o'clock tomorrow, which is another
18 opportunity to enter your oral comments into the
19 record.

20 Written comments need to be to me by
21 Friday, May 15th. My contact information is in the
22 comment sheet and also in the handout that you have.
23 We are available -- We'll be around after the
24 meeting to try to answer questions or -- that we --
25 Your comments at that point won't be part of the

1 official record, so I would encourage you to submit
2 them in writing or come tomorrow. So thank you very
3 much for your time and interest. We appreciate it.
4 Thank you.

5 (Whereupon, the public scoping and
6 informational meeting was concluded at
7 8:02 p.m.)

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