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SCOPING AND INFORMATIONAL MEETING - 15-423
PALISADE - OCTOBER 27, 2015 - 6:00 P.M.
BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy
for a Route Permit under the Alternative Permitting
Process for the Palisade 115 kV Project near the City of
Palisade, Minnesota

MPUC DOCKET NO. ET-2/TL-15-423

Waukenabo Town Hall
26797 Grove Street
Palisade, Minnesota 56469

October 27, 2015

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1 MS. TRACY SMETANA: Good evening,
2 everyone, and thank you for coming.

3 My name is Tracy Smetana, I'm the public
4 advisor with the Minnesota Public Utilities
5 Commission.

6 We are here for a public information and
7 scoping meeting for the proposed Palisade
8 transmission line. You can see down at the bottom
9 there I have what we call our docket number, and
10 that's sort of the key to finding information with
11 our office, so it's an important number to take note
12 of.

13 So what we're going to do tonight is talk
14 a little bit about the Commission's review process
15 for this project. We're going to ask the company to
16 provide some information about their proposed
17 project. The Department of Commerce will gather
18 information for the environmental review and answer
19 some general questions about the process on the
20 project if you have them.

21 So, first of all, as I said, I'm with the
22 Public Utilities Commission. So who are we anyway?
23 We're a state agency. Our job is to regulate
24 permitting for power plants, pipelines, and
25 transmission lines, which is clearly why we're here.

1 We also deal with local and in-state long distance
2 telephone companies and investor-owned natural gas
3 and electric utility companies.

4 We have five Commissioners that are
5 appointed by the governor. They serve staggered
6 terms so we don't get a whole new batch every time
7 we get a new governor, they kind of are staggered
8 throughout. For those Commissioners it is full-time
9 employment, so they're at the office 40 hours a
10 week, it's a full-time job for them. And we have
11 about 50 staff members down in St. Paul.

12 So the reason the Public Utilities
13 Commission is involved with this particular project
14 is the statutes and rules call this a high-voltage
15 transmission line, which means that it will operate
16 at 100 kV or more and it's greater than 1,500 feet
17 in length. And the company is going to talk a
18 little bit more in detail about that for you. And
19 because of that, the statutes and rules say the
20 company needs a route permit from the Minnesota
21 Public Utilities Commission before they can build
22 it. And so I've included on here, for those looking
23 for some good bedtime reading, the statutes and
24 rules that actually apply to the project and the
25 process.

1 So as we work through this process,
2 there's a number of folks that are involved. So I
3 wanted to give you a little bit of who's who, so if
4 you hear different terms that we refer to people as
5 you'll know what we're talking about.

6 First of all, we have the applicant.
7 That's what we call the company asking for the route
8 permit. So in this case the applicant is Great
9 River Energy.

10 The Department of Commerce, Energy
11 Environmental Review and Analysis, you'll see that
12 sometimes abbreviated as EERA. Their job, as you
13 might guess by their name, is to conduct the
14 environmental review. They are another state
15 agency, they are separate from the Public Utilities
16 Commission.

17 Later on in the process the Office of
18 Administrative Hearings, again, you might see that
19 abbreviated as OAH, is another state agency separate
20 from the Public Utilities Commission, separate from
21 the Department of Commerce. They will assign an
22 administrative law judge who will hold hearings,
23 summarize the facts in the record, and ultimately
24 write a report for the Public Utilities Commission
25 with all of those facts that have been gathered.

1 At the Public Utilities Commission,
2 there's two different staff members typically
3 assigned to a project like this. The first is what
4 we call our energy facilities planner. Kind of more
5 on the technical side of things. Their job is to
6 assist in building the record, provide information
7 to the Commissioners on the impacts of various
8 decision options. And then there's the public
9 advisor, that's me. My job is to work with people,
10 help you figure out what happens next in the
11 process, where you can get more information, how you
12 can sort of plug in or add your input, when you can
13 do that, and so forth.

14 In each case, Commission staff members,
15 we are neutral. We're not for the company, we're
16 not for the project, we're not for an individual
17 citizen. Our job is to talk about the rules, how
18 the process works, what happens next, and so on. We
19 don't give legal advice, we don't advocate for any
20 particular position along the way.

21 So the statutes and rules that I
22 mentioned earlier give the Public Utilities
23 Commission guidance on what do they need to consider
24 when they're weighing the options in terms of a
25 route permit. So I'm not going to read through all

1 these, you have them in your handout, you can see
2 them on the screen. I'm guessing a lot of these are
3 the same types of things that some of you are
4 concerned about as well. And there's more on the
5 next page. And so what the statutes and rules do
6 not do is weigh them. So it doesn't say, you know,
7 this one is the most important or that one is the
8 most important. The Commission is going to take all
9 the evidence on all of these various topics, then
10 it's up to the Public Utilities Commission to kind
11 of weigh those out and ultimately come out with a
12 route permit, if indeed they do grant one in this
13 case.

14 So this is picture that shows what the
15 process looks like. So you can see, this is where
16 we are today. So you can tell that we have a lot of
17 steps that will still happen in the future. And the
18 main thing I want to point out here is along the way
19 there are numerous opportunities for you to attend
20 meetings like you are tonight, to submit written
21 comments, and participate in the process.

22 And this is sort of the same information
23 in a chart instead, with some dates on there as well
24 to kind of give you an idea of the timeline for the
25 process. So, again, you can see we're right here,

1 have some deadlines, it's not just open-ended,
2 submit comments on these topics forever and ever, we
3 need comments on these topics so we can move on to
4 the next step in the process. And then it will list
5 the topics for comment. So you can see back in
6 August we had a set of questions that we needed
7 answers to, but now we've answered those and we've
8 moved on. So, again, it's important to pay
9 attention to those for topics that are open for
10 comments. That's going to be the most helpful for
11 us.

12 So sort of to summarize the keys to
13 sending comments. Include that docket number. In
14 this case the docket number is 15-423. You'll want
15 to stick to the topics listed as much as possible,
16 that's going to be the most helpful. You don't need
17 to submit your comments more than once. So if you
18 send them to the Public Utilities Commission you
19 don't also need to send them to the Department of
20 Commerce. If you speak them, you don't also need to
21 write them. If you e-mail them or something, you
22 don't also need to mail them. If you send them to
23 us, we have them, they're in the record. Verbal and
24 written comments carry the same weight. You don't
25 get extra credit for public speaking.

1 The Commission's decision is based on the
2 facts in the record, it's not based on how many
3 people say they like A or how many people like B,
4 it's really based on the facts. And so, you know,
5 there again, it's important to stick to the facts as
6 much as possible in your comments as well.

7 The comments are public information. So
8 whatever information you submit, we will put it in
9 what we call our eDocket system, sort of an online
10 file cabinet, if you will, and once we do that it's
11 out there on the Internet. So you just want to be
12 aware of that when you're submitting comments, that
13 you don't include personal information or other
14 things that you might not want out on the Internet.

15 And it's important that they're received
16 before the deadline. You know, as I said, we're
17 moving through this process and there are various
18 steps along the way and so, you know, we have
19 deadlines so that we can wrap up stage A and move to
20 stage B and so on and so forth. So it's important
21 to pay attention to those deadlines.

22 So if you want to stay informed about the
23 project or learn more about the project there are
24 several ways you can do that. The first is you can
25 look at all documents that have already been filed

1 in this case. So things like the company's
2 application, that notice of comment period that I
3 showed you earlier, the notice about today's
4 meeting, all of those things are in this record in
5 our eDocket system. And you would just go online
6 and follow these steps and you can see all of the
7 documents that have been filed.

8 We also have a project mailing list where
9 you can choose to receive information by U.S. mail
10 or by e-mail. And you would receive things like
11 notices about meetings, comment periods, decision
12 points, information about the environmental
13 assessment, and so forth. You can complete and
14 return that card to me tonight, and if you forget or
15 you change your mind later, you can always contact
16 our office and ask to be added to that list as well.

17 We also have an e-mail subscription
18 service where you can subscribe to receive an e-mail
19 every time something new comes into the record.
20 Now, for some folks that's information overload, way
21 too much e-mail in your e-mail box. But for some
22 folks they say, wait a minute, I want to see every
23 little thing that happens. If that's the way you're
24 thinking about it, then this is for you. And you
25 can just go to our website and subscribe yourself.

1 You don't need to turn in a card or do anything
2 else, you just follow these steps and you can
3 subscribe to that e-mail notification. And this is
4 what it looks like when you get to that subscription
5 page. Folks will say that it's not super user
6 friendly, so I always like to give you a little
7 picture so you know you're in the right place and
8 then enter the right information if you do choose to
9 subscribe.

10 And as I mentioned, at the Public
11 Utilities Commission, or PUC, there are two
12 different staff members working on this particular
13 project. Again, my name is Tracy, I'm the public
14 advisor. And the energy facilities planner for this
15 project is Michael Kaluzniak, he is not here this
16 evening, but he's certainly happy to answer
17 questions of a more technical nature that you might
18 have as we work through the process.

19 And with that I will turn it over to
20 Great River Energy.

21 MR. DAN LESHER: Thank you, Tracy.

22 Good evening, everyone. My name is Dan
23 Leshner, I'm a representative from Great River
24 Energy. For those of you who don't know, Great
25 River is a generation and transmission cooperative

1 that provides electrical service to our 28 member
2 cooperatives. I know Jay Porter is in the audience
3 here tonight and he is the member manager at Mille
4 Lacs.

5 So I would personally, on behalf of Great
6 River and Mille Lacs, like to thank you all for
7 attending tonight. It's great to see so many faces,
8 I know I've met a number of you over the months and
9 through the open houses and so it's great to have
10 you all here tonight.

11 So, Mark, do we want to just sort of
12 introduce our group before we get into the slides?

13 Mark Strohfus, just introduce yourselves.

14 MR. MARK STROHFUS: Yes. I'm Mark
15 Strohfus, I work in the environmental services
16 department. I put the application together. I will
17 deal with the environmental permits with some help
18 from Carole Schmidt and Marsha Parlow in the back of
19 the room here.

20 So if you have particular questions on
21 the environmental issues, you can ask them tonight,
22 and maybe I can answer questions or we can stick
23 around afterwards and kind of walk through some of
24 the maps.

25 MR. DAN LESHER: All right. Thanks.

1 So let's talk a little bit about the need
2 for the project. Why are we here tonight, what is
3 the project all about? It's the Palisade 115 kV, or
4 kilovolt, transmission line project. And quite
5 simply, the project was sort of borne out of a
6 contact that we received from Enbridge Energy.
7 Enbridge is, as you probably are all aware, have a
8 couple of different pipeline projects that are in
9 the works, both a Sandpiper and Line 3 replacement
10 project. And as part of the Line 3 replacement
11 project, they are proposing a number of pump
12 stations throughout their project area and one of
13 them happens to be proposed in Waukenabo Township, I
14 believe in about section 11. And in order for that
15 pump station to operate, obviously it has to have
16 electrical service. And so we were contacted to
17 provide that to them in order for that pump station
18 to operate. So that's really the need for the
19 transmission line project. And I'll get into some
20 of the details of the project a little later.

21 One thing that's not on the handout but I
22 think is important for everyone to understand is
23 because the need is just for Enbridge and just for
24 the pump station, I think most of you are aware that
25 Enbridge is going through the Public Utilities, or

1 PUC process for a permit. If for some reason they
2 do not receive that permit, our permit, if we
3 receive it, will be contingent on their permit being
4 received. If their project does not happen, quite
5 simply, our project does not happen. So I think
6 that's an important factor that everyone needs to
7 sort of understand, is everything is contingent on
8 Enbridge having a permit. And if we do receive a
9 permit, I imagine there will be some language that
10 will talk about us being contingent upon the
11 Enbridge permitting.

12 So the proposed project. Basically, two
13 different phases of the project with two different
14 components of the project. The first component of
15 the project, where we're getting the electricity
16 from, basically it's the breaker station. And for
17 those of you who don't know what a breaker station
18 is, I didn't until I started this project, but it
19 sort of looks like a substation, a fenced compound
20 with a lot of electrical equipment. It looks very
21 similar to a substation. But from what I
22 understand, it sort of operates kind of like the
23 breaker box in your house. It stabilizes the
24 electrical system and trips if there's a fault and
25 such.

1 So the location of that, we call it the
2 Rice River breaker station, I believe it's located
3 off of 390th Street. A lot of people refer to it as
4 High Line Road, is my understanding. It's just west
5 of 169 in that general area where there's a
6 Minnesota Power transmission line that actually
7 comes across 169. That is the line that we tap. We
8 place the breaker station on that property, and then
9 from that property we leave, and that leads us to
10 the second part of the project, which is the
11 transmission line component, the 115 kV transmission
12 line component. Which is essentially 13 miles,
13 predominantly following 169. And I'll talk about
14 the two different options in a second here.
15 Predominantly following 169 from the breaker station
16 to the pump station is the general project.

17 Within that we have two different route
18 options. The first is the east route option. It
19 stays, the alignment stays on 169. And then there's
20 a west option. And the reason for the two different
21 options is for the complexities and the intricacies
22 of crossing the Mississippi River. So the east
23 option would continue on 169 following the bridge,
24 following 169 right across the Mississippi River.
25 The west option actually takes a township road, I

1 believe it's 430th Street, it takes it to the west,
2 follows some property lines across the river, and
3 then follows the Great River Road back to 169. It
4 adds about a half a mile to the project, but we felt
5 when we put the application together to the PUC that
6 it would be important to have two different route
7 options as sort of a choice of which one is more
8 favorable. So we put both of those in the
9 application. And, you know, as part of the process
10 here we'll determine and develop which route turns
11 out to be the most favorable.

12 This is the project map. And probably
13 it's very difficult to see on the overhead, I know.
14 We brought three different route maps with us today,
15 the project maps, and I'll just walk over here and
16 just sort of give a general description of the
17 mapping.

18 There's a faint blue route width that is
19 shown on these maps, and I'll talk about that in a
20 second, sort of how that pertains to the actual
21 location of the transmission line. But this is our
22 breaker station location following 169. This is the
23 second set of maps. This shows the west alternative
24 following the Great River Road and 490th -- 430th.
25 And then continuing up to the proposed Enbridge pump

1 station. So if anyone is looking for their
2 property, these would be the maps to sort of refer
3 to. It has all the property owners' information on
4 there, so it should be fairly easy for you to locate
5 exactly where you would be on the project.

6 So in our application, where are we
7 showing the transmission line to be located. As
8 part of the application, what we do is we create a
9 route, a route width, which in this particular case
10 is 400 feet wide, from the center of 169, and if
11 we're not following 169, if it's 430th, it's 400
12 feet from the center of the road or the property
13 line or whatever we're following. 400 feet total,
14 200 feet on each side, for a total width of 400
15 feet. And, again, I'll talk a little bit about how
16 that route width pertains to actually where the
17 transmission line is located.

18 So for the most part that's what the
19 route width is. There are some locations, like the
20 Mississippi River crossing, like I mentioned,
21 there's some complexities with crossing the
22 Mississippi River, so having a little wider route,
23 providing a little bit more flexibility of where the
24 transmission line may be located is really important
25 to have in the application and so that's one of the

1 locations.

2 The pump station is another, as you can
3 imagine, until we get the final design of the
4 entrance into the pump station, we want to give
5 ourselves some flexibility of entering that pump
6 station location.

7 And the Rice River breaker station,
8 that's another, for similar reasons, that's another
9 reason to have a little wider route through there,
10 just not knowing exactly how we would exit that Rice
11 River breaker station.

12 So, like I mentioned, we have a 400-foot
13 right-of-way or route width that is located from the
14 center of the 169 or roadway. Within that is
15 potentially where the transmission line will be
16 located, as we put in our application. So if you
17 look on the maps you will see the wider route width,
18 you will also see an anticipated centerline, which
19 is not shown on this depiction, but it would
20 basically be the darker blue line as shown on the
21 maps. That's where we would anticipate the
22 transmission lines be located. It could be easily
23 located anywhere within that route width, but
24 anticipated is just something we put on the map so
25 we can start taking a look at homes and other

1 things, and distances from homes, what this
2 particular moment in time we would think would be
3 the side of 169 that we potentially would be
4 following.

5 That anticipated centerline creates
6 what's called a right-of-way or an easement. The
7 easement for this particular transmission line is
8 100 feet total. From the center of the pole it's 50
9 feet on either side. If we look right back there,
10 there's a smaller depiction of what the transmission
11 line looks like as it's located to road
12 right-of-way. Basically, the pole, for the most
13 part, would be located on private property just
14 outside of the road right-of-way, maybe three to
15 five feet. And then from that pole onto private
16 property would be an easement of about 50 feet. The
17 other 50 feet of the easement would basically
18 overlap, if it's following 169 it would overlap 169.
19 So the poles would not be 50 feet out into the
20 field, generally they would be right alongside the
21 roadway and that's where they would be put. In some
22 cases we may tend to put the poles into road
23 right-of-way, but that will be a negotiation we'll
24 have to have with MnDOT in certain situations.

25 So the easement is really -- it's not a

1 purchase of property, it's really a conveyance of
2 some property rights. Within that 50-foot or
3 100-foot easement, what we are asking for is to be
4 able to manage the vegetation. Obviously,
5 tall-growing trees may become an issue for a
6 transmission line and so we would manage that area
7 for vegetation. We would also manage that area for
8 structures, homes, buildings, other tall structures
9 that may get erected would have to be controlled
10 within that 50 feet and not get built within that
11 easement so that we can protect the transmission
12 line.

13 Really, other than that, you're free, if
14 it's an agricultural area, you're free to continue
15 to farm that area. You know, an access road can be
16 built underneath the transmission line if need be.
17 Fences, other types of things, the use really
18 doesn't change. You still own the property, but
19 there would be an easement. And obviously
20 compensation would be due for that easement. And
21 that's really the job of the right-of-way agent,
22 like I am for Great River Energy. Myself and maybe
23 one or two others during the process will come and
24 meet with you, sit down at the kitchen table, and
25 really talk about your property on an individual

1 level. Just to make sure that we are understanding
2 your needs and requirements during the easement
3 acquisition process. We'll talk about compensation,
4 we'll talk about, you know, if trees are located on
5 your property, do you want to keep the wood, where
6 do you want it stacked, you know, just other things
7 that may be really important to you during the
8 process.

9 We also talk about sort of access,
10 construction access and how we're going to get into
11 a property. Potentially some properties may have
12 fences that need to get relocated temporarily during
13 the process. So we'll sort of talk about those
14 specific things on each and every property and talk
15 about the easement, the compensation, and try to
16 move through those steps.

17 So what is the transmission structures
18 that we are proposing in this particular project?
19 There are some pictures I'm going to show you in a
20 little bit here. But for the most part we're
21 talking about single wood pole structures. If
22 you're used to seeing distribution poles, single
23 wood pole distribution poles, these are taller,
24 about 60 to 90 feet above the ground, but it's still
25 wood for the most part and still single pole for the

1 most part in the project. Spaced 250 to 400 feet
2 apart, which is quite a bit longer than a typical
3 span for a distribution pole, so they're spanned
4 longer. And in areas where we are on the same side
5 on the maps, if we're shown on the same side as
6 distribution, what the initial plan is right now is
7 for that distribution to be collocated onto our
8 structures. So the distribution poles would get
9 taken away, the transmission line would go in its
10 place. Fewer poles, stand farther apart.

11 In certain areas, like as mentioned here,
12 there may be some specialty structures that are
13 needed and I'll show you some pictures of an H frame
14 for those of you who may not be familiar. But H
15 frames may be used for a certain given situation.
16 In some situations, trying to keep those conductors
17 or wires on the same plane, in a horizontal plane,
18 it's advantageous to use an H frame type structure.
19 And I'll show you that in a second.

20 So here is our standard 115 kV
21 transmission line pole, single wood poles with three
22 sets of wires or conductors that makes up a phase.
23 And then this is our second pole right here. And
24 you can see the difference between this one and this
25 one is that this second one has another brace on the

1 bottom which would really show the distribution that
2 would be collocated onto the transmission pole. So
3 this is something that where we overtake and are on
4 the same side as distribution, this is sort of what
5 the pole might look like.

6 This is an example of an H frame
7 structure. You have your two verticals and a
8 horizontal. And as you can see, that really keeps
9 the conductor or the wire in a horizontal plane,
10 keeps it lower to the ground, potentially spanning
11 farther.

12 So if we're successful and we move
13 forward with construction, this slide just kind of
14 goes through a little bit about the construction
15 process.

16 The first step after an easement is
17 secured and we're moving towards construction is the
18 installation of mats. I think most people are aware
19 that a lot of the ground up here in these parts
20 tends to be a little soft, and depending on what
21 time of the year we may be constructing we usually
22 set down a series of mats. That really spreads out
23 the weight of the construction equipment, lessens
24 the weight on the land, so those we typically put
25 down first and then the equipment can come on.

1 Staking. A survey will come up and stake the
2 easement limits, the right-of-way so you know where
3 the pole is located, you know where the right-of-way
4 sort of ends, and then we obviously know where to
5 put the pole. Clearing trees and vegetation from
6 right-of-way, this step is the next step in the
7 process. Delivering, setting the power poles. And
8 then attaching to the conductor to the transmission
9 poles as we move along. And then the final step,
10 which I think is the most important step, is trying
11 to restore the property back to its original
12 condition. We work very hard to restore properties
13 and put them back, seeding the properties, getting
14 vegetation or grass to grow back in those areas and
15 restore that property as best we can and clean up.

16 This is my contact information. It
17 should be in the packet. It's on the fact sheets.
18 It's probably on every piece of information about
19 the project. And I know I've spoken to a lot of
20 you. I am always around to take questions. This is
21 my desk number. For those of you who want my cell
22 number, I can certainly give that out as well. But
23 I'm always around for questions, more than happy to
24 talk to anyone. I can certainly come up and meet
25 face to face, I always think that that's a better

1 way to communicate. So if you ever want me to come
2 up and talk, even at a township meeting, I'm more
3 than happy to do that as the process moves forward.

4 Mark introduced himself. Mark may be
5 transitioning out, but I know Mark is more than
6 happy to take questions either tonight or any other
7 time. And if Mark is not going to be on the
8 project, then we'll make sure it gets to the right
9 person.

10 But, again, thanks so much for coming
11 tonight, we really appreciate your time. And I will
12 turn it over.

13 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Good evening.

14 My name is Suzanne Steinhauer, I'm with
15 the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Energy
16 Environmental Review and Analysis division. I'm the
17 third and final presentation tonight. I'll try to
18 keep it brief so that we can get to your questions,
19 which is questions and comments, which is the main
20 reason that we're here.

21 Similar to Tracy's presentation, what is
22 the EERA? We are a division of the Department of
23 Commerce. The Department of Commerce has a wide
24 range of roles and functions. The next time you
25 fill your gas tank up, there will be a little

1 sticker there that says Department of Commerce.
2 They ensure that the gas -- that the amount of gas
3 that you're paying for is really and truly what
4 you're getting. We also regulate insurance and
5 other financial institutions.

6 But the Energy Environmental Review and
7 Analysis is within the Energy Division of the
8 Department. We provide technical expertise and
9 assistance to the Public Utilities Commission and we
10 also conduct environmental review for large energy
11 projects that are proposed before the Commission.

12 As Tracy said and I want to reiterate,
13 the EERA and the Commission work cooperatively, but
14 we are separate, we have distinct roles and we
15 function independently of one another. We do not
16 work for the applicant and we do not advocate for or
17 against a project, for or against a route.

18 The goals of environmental review. Under
19 statute, projects that seek to receive a permit,
20 either a route permit for a transmission line or a
21 site permit for a wind project or power plants or
22 what we're seeing now also are solar facilities,
23 require -- it's considered to be an important
24 decision that requires an analytical look at the
25 potential for environmental impacts for a project.

1 So the goal of the environmental review
2 is to promote informed decision-making. We provide
3 decision-makers and the public with an objective
4 analysis of a proposed project and alternatives.
5 The environmental document is not a decision -- it's
6 not a decision document, it's doesn't say what the
7 best route is. But it's designed to provide the
8 Public Utilities Commission, members of the public,
9 with information to allow them to make an informed
10 decision.

11 For a project of this size, the
12 environmental review document is called an
13 environmental assessment. It's a written document
14 that provides an objective analysis of the proposed
15 project and any alternatives, alternative routes to
16 the routes proposed by the applicant. It describes
17 human and environmental impacts and describes
18 potential measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate
19 impacts.

20 As I think we'll -- there will be a slide
21 a little bit further on, the focus right now is on
22 getting information that we need to develop that
23 environmental document, but as the project moves
24 forward, the Commission will ultimately have a
25 decision as to whether or not to issue a permit.

1 The permit will also include, if they determine that
2 a permit should be issued for the project,
3 conditions under which where the project can be
4 constructed, what types of construction techniques
5 are appropriate.

6 Under rule, Minnesota Rule 7850, there's
7 certain things that an environmental assessment has
8 to contain. It needs to generally describe the
9 proposed project, a list of any alternative routes
10 or route segments that will be addressed in the
11 environmental assessment. A discussion of potential
12 impacts on the human and natural environment. A
13 discussion of mitigative measures, what can be done
14 to minimize or to avoid or to actually somehow make
15 better the impacts that the project may cause. An
16 analysis of the feasibility of each alternative is
17 going to be a general analysis. A list of required
18 permits and a discussion of other matters that are
19 identified during scoping.

20 So what should the EA look like? It has
21 to do these things that are laid out in rule and in
22 statute, but what we try to do, I mean, it's my job,
23 I want to do a good job, I want to provide people
24 and the decision-makers with information that's
25 useful to make a good decision on whether or not the

1 project should be built, and if it should be built,
2 what are the types of effects that can reasonably be
3 expected and what can be done to minimize those or
4 avoid those.

5 So what do we need to know or analyze for
6 the project? We're looking for information on
7 specific human or environmental impacts. Specific
8 strategies to mitigate or minimize or avoid these
9 impacts. And alternative routes or route segments.
10 That again -- that gets to the avoidance. If
11 there's a particularly sensitive area that can be
12 avoided through an alternative segment, this is the
13 time. Not just tonight, but through November 10th,
14 to work with you to try to identify those so we can
15 take a look at those. Sometimes things look good on
16 paper, you work through it, they don't look so good
17 sometimes, and the alternative actually ends up
18 being a better project.

19 Agencies, tribes, local government, and
20 the public can provide unique insight into the EA
21 scope. Every project is different. We have some
22 knowledge just going forward, having reviewed these
23 projects for 35 years or so, but as we move forward
24 every project is different. The landscape is
25 different, the people are different, the

1 construction techniques, we learn more about them.
2 So we keep -- that's what keeps it interesting and
3 we want to make the best decision that we can.

4 And so we do that through the scoping
5 process. We're here tonight to gather comments at
6 the public meeting and then afterwards through
7 November 10th during the written comment period.

8 Following the conclusion of the scoping
9 comment period in November I'll take a look at that.
10 If alternatives are identified, I'll summarize those
11 for the Commission so that they can know what
12 alternatives people have proposed and whether or not
13 those should be evaluated in the environmental
14 assessment.

15 After we take it to the Commission and
16 bring it back, the Department of Commerce issues
17 what's called a scope, a scoping document. Within
18 the orange folder there are a couple of our
19 handouts. One is called a draft scoping document.
20 You're welcome to look at it now or later after you
21 leave, but I did want to -- it's not a table of
22 contents of what the scoping decision will be, but
23 it provides you an outline. And it will describe
24 the project, it'll describe what we heard during the
25 scoping comment period and at the meeting tonight,

1 and it will identify alternatives that we need to
2 look at. And then on page -- I believe it's page 5
3 of the document there is some things that looks
4 like -- it looks like a table of contents, that's
5 not the intent. But that provides a summary of the
6 general issues that we are probably always going to
7 look for in a transmission line.

8 What we hope to get, what we found that
9 members of the public and local governments, local
10 nonprofits can provide us with are more particulars.
11 For instance, there's -- we have to look at natural
12 resources, we have some idea based on the queries
13 that have been done with the Department of Natural
14 Resources what are going to be -- what those
15 resources are going to be, they're different for
16 every project. In the southwest it might be Topeka
17 shiners, that's not going to be an issue here. It
18 could be a native plant community, it could be a
19 water bird nesting area. So that's what we look to
20 to get some insight information on. So the specific
21 impacts to be addressed.

22 The schedule for completion of the EA,
23 right now we anticipate that that will probably be
24 sometime in March. Other matters that should be
25 include in the environmental assessment. And then

1 matters which specifically the environmental
2 assessment will not address.

3 Also within the orange folder is a
4 handout from the Department on suggesting an
5 alternative route. With transmission projects we
6 understand generally, not always, but as a rule of
7 thumb people don't come forward and say, please,
8 please, can you put it here right in my front yard?
9 We understand that. But the reality is they're
10 physical objects that if the Commission determines
11 that there's a need for them they have to go
12 somewhere. So we understand that people may well
13 prefer that it not be on their property, but on
14 their neighbor's. Not your close neighbors, but
15 maybe somebody a little bit further away.

16 So you are welcome and we encourage you
17 to suggest alternatives routes, or in this case it
18 probably would be a route segment. But for that to
19 really receive full review and consideration, the
20 alternatives should be specific and identifiable,
21 not saying that the route should go somewhere in
22 Isanti County, that doesn't give us much and we're
23 not going to look at that because tell us where and
24 why. It should identify a specific impact to be
25 avoided. It may be a large stand of trees where, in

1 one, sometimes what happens is you look at a route,
2 and I know GRE has done more research on this, but
3 sometimes what happens is you'll look on a route and
4 on the west side of the route the houses may be set
5 further back and there may be a large grove of
6 trees. So in that case, cutting down a relatively
7 narrow area of trees still shields those people from
8 the view of the transmission line. But on the east
9 side, maybe those people are very close to the road.
10 So that's information that we want to take a look
11 at. Again, to develop the best project that we can.

12 The alternative should meet the need for
13 the project. Putting it in Rochester isn't going to
14 meet the need. Be submitted on time. Again, I'll
15 reiterate this a couple times, we need to have the
16 comments by November 10th. Tonight is your time for
17 providing oral comments. After that they need to be
18 in writing. My contact information is in the
19 handouts and there are business cards here. I'm
20 happy to answer any questions if you want to call me
21 or e-mail me, but the comments need to be in writing
22 after tonight.

23 And, again, an alternative needs to be
24 generally feasible. I can't tell you exactly what
25 that is, but beaming the electricity by satellite to

1 the pumping station at this point is not technically
2 feasible. The suggestion should explain why an
3 alternative should be included in the EA, include
4 all the supporting information that the person would
5 like us to consider, and include a map. And I'm
6 happy to try to work with you on looking at the
7 issue areas that you are trying to avoid, and
8 hopefully we can work together and develop a real
9 physical alternative that can be reviewed.

10 Here's an example here. This is a
11 project that was in the west metro area. The
12 project I believe -- not the fly there, but the
13 southern pink route was the alternative that the
14 utility proposed. I believe that followed an
15 existing distribution line. During the scoping
16 process people suggested that the project instead --
17 well, at least you should look at the possibility
18 for aligning it along a road, which is the yellow
19 somewhat shorter line here. And so that was a real
20 physical project that avoided -- or a physical
21 alternative that we could describe, we could look
22 at.

23 I wish I could tell you, I'm sorry, that
24 wasn't my project and I can't tell you which route
25 was selected, but I know they both got

1 consideration. Do you know which one?

2 MS. TRACY SMETANA: I think the yellow
3 one.

4 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: I should have
5 been able to answer that.

6 How and when to comment. The comment
7 period closes November 10th. You can provide verbal
8 comments at tonight's meeting. You can submit a
9 written comment at today's meeting. There are these
10 orange comment sheets. You don't need to use these
11 sheets, but it has all the contact information here.
12 So if you know that a neighbor may be interested,
13 please take one and provide that to your neighbor.
14 You don't need to use the form. You can, you can
15 fold it over and tape it, but you need to apply
16 postage.

17 You can fax the comments, and that's our
18 fax number here. You can e-mail me the comments.
19 Or you can use the online comment form that we have
20 on the project website that the Department has set
21 up for this project.

22 So commenting at today's meeting, there's
23 a couple of rules that I want to go through real
24 quickly, and I'm sure it's your standard public
25 meeting rules.

1 One speaker at a time. We have a court
2 reporter here. The reason that we have a court
3 reporter is so that we get an accurate record of
4 what people say. I'm going to listen, I'm going to
5 try to respond to questions, but then sometimes when
6 I leave here I can't remember exactly what it is.
7 So we have a written record that will be filed in
8 the eDockets towards the end of the comment period.

9 Please state and spell your name. Direct
10 your comments and questions to the scope of the EA.
11 If you have questions about the project, we'll try
12 to answer those, but the more specific questions can
13 be, hopefully the better chance we have of trying to
14 answer those.

15 And then I only have a couple people who
16 have identified that they want to speak. I think
17 we'll call on those people first. If there's a
18 large number of people, we ask that people limit
19 their comments to five minutes. But we want to make
20 sure that everyone gets an opportunity to speak. My
21 contact information. And so I'll just leave the
22 rules up.

23 So we'll ask people if they can to come
24 up to speak or direct your comments to the court
25 reporter. Again, identify yourself and spell your

1 name. And, let's see, I have two people who
2 indicated that they wanted to speak. So we'll call
3 on those folks first and then open it up by a show
4 of hands afterwards. It's about 10 to 7:00 now and
5 the court reporter will need to take a break at
6 about 7:30 and so we'll evaluate at that point.

7 So the first person who said they had
8 something that they wanted to ask or comment on was
9 Doug Althoff. If you could come up.

10 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: I just have a quick
11 question.

12 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Okay. Can you
13 spell your name, please?

14 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: Doug Althoff,
15 A-L-T-H-O-F-F.

16 I was wondering if you could re-explain
17 the right-of-ways.

18 MR. DAN LESHER: Sure.

19 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: From the centerline,
20 side to side.

21 MR. DAN LESHER: Sure. So, Doug, you and
22 I have spoken before.

23 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: Yes.

24 MR. DAN LESHER: And if we look at the
25 map, Doug, where your property is located, I believe

1 we are on the opposite side, we are showing the
2 alignment on the opposite side of the highway. But
3 the route that has been put into the application is
4 shown, 'cause it's 200 feet on either side of the
5 centerline of the road. We would anticipate, unless
6 something changes, that we would be on the opposite
7 side of the road from your property. But at this
8 particular point it's still -- your property is
9 still in the route. So, you know, my advice will
10 be, if you want to make a comment about, you know,
11 the side of the road that you feel is more
12 applicable in this case, probably now is the time to
13 do that.

14 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: Once the route is
15 established, you don't need both sides of the road?

16 MR. DAN LESHER: No, it'll be one
17 transmission line on --

18 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: One side.

19 MR. DAN LESHER: Right. With a 50-foot
20 easement from the center of the pole on either side.

21 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: Yes.

22 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: And I'll just
23 elaborate a little bit. The Commission, if it
24 decides to issue a route permit, will identify the
25 route. The route permit will also generally

1 identify which side of -- in this case, since most
2 of the line is along 169, it will identify which
3 side of the road they anticipate the alignment being
4 on.

5 By the time we get to a permit decision,
6 we should know pretty much on -- sometimes what
7 happens, generally not in these types of areas, they
8 tend to be more remote areas, once the soil surveys
9 are done, sometimes they -- sometimes you run into
10 constructability issues where there needs to be a
11 change in the alignment. But by the time we get to
12 the route permit they should identify which side of
13 the road they intend to be on. And then the
14 easement, after -- the easement is the overarching
15 legal document, the route goes away after the
16 project is considered -- I'm sorry, after the
17 project is constructed. So that doesn't look like
18 it helped, but --

19 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: That's okay.

20 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: And then the
21 next person is Deb Roettger, or Roettger.

22 MS. DEB ROETTGER: You want me up there?

23 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: If you could,
24 please.

25 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Okay.

1 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: If you can state
2 and spell your name, please.

3 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Deb Roettger, D-E-B,
4 R-O-E-T-T-G-E-R.

5 I just wanted to -- I've talked with Dan
6 before, he's talked to me. My home is right smack
7 dab in the middle of it, right next to the bridge on
8 169. So I'm really worried about that. I've been
9 at this home for 33 years. I wanted to get out of
10 the Cities when my children were babies.

11 I told myself I wasn't going to get
12 emotional.

13 I have worked on my home for 33 years.
14 It's not a mansion, it's nothing great, but my
15 blood, sweat, and my tears have gone into the house.
16 Me picking up and going somewhere else, you might as
17 well throw me in a nursing home. You know, I've
18 been working on that house, it's all I've got, you
19 know. And it's what I live for.

20 Now I don't know what to do, getting into
21 the -- I have decisions to make myself. I have a
22 roof that I would like to shingle in the spring. Do
23 I spend that money on shingling my roof? Do I have
24 to wait another three, four, five, ten years before
25 I figure out what's going to go on?

1 Two years ago, I spent -- before I even
2 knew any of this was going on, 'cause nobody
3 consulted me two years ago, I spent my money that I
4 got from my father and mother when they passed on
5 and I put it into a bathroom because I needed a
6 bathroom so badly. A lot of money. And now, you
7 know, if I would have known this was going on, I'd
8 have put that in the bank. You know, why spend it
9 on something you're not going to have. You know.

10 So I'm angry. 33 years I've been at this
11 house, raised my children here, because I thought it
12 would be a better place for them to live and now
13 this stuff wants to come.

14 So if it's possible, you know, I don't
15 know, like this gentleman here, Doug is affected by
16 it, I don't know where he lives, but I can feel his
17 worry about where this is all going to go.

18 And then if you do lose your house, I
19 guess I have questions on that. If I lose my house,
20 do I get just what it's valued? Do I get a nicer
21 house? Do I get the same amount of bedrooms? Do I
22 get all the plants that I planted for 33 years?
23 Everybody knows me, I've got a huge garden and
24 plants and trees. When I moved to that house there
25 was nothing. There were no trees. There was

1 nothing.

2 I don't have another 33 years. My back
3 has given up, I'm not going to be able to landscape
4 again, you know. What do I do, hire a landscaper?
5 Yeah, 'cause that costs money. You know, I don't
6 know, it's just a big worry for me.

7 And I was wondering about these options.
8 I know there's two options. And I guess I had
9 questions on across the highway from me is state
10 property. Why can't we use the state property? And
11 it's just a question. I don't know what the answer
12 is. And I know that along that road, on 169,
13 there's state property. They're not doing nothing
14 with it. Use the state property. Why bother people
15 that are in their homes and stuff like that, you
16 know. Alongside the highway, or whatever, it's not
17 going to bother people, you know, the woods out
18 there. Anyway, that was just a question.

19 I don't get the pole thing either. I did
20 kind of wonder why they can't -- I mean, not that I
21 would love it, but I know that they do put wires or
22 poles, lines, all over the houses in the Cities, you
23 see them everywhere, so I'm kind of wondering that's
24 such a big deal here. Especially with the two to
25 four hundred feet apart, why those poles would be

1 such a big deal, why that line would be such a big
2 deal if they had to put it through my yard, if there
3 was a line over my house.

4 So I guess that's all I have. I just
5 want all of you to know, you know. I know that the
6 farmers -- I know everybody is being affected here.
7 But I know that farmers are affected, but if there's
8 just one pole in the yard or, you know, you can go
9 around to farm. You know, my house is in a certain
10 spot, I can't move it. You know.

11 So that's all I have to say.

12 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Thank you.

13 I have a follow-up question to that. I
14 guess probably for GRE. So it sounds like, as I
15 understand it, your home is along 169?

16 MS. DEB ROETTGER: It's right next to the
17 Mississippi River bridge. I'm on the west side of
18 the bridge.

19 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Okay. And is
20 that the proposed alignment, or --

21 MR. DAN LESHER: Yes. Ms. Roettger and I
22 have spoken a few times about it.

23 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Okay. So the
24 way that I understand your comment, you'd like to
25 look at what we call an alignment -- running the

1 line on the other side on the state property.

2 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Yes.

3 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: You would
4 consider that to be -- we would consider that to be
5 an alternative alignment.

6 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Possibly, yes.

7 MR. DAN LESHER: Do you want me to follow
8 up on that a little bit?

9 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Yes.

10 MR. DAN LESHER: Yes. Ms. Roettger, that
11 is a good point. That land actually belongs to the
12 Department of Transportation, DOT, and so it is
13 state land. And those discussions are underway with
14 the DOT and we will continue to have discussions
15 with the DOT both on -- and again, this is the
16 reason for the wider route, to have discussions both
17 on either side of that area.

18 Obviously you realize that on the east
19 side of the highway there's also a boat launch on
20 the other side of the river, on the north side of
21 the river, so that complicates matters a little bit.

22 But like I talked about in my
23 presentation, and one of the reasons why we chose to
24 expand the route in your area where your house is
25 located is to give us some flexibility both from an

1 will come back to you, but I do want to allow other
2 people who haven't spoken.

3 Is there anybody else who wants to -- who
4 either has a question or wants to make a statement
5 or a comment that we can get on the record?

6 Yes, the gentleman in the back, if you
7 could please state and spell your name?

8 MR. BILL PRATT: Bill Pratt, P-R-A-T-T.

9 I have a question. As a township
10 supervisor, I have to ask, is there a tax impact
11 with the easements and the line going through the
12 townships? Positive or negative? Or zero? Or are
13 you aware of anything that would impact our tax
14 capacity or anything?

15 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: I'm going to let
16 GRE answer that, and I will note that, and that's
17 always something we'll take a look at in the
18 environmental assessment. But I'm not sure if GRE
19 has any -- because of their status as a co-op. I
20 could answer it if they were Xcel, I'm not sure
21 about a co-op.

22 MR. DAN LESHER: So are you referring to
23 the tax implications of being a township in Aitkin
24 County?

25 MR. BILL PRATT: Correct.

1 MR. DAN LESHER: Aitkin County, the way I
2 understand it, and I'm not a great tax mind, but my
3 understanding, when we have easements anywhere in
4 the state, in any county, the county will assess us
5 and we will be taxed and we will have to pay taxes
6 on the transmission line. How that filters down
7 from county to township and township government, I
8 don't know the answer to that. But we will -- we
9 are taxed, to the best of my knowledge, yes.

10 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Mr. Althoff.

11 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: No offense against
12 Deb, but I'm on the other side of the road from her
13 and I own all the property a quarter mile to the
14 south, there's no state land along there. And then
15 John Shoot (phonetic) continues on south of there,
16 there's no state land on the east side of Highway
17 169.

18 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Thank you for
19 the clarification again.

20 MS. DEB ROETTGER: When you drive in --
21 you are my neighbor on the other side? You bought
22 Chuck and Donna's?

23 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: No, I'm right next to
24 Chuck and Donna's.

25 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Okay. And when you

1 drive in, before you go through the gate, that piece
2 right there --

3 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: It's very narrow,
4 though. In fact, 200 feet would take out Chuck and
5 Donna's old house.

6 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Oh, okay. Yeah,
7 either that way or my way.

8 MR. DOUG ALTHOFF: Yeah.

9 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Thank you. I
10 appreciate that, we'll try to develop more
11 information through the record through the EA.

12 One thing that I did want to -- I think
13 we kind of skimmed over is, following the release of
14 the EA, we will be back here, maybe not in this
15 actual building, but in the project area, probably
16 in March or April for what's called a hearing. And
17 the hearing will be presided over -- you'll get
18 notice of that, the hearing will be presided over by
19 an administrative law judge and that will be another
20 opportunity for people to identify what their
21 preference is as to routing.

22 So I hear your concerns, I just want to
23 make sure that you're aware that you will have
24 another opportunity and there will be more
25 information on the record on these alternatives at

1 that point.

2 So is there anybody else who has a
3 comment or a question?

4 Yes, if you could stand up and identify
5 yourself.

6 MR. TOM HENDERSON: Yes. Tom Henderson.
7 I'm a landowner and a Morrison Township supervisor.

8 And what are the possibilities of the
9 west route being used, the alternate west route?

10 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: I will say that
11 that's certainly a possibility. It's in the record,
12 we'll have to take a look at it. I don't know how
13 it will shake out compared to the east crossing.

14 MR. TOM HENDERSON: Well, it cuts my land
15 in half as it crosses the river. And which will
16 make -- I'm on the north side of the river, it'll
17 make my east portion invaluable, you couldn't build
18 on it or anything because of the easement. And so
19 I'm losing a chunk of my land to that particular
20 route. And personally I prefer the east route
21 'cause then my land is not affected. But it
22 crosses -- my parcel is 230025602. And I just
23 wanted to get that in there because it will affect
24 me economically if the transmission goes there. An
25 alternate for me would be to go to the east on the

1 169 route.

2 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Thank you.

3 Again, I want to reiterate that our --
4 what I'd like to get here are some -- what we're
5 hoping to get is to provide you with answers to
6 questions, I think probably the question that
7 everybody has is where it's going to go. And that
8 we're not going to be able to answer tonight. I
9 understand the concern and I understand that there
10 are preferences, but we don't have any information
11 to even make a recommendation at this stage.

12 MR. TOM HENDERSON: Well, I just wanted
13 to let you know that that would be an impact for me.

14 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Yes. I
15 understand that. Thank you.

16 Other questions or comments?

17 Yes.

18 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: Grant Sherman,
19 Waukenabo Township.

20 The way I understand is Great River
21 Energy wants to use the shortest route possible to
22 get from point A to point B. Instead of impacting
23 Deb or this other gentleman up here, there's a lot
24 of rural area in this area where it wouldn't impact
25 anybody. Is there a reason that it has to stay

1 alongside Highway 169?

2 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: There is no
3 statute that requires that a transmission line
4 follows a road right-of-way. But if the
5 Commission -- because that is what's considered a
6 major corridor, if the Commission were to make a
7 decision that it not follow that major corridor, it
8 would need to have some factual basis for making
9 that. So if you have another alternative way to do
10 that, it would -- some other land, I would need more
11 specific information to look at that. And I'd be
12 happy to try to take a look at a map with you.

13 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: The second part of
14 the question is Enbridge is coming down to County
15 Road 3 and then going east. I propose running that
16 transmission line right up Enbridge's, because
17 they're going to clear it wide open anyways.
18 Instead of impacting the people up on 169 by
19 Waukenabo Lake and through. It's just a question.

20 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: I'm not as
21 familiar with -- I'm not involved in the Enbridge
22 routing, so it sounds like that would come from a
23 different place and so I'll hand that over to Great
24 River.

25 MR. DAN LESHER: Sure. So, Mr. Sherman,

1 as we exit the town hall and we go to the
2 intersection with 169, my understanding is that
3 Enbridge sort of does an L shape at that location
4 and then goes to the east.

5 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: About a quarter mile
6 on the east side of 169.

7 MR. DAN LESHER: Yep. That certainly
8 could be a possibility. It's one that, you know, in
9 certain areas where we are building transmission for
10 Enbridge, we have collocated and we have got fairly
11 close to Enbridge. There are some complications
12 with their construction schedule and ours. But it's
13 certainly, as you mentioned, it would be a new
14 corridor that would be created and opened up into
15 those areas where we could potentially put a
16 transmission line. It's not one that we have put in
17 our application, but that's sort of a good point to
18 raise and that certainly could get looked at.
19 Definitely.

20 And as far as, you know, as far as
21 comments about going other places. You know, one
22 thing I would say about this area, just taking a
23 real hard look at what we have in front of us, there
24 are a lot of very, very challenging areas due to the
25 proximity of wetlands and low lying areas that would

1 make both construction and access very, very
2 challenging. 169 is a corridor to follow, but I
3 understand the comment as well.

4 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Ms. Roettger, I
5 see your hand, I just want to make sure other people
6 have an opportunity for additional questions or
7 comments.

8 Ms. Roettger.

9 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Well, just like, you
10 know, he said, if there's an alternate route that
11 you guys have not looked into, because this is a
12 corridor, I think that that's a big deal. I think
13 that should be looked into. If we haven't looked
14 into where we don't have to affect these people and
15 their homes. I mean, I can see affecting the land
16 and that does happen, but when you're affecting
17 somebody's home that they live in, I think you need
18 to look at other alternate routes. And I think, I
19 mean, come on, this is like God's country, there's
20 like acreage everywhere, I'm sure that there would
21 be an easier route. I look down 169 and there are
22 deep ditches, why would you want to follow them, you
23 know. There's water in them.

24 Anyway, that's all.

25 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: I guess I have a

1 question following up on that line of questioning.
2 The question would be for Dan and I guess for -- I'm
3 sorry, was it Mr. Stevens?

4 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: Sherman.

5 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Sherman, I'm
6 sorry. When you say coming down the Enbridge --
7 well, first of all, Enbridge has proposed a route in
8 that area that's a ways away from permitting, so we
9 don't even know that the Palisade substation is
10 there. But when you say coming down Enbridge, the
11 way I understand that, and can either of you correct
12 me if that's wrong, it would be following the
13 proposed Enbridge route?

14 MR. DAN LESHER: That's my understanding.

15 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: That's what I was
16 talking about. They're going to come out a quarter
17 mile east of Highway 169 on County Road 3 and then
18 make a 90 degree corner and go to east. That's
19 their proposed. Maybe run this proposed line right
20 up their corridor. Right up their line to where
21 their pumping station is going to be. It's three
22 miles and it doesn't impact like anybody along 169
23 up in the Waukenabo Lake area.

24 MR. DAN LESHER: So for that last few
25 miles --

1 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: For the last three
2 miles, there's Waukenabo Lake, where if you guys put
3 poles in, I think they're going to keep sinking.
4 Just saying.

5 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: So a question
6 for Jerry [sic] is the way you understand that,
7 would that be coming from the same source or would
8 that be coming from a different source?

9 MR. DAN LESHER: It would be going to the
10 terminus of the project, which would be the pump
11 station itself. So it would certainly get us to
12 where we need to go. It would still mean that
13 essentially you've got ten miles following 169, or
14 unless there's something else that we come up with,
15 that would sort of be a given, then we'd sort of
16 divert over to the Enbridge corridor and then follow
17 that.

18 The advantage is it would take us right
19 to the pump station, but it is cross country. But
20 it will be cleared, you know, if they get their
21 permit. So there's advantages and disadvantages to
22 that. You know, you also have to imagine that the
23 pipeline is in the ground, it's buried, then you
24 have a transmission line that looks like it's sort
25 of out in the middle of nowhere. But it certainly

1 is a utility corridor that can be followed. And I
2 think that's, you know, a good suggestion for sure.

3 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Okay. So maybe
4 you can show me afterwards on the map. But the way
5 I understand it, it would be still coming north
6 generally along 169?

7 MR. DAN LESHER: Basically, the northern
8 three miles of the project, instead of following
9 169, would be shifted to the east to the --

10 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: About a quarter mile.

11 MR. DAN LESHER: About a quarter mile to
12 the proposed Enbridge corridor.

13 MR. GRANT SHERMAN: Your proposed power
14 line would run parallel with theirs for the last
15 three miles.

16 MR. DAN LESHER: Yes.

17 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Okay. So it
18 would be a new -- it would look like a cross country
19 corridor rather than a road?

20 MR. DAN LESHER: But it would be a
21 utility corridor.

22 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: A utility
23 corridor, if that line is constructed.

24 MR. DAN LESHER: Yep.

25 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Thank you.

1 I want to provide other people with an
2 opportunity to ask questions, comments?

3 I will say, I know sometimes I go to
4 meetings and I think about things afterwards, so
5 tonight is not your only time to ask questions or
6 comments, but it's the only time that we can have a
7 recording of the questions and the oral and the kind
8 of learning from each other. But if you get home,
9 if you're talking to other people and you have an
10 idea for an alternative, if you have impacts that
11 you really believe that there needs to be some
12 record for the Commission to make their decision on,
13 please provide us with written comments. And that
14 comment deadline, again, is November 10th.

15 So I want to give people another
16 opportunity for comment. So comments going --

17 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Health hazards of the
18 line. Is there anything with being within so many
19 feet of it?

20 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: Are there
21 particular hazards that you're concerned about?

22 MS. DEB ROETTGER: Just any.

23 MS. SUZANNE STEINHAUER: That's something
24 that we always look at with transmission lines.
25 There's a great deal of literature on

1 electromagnetic fields, so we'll look at what the
2 actual field, the size of the field looks like and
3 we'll provide some information on the overall health
4 risks of that.

5 So public comments going once? Public
6 comments going twice? Third and final opportunity
7 for your comments to be recorded at tonight's
8 meeting?

9 We'll be available to answer questions
10 afterwards, but there won't be a record of your
11 comments or questions.

12 So not seeing any hands, I want to again
13 thank you for coming out tonight and for the
14 thoughtful comments and questions. And we're
15 available after the meeting to try to answer
16 questions or comments. You can -- after this point,
17 we need to get your written comments by
18 November 10th. And you can take one of the orange
19 comment sheets, you don't have to use it, but it
20 should have my e-mail address on it and fax number
21 and the mailing address.

22 So not hearing any other comments or
23 questions, I will adjourn the meeting, and thank you
24 very much for your interest and attention.

25 Thank you.

(Matter concluded at 7:19 p.m.)

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