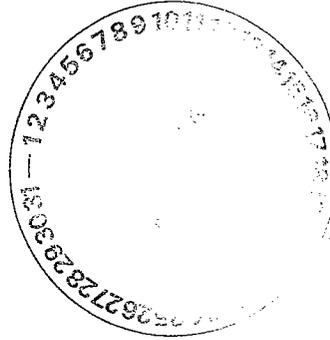


P.O. Box 128
Windom, Minnesota 56101
July 30, 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Department of Administration
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155



Attention: Mr. John Wachtler

Dear Members of the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board:

Re: Xcel Split Rock To Lakefield Junction 345/115 power lines EIS Scoping

Thank you for this opportunity to express my opposition to the proposed I-90 route of the Xcel Split Rock 345k power line project. I am a property owner in Section 13 of Olney Township in Nobles County. My objection to this route stems from the property devaluation that will occur as a result of visual blight from towers and power lines throughout my property as well as public concerns for potential health effects from electromagnetic radiation. The Alliant alternative, on the other hand, would actually offer some benefits to property owners and the citizens of Minnesota.

Because the Alliant Right of Way already includes seventy-one percent of the utility right-of-way, this route would not deface new countryside traveled by many and would not devalue property of the numerous owners along I-90 who do not already have utility easements. Furthermore, existing property owners with Alliant towers would benefit from an increase in agricultural land when the smaller footprint towers replace the existing double poles.

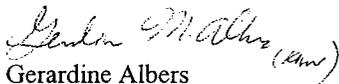
Although power provides a service to our community, the towers and lines themselves deface our lovely countryside. A combination Alliant-Xcel route would increase service without visually defacing new countryside. Have you seen these towers? Citizens of Minnesota place a value on scenic highways and views. I hope the Environmental Quality Board can assist in preserving and protecting our unique heritage. I also hope that you will consider the protection of our property values in your deliberations.

Please include the following in your EIS analysis of this project:

- Study of health effects of 345kV power transmission lines within close proximity to residences.
- Study of property devaluation due to placement of power transmission lines of 345k voltage.
- Study of property devaluation due to lines and towers placed in direct view of affected property.
- Analysis of the average individual and cumulative costs to property owners from devaluation of their property along the I-90 corridor.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns.

Sincerely,


Gerardine Albers

July 21, 2004

CERTIFIED MAIL, RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
Attn: Mr. John Wachtler
Department of Administration
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155



XCEL ENERGY- SPLIT ROCK TO LAKEFIELD JUNCTION
345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
FORMAL REQUEST
JANET G. McCLOUD-LANDOWNER
SECTION 13-103-42, OLNEY TOWNSHIP
NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

Dear Minnesota Environmental Quality Board:

I, Janet McCloud, am making this my formal request to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) in its evaluation of the Xcel Energy Split rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line Project. I request that my comments be included as part of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). I have several concerns about the project and its impact on my property, as well as my family member's and other neighboring landowner's properties.

I currently own property in Section 13 of Olney Township in Nobles County. I am EXTREMELY upset about the transmission lines proposed to go on my property AND I am preparing to protest this route. I have deep concerns about the effect that a transmission line will have on the value and enjoyment of my property. I have concerns about the visual effect that these huge towers will have on my property. I am concerned that they will limit my ability to have a potential residence placed on the property. I am also concerned about the Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) and the effects they will have. Furthermore, I believe the existing route (through Alliant Energy's existing line) is adequate. We do not need a new line along Interstate 90 and it is not acceptable to me.

I am looking forward to learning about and participating in the democratic process in my home state of Minnesota. Although I have not lived in Minnesota for many years, I have

a great regard for the State and the community. I am a graduate of the University of Minnesota, holder of several degrees, a proud Ph.D. Candidate in American Studies where one of my mentors was Mulford Q. Sibley. As an income tax and property tax payer in Nobles County and Minnesota for over 40 years, I believe I have contributed to the community and the lives of those residents in a constructive and meaningful way.

I am still deeply connected to this land. This property has been in my family well over one hundred years. My grandparents protested the road when it first came through the property. My grandmother protested Interstate 90 when it came. Every one of them lost. Generation after generation we are forced to accept this erosion of our land as bit by bit of it goes. Someone is making a killing off this power line and I'm supposed to roll over and give up?

The real tragedy is profit over quality of life. American values are being destroyed. We can no longer afford to be wasteful of our land and resources! We are using outdated technology because it is cheaper and more profitable for business. This project is a perfect example of new technology (wind energy) which is ecologically inconsistent with the environmental values advocated as it uses outdated destructive, harmful and ugly methods of transmission.

Of all my concerns the most grievous to me is the emotional one. I will never be able to live on this land. Neither a healing center, a day care center, school, or place of worship - only an electromagnetic field of hideous giant ugly power lines and poles for miles along Interstate-90. This is my perception. These are my fears.

I consider this transmission line an assault. I have no rights. I can speak, but I am supposed to think of one of the 3 or 4 reasons that have previously prevailed in court and these reason must fit into a small box of hopeless opportunity the Court and State system provides in their magnificent benevolence.

"To tell you the truth, it's shaken my faith in democratic institutions. Xcel has manipulated the system so you can't appeal something that is fundamentally wrong."
Roger Conant, Power Line Task Force activist, Star Tribune, 4/13/04

Personally, I find these allegations disturbing. State residents and veterans of similar battles with Xcel talk of corruption in the legal process - documentation presented by the energy corporation is not valid. Therefore government decisions are biased to serve whatever lies are perpetrated as "expected corporate behavior." So do we have the typical sociopath behavior where rules apply to everyone but the bully?

"Simply the way corporations do business to get what they want, don't take it personally. The decision was made years ago anyway," - is what I'm told by one state resident.

There are many people today who are hypersensitive to electricity. People, who are unable to be in an automobile, use a computer or sleep with a clock radio near their bed. Unable to live in urban areas, they are fleeing to less developed areas. The accumulation of electrical fields, radiation from wireless technologies such as cell phones and broadcast antennas, and environmental toxins are too much. We have created so many convenient and beneficial things but we are paying a price. People are getting sick. One power line in southwestern Minnesota isn't going to kill me where I live now, since I reside in another state, but we keep layering on these environmental assaults. What about others here - the most vulnerable - the elderly, children and pregnant women. What about our children's children?

There are many websites and much published information and data devoted to the health issues related to EMF. These are listed in the directory of www.microwavenews.com. Electromagnetic Fields: A Consumer's Guide to the Issues and How to Protect Ourselves by B. Blake Levitt is a comprehensive on EMF but I am sure the EQB is familiar with recent studies and I will include this information at future hearings.

When I worked on EMR issues for the community I live in now, I had calls from all over the country from people who struggle on a daily basis with electro-sensitivity. One couple had moved to Snowflake, Arizona only to be sited for a cellular antenna and was at a loss as how to prevent it on their land in the desert! Citizens across America are being bombarded by decisions that benefit telecommunications and utility interests. These networks or railroads of energy and technology are deemed necessary but we are the ones paying the price and the bill. There is no reason these companies can't work together and use existing routes. Every company does not have to have its own route. We do not need to place profit over quality of life.

It is apparent that an existing utility network is already in place and could be updated if the lines go along the existing route. Must we reinvent the wheel?! Those easements with Alliant Energy are in place. In most of these areas, it would be considered a benefit to have the new line go through so they can enhance the serviceability of the existing line while eliminating some of the existing poles that are cumbersome to landowners and farm operators. It has been indicated that these poles would even have room for additional lines in the future. Wouldn't it make the most sense to centralize these lines to maximize effectiveness, while minimizing future maintenance and environmental impact on the landscape?

In the initial EQB open house meetings, it was indicated that the route along Interstate 90 would allow Xcel Energy to save approximately \$8 million. Where does this \$8 million dollar figure come from? Where is the data to support this additional cost? It seems more likely that the cost would be less. For instance, if Xcel is willing to pay landowners a percentage of "fair market value", wouldn't market values be less immediately along the existing route than through a new route? This would create savings, not additional cost.

I would like to know more about the whole permitting procedure. There must be a book or document on this for the hearings and for submitting testimony. It must be official like a manual, rules and regulations. What about Intervener Status? What is the deadline and procedure regarding that?

As I understand it, the EQB is in the stages of gathering information for task force scoping. I need more information about submitting testimony to that. Is that different than the testimony to be presented at the judge's hearing? Are they two different deadlines? Who is it addressed to? What's the Mandatory Hearing? When, where?

What about the EQB Board? How can I get information on the members and authorities of the Board, such as conflicts of interest in security holdings? Why have only about half of all the board members included this information on the pertinent website? At least one of the Board members has security holdings in Xcel. Is that considered a conflict of interest? Will she be voting? What about the others?

Is there a file that shows submitted testimony that the public citizens can access? Are all of those documents on the website? What information is available about the Administrative Law Judge and the details of the mandatory hearing on the project?

Does the EIS show if there are any homes near this proposed transmission line and where they are located?

What about the list of names and contacts for all the people in my area who were notified and/or have property in the path of the proposed line? Can I access that information?

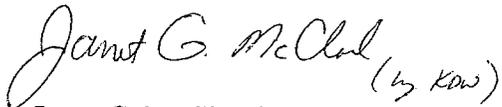
I am so frustrated with all of the permitting notices and forms that have to be accessed on the computer. I have not been able to access any of the files on the EQB website very effectively. Can the EQB mail me all the information that has been posted about this project on the Internet by PRIORITY MAIL or else it won't get here until this whole thing is dead and buried? I believe you sent all the current maps, correct? I need a copy of the application for route permits under Preliminary Docs as well. I need preliminary info on the substation for Nobles. I would also like the order for the Certificate of Need

Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
July 21, 2004
Page 5

from the Public Utility Commission. How can I find out more about the Public Utilities Commission and how it relates to this permitting process?

Thank you for the opportunity to clarify my concerns! Please contact my property manager at 507-831-2808 or mail information to me at P.O. Box 128, Windom, MN 56101 to respond to my concerns or if you have any questions regarding my position with respect to my land and the Xcel project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janet G. McCloud" with a small note "(by Kow)" written below the name.

Janet G. McCloud
Landowner- Section 13-103-42
Nobles County, Minnesota

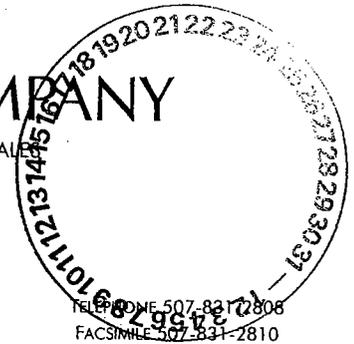
FAIRLAND MANAGEMENT COMPANY

FARM MANAGEMENT, ACCOUNTING, CONSULTATION, FARM REAL ESTATE SALES

C. K. MOEN, AFM - PRESIDENT - GENERAL MANAGER
K. M. ISDER, - VICE PRESIDENT - ACCOUNTING
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K.D. WALINGA, AFM - MANAGER, FARM MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
S.J. HINIKER, FARM MANAGEMENT ADVISOR
R.D. LARSON, FARM MANAGEMENT ADVISOR

July 22, 2004



TELEPHONE 507-831-2808
FACSIMILE 507-831-2810

www.fairlandmanagement.com

E-MAIL: fairland@fairlandmanagement.com
OFFICES AT 339 11TH STREET
POST OFFICE BOX 128
WINDOM, MINNESOTA 56101-0128

Mr. John Wachtler
Environmental Quality Board
Department of Administration
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Nobles County to Chanarambie 115kV Line
Public Comments

Dear Mr. Wachtler:

I am writing on behalf of two of our clients Maridell Rose and Ora Lee Dean. They own property southeast of the city of Chandler. Their property is adjacent to the eastern proposed route of the Nobles County to Chanarambie 115kV Line.

The intent of this letter is to voice their favor of the transmission line. They feel that the transmission line will add many benefits to the rural agricultural economy and benefit southwest Minnesota cities and quality of life. They are especially in favor of the eastern route location because of the proximity of the line in relation to two of the family's properties. Some years back the family sold the wind rights of the farm to a wind development company. They are hopeful that, with the addition of the transmission line, the wind development company would have a greater incentive to construct a wind project on their property. This would increase the net income on the farm and produce addition dollars to the local economy.

Thank you for your time. We are sure that this information will be used to make the best decision in determining the proper route for the transmission line. Feel free to contact me if you should have any questions or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. J. Hiniker'.

S. J. Hiniker
Farm Management Advisor



June 7, 2004

John,

When I built my home, the county setback was 90 feet from the middle of the road. My house was built 92 feet north of the center of the road. Even if their route goes past the house on the south side of the road, it is going to be very close to my house. I am referring to your proposed Murray-Nobles county line - west/east - route.

My brother and I have farmed and lived here our entire lives. The route we place on your map in RED would be the farthest from resident homes.

In reviewing the routes proposed through Wilmont Township, we see, possibly, a better route. This route could enter Wilmont Township on the north side, between sections 5 and 4 on the west side of the road and proceed south for two miles. At this point it could proceed east on the south side of the road for 1 ½ miles and then go south on the half-mile line.

Resident farm sites involved are Joe VonHoltum in section 8 which is ¼ mile west of the proposed route. The other residents are Curtis Vaske in section 9, across the road from the proposed line. His resident home and building site is 200 yards east of the proposed line. Others affected are Tess Korth in section 15. This building site is located 800-900 feet south of the proposed line. Brian Fuerstenberg, in section 10, is located about 200 yards north of our proposed line. Then your line could head south through section 15.

One of the priorities of a proposed route is to avoid passing too near environmental wildlife areas. What about passing too near human residences?

If you have any questions, please contact me. My phone number is 507-926-5496.

Sincerely,

Elmer Brake
Ray Brake

John Wachtler

From: Post Swine Farms, Inc. [psfarms@SWWNET.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2004 9:04 PM
To: John.Wachtler@state.mn.us
Subject: 345 Power line letter

John N. Wachtler
Mn. Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar St. Rm. 300
St. Paul, Mn. 55155

Dear Mr. Wachtler,

We live in the SE 1/4 of the NW 1/4 in section 18 Rost township. We are extremely concerned about the proposed 345 high voltage transmission line passing by our residence along I -90.

Our farm site is approximately 180 ft. from the right-of way.

We have three small children under 4 years of age. The uncertainty of the health dangers or risks are a big issue, such as leukemia, different cancers, electro sensitivity, etc.

EMF interference w/ wireless satellite systems, radios, and inter-net systems could cause problems.

Noise: With I-90 so close we are concerned about the additional this line could cause.

Stray Voltage or EMF could also cause a problem for our livestock and facilities. Our home has steel shingles and steel siding. Our pasture for our cattle is also adjacent to I-90 which could also cause EMF problems with our electric fence, and or our cattle.

Our water table for our well is spring fed approximately 18 feet below the ground surface. Setting the poles could adversely effect our water supply as our well is very close to the right of way.

We have grain bins which are very close to the right of way. Our intentions are to add grain bins and a grain leg in the future to the south side of our present bin site. Having this line that close would hinder our future expansion.

This farm has been in our family for over 80 years and we do not want this to ruin it for the future. We have recently invested vast amounts in the removal of a large older grove as well as other improvements. Presently our two story home is being restored after digging a new basement.

With the studies and concerns of health related dangers and the closeness of this power line, this would drastically reduce the value of our property.

With all these concerns we are opposed to this proposed route. We will take any necessary

6/30/2004

actions to stop this line from going through our property.

We would feel Route 2 would be a better choice, or as we discussed while looking at the map in Wilmont, it could turn one mile West of our half mile line to section 13 of Ewington township, then go North one mile to the middle of section 12 and then go East, to connect with part of the route 2 proposal.

We thank you for your consideration of our concerns on this matter, and appreciate any thing you can do to help us.

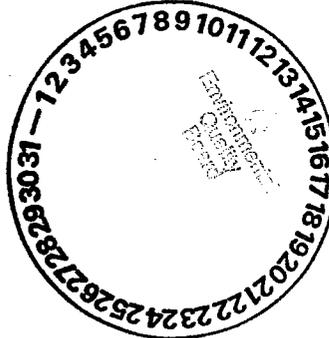
Sincerely, Eric, Barbara, Alyssa, Nathaniel, and Taylor Post
David, & Arlys Post

Nobles County

www.co.nobles.mn.us

PUBLIC WORKS

960 Diagonal Road
PO Box 187
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-376-3109
Fax: 507-372-8348



June 9, 2004

Mr. John N. Wachtler
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar St., Room 300
ST. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. John Wachtler,
Re: MEQB DOCKET NO. 03-73-TR-XCEL Route Permit Application

Thank you for listening to my concerns about the location of the proposed transmission lines along the public road right of way. As I stated to you at the meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at the Wilmont, MN Community Center, locating the power poles just outside the road right of way subjects the road authority to pay all costs required should the poles need to be moved or adjusted due to future roadway construction. The proposed routes are along State and County Highways, but just as important, local township roads. Even though the road authority and the utility can work together to locate the poles so they would not be affected by future roadway reconstruction the majority of the time, this will not be possible in every instance. It can be cost prohibitive for the tax payers in the local jurisdictions to pay the bill to move these poles. (Township government responsible for the Township Road system often times has a total levy less than \$50,000 per year.) It would be reasonable to request that the utility company be required to pay for the cost of relocation or adjustment of poles if required in the future due to roadway construction, or require them to place the poles out in the farm field away from the road right of way so they would not be effected by future road construction projects.

I contend that the utility company is financially better positioned to bear the cost of moving or adjusting a power pole when required due to road construction than the property owners within the governmental jurisdiction. If the utility company is unwilling to agree to this stipulation, I request that they be required to locate the poles far enough away from the roadway so they would not be affected by future road construction activities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen P. Schnieder".

Stephen P. Schnieder, PE
Nobles County Public Works Director



June 7, 2004

Pam,

When I built my home, the county setback was 90 feet from the middle of the road. My house was built 92 feet north of the center of the road. Even if their route goes past the house on the south side of the road, it is going to be very close to my house. I am referring to your proposed Murray-Nobles county line - west/east - route.

My brother and I have farmed and lived here our entire lives. The route we place on your map in RED would be the farthest from resident homes.

In reviewing the routes proposed through Wilmont Township, we see, possibly, a better route. This route could enter Wilmont Township on the north side, between sections 5 and 4 on the west side of the road and proceed south for two miles. At this point it could proceed east on the south side of the road for 1 ½ miles and then go south on the half-mile line.

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One of the priorities of a proposed route is to avoid passing too near environmental wildlife areas. What about passing too near human residences?

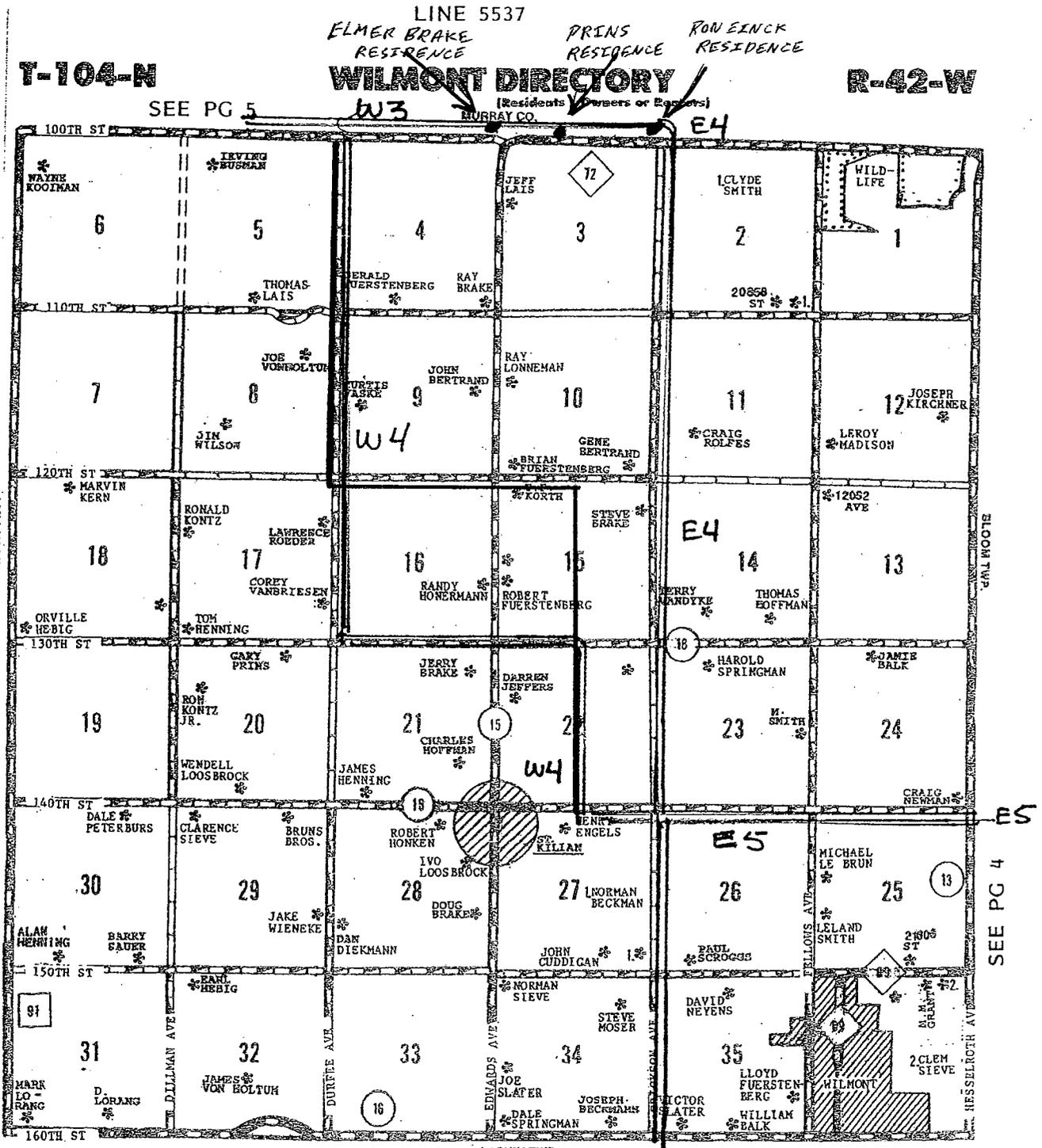
If you have any questions, please contact me. My phone number is 507-926-5496.

Sincerely,

Elmer Brake
Ray Brake

C: John Wachtler
EQB

RED ROUTE — THE ROUTE THAT WOULD AVOID THE CLOSE PROXIMITY
 TO ANY RESIDENCE IN THIS AREA OF WILMONT TOWNSHIP IN
 NOBLES COUNTY.



Wilmont, Mn.
June 7, 2004



Re: 115 kV Transmission Line

John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Bldg, 658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155

Mr. Wachtler:

As landowners (Section 23, Wilmont Township, Nobles County) involved in the proposed routing of the 115 volt line, we would like to express our views. We attended two of the informational meetings.

It would be a real nuisance and inconvenience to have the lines and poles placed on our property, as they would be set in a significant distance from the field boundary. We were told the property around the poles could still be farmed. Considering the large machinery used in farming now, it would be very possible to strike the poles with a combine, planter, etc., weaving in and out between the poles. The cost of repair to machinery could be significant. This would cause time, money and stress to the person farming.

We were told the compensation would be somewhere around 50% up to 70% of the value of the land. We think that anything less than 100% compensation would be unfair considering the poles would be there forever. The entities producing the power running through the lines will be compensated much better than the landowners furnishing the property for the line

We ask that you use an alternative route where the landowners don't object to the extra hassles of farming around poles, and receiving only 50 to 70% for their land.

Harold & Barbara Springman
Harold and Barbara Springman
20283 130th Street
Wilmont, Mn. 56185

Wilmont, Mn.
June 7, 2004



Re: 115 kV Transmission Line

George Johnson
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Bldg, 658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN. 55155

Mr. Johnson:

As landowners (Section 23, Wilmont Township, Nobles County) involved in the proposed routing of the 115 volt line, we would like to express our views. We attended two of the informational meetings.

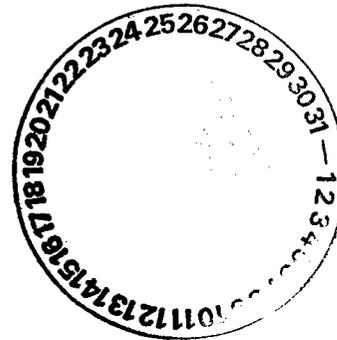
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We ask that you use an alternative route where the landowners don't object to the extra hassles of farming around poles, and receiving only 50 to 70% for their land.

Harold & Barbara Springman
Harold and Barbara Springman
20283 130th Street
Wilmont, Mn. 56185

June 23, 2004



Mr. John Wachtler
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Bldg.
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

RE: Xcel Energy's Application to the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board for a Route Permit for a 115 kV Transmission Line from the new Nobles County Substation near Reading Minnesota to the Chanarambie Substation near Lake Wilson, Minnesota MEQB DOCKET NO. 03-73-TR-XCEL

Dear Mr. Wachtler:

We have been corresponding with Pamela Rasmussen, Permitting Analyst from Xcel Energy regarding our concerns with the above mentioned project. She suggested that we also make our concerns known to you. She advised us that the letter we sent her last year is also included in their permitting application.

We live on the west 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 5 of Chanarambie Township, Murray County, MN. We also own the SW 1/4 of Section 32 of Cameron Township, Murray County, MN.

We have received notification from Xcel Energy that they propose to build a 115 kV Transmission Line from near Reading, MN to the Chanarambie Substation. We live very near the Chanarambie Substation and are concerned with the route the line is built on. Ideally we would prefer that no line be built at all. Our quality of life has already been adversely effected by the construction and operation of Xcel's Chanarambie Substation and EnXco's wind turbines all around us. Any added construction of transmission lines will only be a detriment to the local environmental quality. The added traffic, litter and destruction of roads and property has already become quite intolerable. Enxco's employees speed down the gravel road past our driveways and across the intersections. It is only a matter of time before someone is hurt or killed.

If Xcel Energy receives a permit to construct this 115kV transmission line we want the West Route to be used exactly as shown on Project Map Appendix D.11. That shows the transmission line coming out of the south side of the Chanarambie Substation and going south down the half mile line of Section 6 one mile all the way to 111th ST. We do not want the line to go out of the Substation only 1/2 mile south and then east to 10th Ave. because we have a large hog confinement barn exactly on that location of 10th Ave. and do not want issues with stray voltage and electrical and magnetic fields, etc. We also do not want the East Route used.

We hope this clarifies our position on this project. Please put us on the official project mailing list. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Curt + Wanda Miersma

Curt and Wanda Miersma
1166 10th AVE
Woodstock MN 56186

John Wachtler

From: Stephen Schnieder [sschnieder@co.nobles.mn.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2004 2:36 PM
To: John.Wachtler@state.mn.us
Subject: MEQB DOCKET NO. 03-73-TR-XCEL Route Permit Application

Mr. John Wachtler,

Thank you for listening to my concerns about the location of the proposed transmission lines along the public road right of way. As I stated to you at the meeting on Wednesday, June 2, 2004 at the Wilmont, MN Community Center, locating the power poles just outside the road right of way subjects the road authority to pay all costs required should the poles need to be moved or adjusted due to future roadway construction. The proposed routes are along State and County highways, but just as important, local township roads. Even though the road authority and the utility can work together to locate the poles so they would not be affected by future roadway reconstruction the majority of the time, this will not be possible in every instance. It can be cost prohibitive for the tax payers in the local jurisdictions to pay the bill to move these poles.

(Township government responsible for the Township Road system often times has a total levy less than \$50,000 per year.) It would be reasonable to request that the utility company be required to pay for the cost of relocation or adjustment of poles if required in the future due to roadway construction, or require them to place the poles out in the farm field away from the road right of way so they would not be effected by future road construction projects.

I contend that the utility company is financially better positioned to bear the cost of moving or adjusting a power pole when required due to road construction than the property owners within the governmental jurisdiction. If the utility company is unwilling to agree to this stipulation, I request that they be required to locate the poles far enough away from the roadway so they would not be affected by future road construction activities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stephen P. Schnieder, PE
Nobles County Public Works Director

6/15/2004

John Wachtler

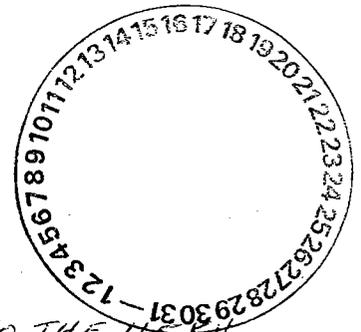
From: Schultz, Dawn R [dawn.schultz@xcelenergy.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 09, 2004 1:42 PM
To: John Wachtler (E-mail); Rasmussen, Pamela Jo
Subject: letter sent to Merlyn Cranston

Merlyn Cranston
1644 South Shore Drive
Worthington MN 56187

Yesterday I sent Merlyn maps b15, b16, b17, b18, b19, b26 and b3 with a general cover letter. I inadvertently changed that cover letter afterwards so I don't have a copy to include in this e-mail.

Dawn Schultz
Technician, Siting & Land Rights
Xcel Energy - North
715-839-2486

SIRS,



I AM WRITING IN REGARD TO THE 115 KV
TRANSMISSION LINE THAT XCEL ENERGY PROPOSES
TO INSTALL BETWEEN LAKE WILSON + READING, MN.
AS THE EAST ROUTE REACHES THE MURRAY-NOBLE
CO. BORDER IT DEVIATES EAST FOR A NUMBER
OF MILES OFF OF THE "BUFFALO RIDGE" WHERE
NO ONE HAS THEIR LAND SIGNED UP FOR WIND
POWER USE. WHERE AS WHERE THE WEST ROUTE
ENTERS NOBLES COUNTY MOST OF THE LANDOWNERS
HAVE THEIR LAND SIGNED UP AS THEY ARE ON
THE CENTER OF "BUFFALO RIDGE". IT ONLY MAKES
SENSE THAT THEY WOULD BE LESS UPSET ABOUT
THE LINE COMING OVER THEIR LAND.

RAY BRAKE

10939 EDWARDS AVE,

WILMONT, MN. 56185

Robert Lang

C7, T14 - Sec 11

Sec 32 T12

Sec 23 T11

Toss-up

Thought preferred F-90

Likes idea of

Single poles on

Alliant etc

Take this project into the
Metro Politian area where you
need it. I don't want this on

my property under no circumstances

Wilmington Sec 22 ^{signed} Cyril B. Henning
NW 1/4

June 15, 2004



George Johnson
Environmental Quality Board
300 Centennial Bldg
658 Cedar St.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Johnson

As a concerned taxpayer and electric user, I am submitting a simpler connection from Chanarambie substation. This would eliminate five (5) bracings and bypass all towns following Highway 91.

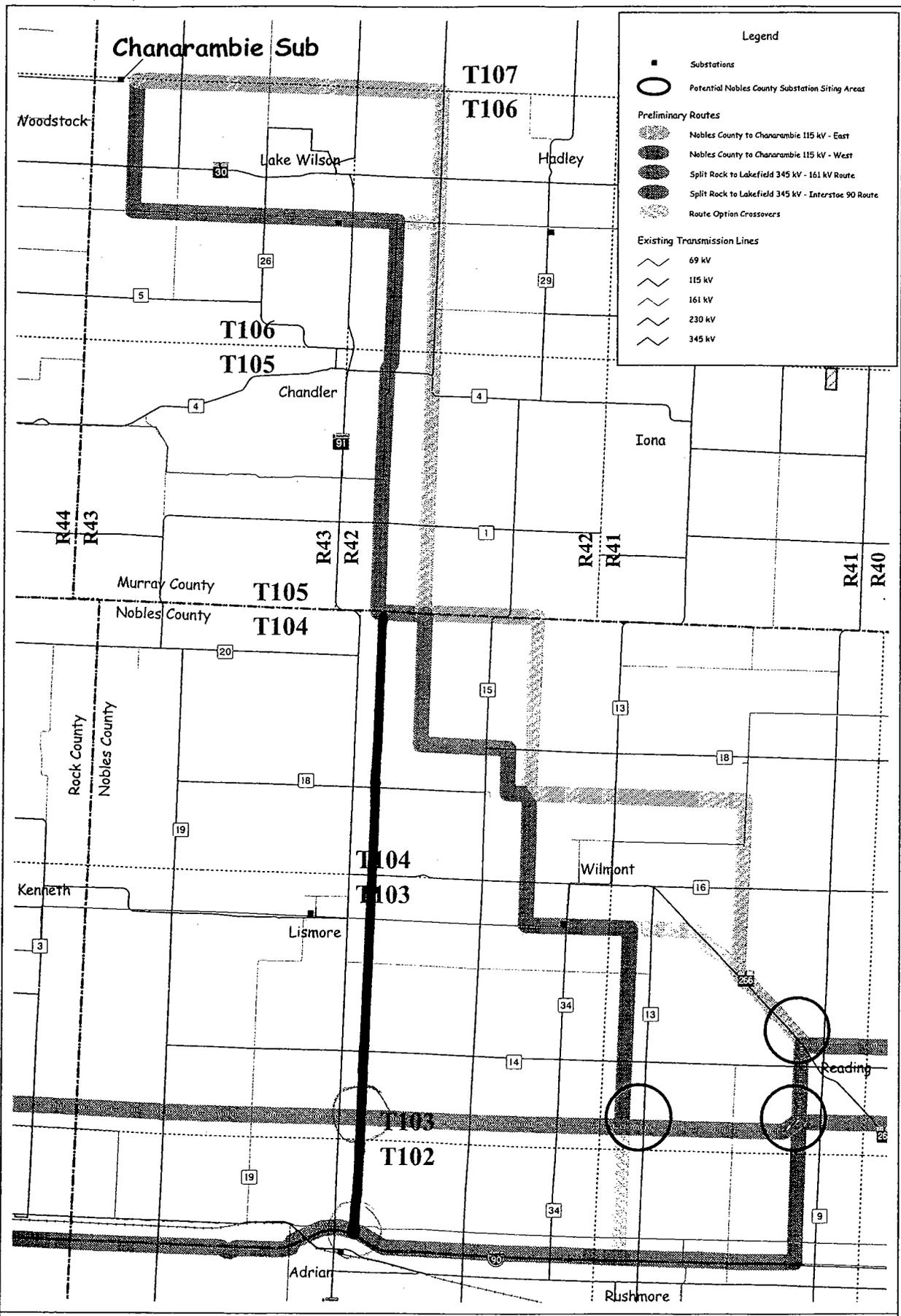
Ameren UE Power Company has separate Transmission lines to prevent sabotage. This is a concern and will not go away. Shorter lines would decrease power loss. The cost factor would be cut in half and disturb less property. What has a Reading area got to do with the end usage.

I had a phone conversation with Pam Rasmussen of Excel Energy on this subject in May 2003.

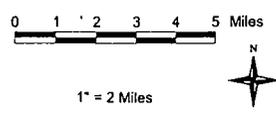
Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roger Johnson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Roger Johnson
3228 Maus Road
Fults, IL 62244
618 458 7128



Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Line
 Xcel Energy
 Preliminary Routes
 Figure 2



Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

JIM ~~KLEES~~ KLIVIS

Address:

Section 32 E-Route ; New Tree
groves

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

- 577
- Big problem is harm to tree groves on residence area; groves
 - like E-W route just north of property.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us



Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

MARVIN Zylstra

Address:

17665 PAUL Ave Worthington Mn 56187

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Own property in the NW 1/4 of Sec 23
EKK Township. Would like to see
elimination of double poles with
single poles and use current route
vs using route 1 1/2 miles south
following 210th St. MAKES more
sense to follow current route.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: *Willis Cow*

Address: *210 ST - Reading Mn*

Representing: *Well 7 Co*

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

*Home in sight of way
along with trees*

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Harold Rutger

Address:

36441 200th St Brewster Mn 56119

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Farm located in SW 1/4 of Sec 21
Hersey Township Also own East 1/2
of the NW 1/4 of Sec 21 Hersey Township
Current poles are located in the middle
of field. Making single poles on
this current route would eliminate
farming around poles. It would
make sense to use this current route
vs using route a mile and a half
south following 210th St.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

ANONYMOUS

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Alliant Line is preferred route
because H-frame poles on my farm
would be replaced w/ single poles!
⚡

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Ron Fick

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

- Section 16 South of Luverne is Job Zone
Area. Clean Industry Zone As Industrial
Park. Working to develop property.
- Takes away 75' PRIME Freeway right-of-way
space.
 - Billboard obstruction problem / conflict
 - Check on set-back requirements
 - Use Alliant Route - Several properties
- Planned
Bill
Board
Do.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Leona Klotterbauer

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

I-90 ~~Route~~ makes more sense
than Alliant line because it has easier
access for construction & upkeep.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: DALE PETERBURS

Address: 16657-140TH ST, LISMORE, MN 56155

Representing:
SELF

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

115 KV NOBLES CO TO CHANARAMBIE
PROJECT - I FAVOR THE MOST WESTERLY
ROUTE.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

PAUL Arends

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Sections 13 & 14 of Luverne -
South side preference ~~if it has to go~~ if
~~down~~ I-90 used. Also ~~don't~~ WANT TO
use I-90 route to avoid interruption of
new minn wind project that will interconnect
on Alliant 161-kV Line.

* TRACK down details on length of outages
from construction.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Don Sieve

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Section 12 Carlin - NE 1/4
" 2 " SW 1/4
Section 7 Summit Lake;

Interested in leasing land for Wind
Turbines and interested in close-by
~~power~~ subconnection to minimize costs.

NEB power data indicates it's the best site in area.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Anonymous

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Route West Iron Rd on the
Alliant line "back" to the County line
w/115 then go straight north to Chanarambie
Substation

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Vernon & Beatrice Strange

Address:

293 80th ave

Representing:

Chandler

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

We think the west proposed line would be the best route, along the west side of sections 20-29 in Henton township. Less large trees to remove.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

PAULSEN

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

N-S segment from I-90 TO
Reading Corner cuts right through on
Yrileon 3/4 section & interfere with
farming operations

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Iru Busman

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

X-over
between
E & W
Routes

N-W 5 of Wilmont - cuts right
through between two residences,
very close.

- Section 21 on E route is tight
w/ houses

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

- * Clarify Row vs. Corridor request,
- * Why not go direct N-S from I-90 near Adrian?
- * Why not substation directly south of Chanarambie sub?
- * Why not underground the whole thing? if reliability is a problem?

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: *Netty Bair*

Address:

Representing: *SRDC*

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

*at Luverne - Comp Plan - speak with City
Hospital (New on North side of town)
two road now COUNTY to serve developing area*

County Engineer = Mark Sehr

*County
- ten ton route system*

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation

Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name: Brenda Heard (Ed)

Address: 926 County Line Ave
Woodstock, MN 56186

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

We like the proposed route.

There is already alot of congestion
of power lines on the other route.
(South of Hwy 30)

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Gary Carlson

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

- Section 28 residence
- Put, ^{PUT} ON ~~THE~~ SAME poles as Nobles Coop
 - First, underground!
 - Compensation not FAIR, should be %
of revenue from ~~the~~ wind farms.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Steve Gleis

Address:

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

Home is on N-side of 121st,
Section 33.
— Put line on South side
to avoid being too close to house.

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room
300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to
john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Floyd & Dolores FATH

Address:

507-926-5259

Representing:

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

- SW 1/4 section 14, Wilmont Twp
- If we do site visit, please call first,
 - BERM on N-S route
 - * When REA buried line, ~~the BERM~~ when BERM was constructed it cut into line,
 - * Live in Wilmont now
 - BERM on 1 P?

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us



NORTH AMERICAN WATER OFFICE

PO BOX 174 Lake Elmo, MN 55042

Phone 651-770-3861 Fax: 651-770-3976

July 8, 2004

MEQB Powerline Siting Task Force
345 kV Sioux Falls Lakefield Junction Line
115 kV Chanarambie Nobles Line

RE: Site of the New Nobles Substation

Dear Task Force:

The North American Water Office (NAWO) has an interest in the siting of the New Nobles Substation because of its historical participation, dating back more than 15 years, in public decision-making proceedings that have lead up to the decision about where to site the New Nobles Substation. NAWO also has an interest in this siting due to its formal working relationship with Community Wind South (CWS), which was formed to take advantage of conditions attached by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) to authorization for the powerlines now under consideration.

We are very intent upon securing a location for the New Nobles Substation that is in the immediate vicinity of Reading, as recommended by Xcel Energy in the routing application. We have a very strong preference for a site recommended in the application for the following compelling reasons.

The powerlines now being routed were authorized by the MPUC with conditions attached. Among them are conditions that require Xcel Energy to purchase power from 60 MW of locally-owned wind generation capacity, aggregated in two 30 MW nodes. Xcel Energy is also required to provide substation capacity for these aggregations. CWS was formed to develop one of these two 30 MW aggregations, and the New Nobles Substation will provide substation capacity for this aggregation. CWS has identified sites for its 30 MW aggregation within a couple miles south and east of Reading. These sites have excellent wind regimes, wind rights that are available to CWS, and landowners who are willing to host the CWS Project. While easements securing these sites have not yet been executed (as of July 8, 2004), easement documents for these sites have been prepared, and we intend to execute them shortly.



www.nawo.org email: gwillc@mtn.org

Board of Directors: Laurence LaFond chair, Shirley Little Bird Vice Chair, Lea Faushee Secretary/Treasurer,
Jan Attridge, Bruce Drew, Ralph Hülgenndorf, Rosalie Wahl,
George Crocker, Executive Director.

The sites we have selected, which are capable of supporting between 10 and 18 generators, depending on the size that is most advantageous when the time comes to purchase turbines, are all in close proximity to each other. They are also in close proximity to the substation location options near Reading, as contained in the application filing. These factors are vital in terms of keeping construction costs and operating line losses down, thereby giving the aggregation a chance to be economically viable.

In addition, the roads that would be used during substation and turbine construction if a substation site near Reading were selected are all sufficient to support such construction.

The CWS Project will have many partners, and will provide a very important economic development function for the region. More than likely, it will also provide significant direct public benefits for local communities. Siting the Chanarambie New Nobles Substation at some other location remote from the sites in the vicinity of Reading, however, would prevent CWS from having the opportunity to achieve these benefits, and fulfil the conditions in the Certificates of Need, as ordered by the MPUC. Therefore, we urge you to reject all other possible remote locations for the New Nobles Substation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

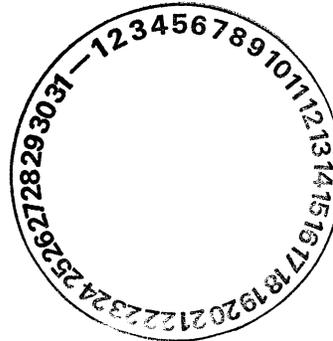

George Crocker
Executive Director



1414 West Hamilton Avenue
P.O. Box 8
Eau Claire, WI 54702-0008

August 13, 2004

Mr. John Wachtler
Minnesota Environmental Quality Board
658 Cedar Street, Room 300
St. Paul, MN 55155



**RE: IN THE MATTER OF XCEL ENERGY'S APPLICATION FOR A ROUTE PERMIT FOR A 345 KV HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE AND A NEW 115-KV HIGH-VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE IN SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA
DOCKET NO. 03-73-TR-XCEL**

XCEL ENERGY COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT MEQB ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT SCOPING DECISION

Dear Mr. Wachtler:

Thank you for providing Xcel Energy the opportunity to participate in the CATF meetings for this project. We believe the meetings were helpful in gathering additional route segment suggestions as well as highlighting some of the issues the EIS should address for this project. Xcel Energy has reviewed the July 22, 2004 draft scoping decision and offers the following comments:

Alternative Routes

Xcel Energy does not oppose the addition of the route segments to the current Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV routes that you described at our August 10 meeting at your offices. Xcel Energy commits to support EQB staff in gathering additional data. We would, however, suggest that an attempt be made to limit the number of additional segments along the Chanarambie to Nobles County 115 kV line. This will help reduce the overall number of routes that would be reviewed in the EIS.

General Transmission Line Impacts

- The impacts generally on the Buffalo Ridge area as a historical and cultural resource.

Xcel Energy is aware that the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has raised the issue of a perceived need to study impacts of wind development on the "Buffalo Ridge" generally as noted in Section 7.1.2 of our application. The Company is concerned about addressing this issue in



Schedule

Xcel Energy will support staff efforts to develop the EIS in a timely manner. We would support measures that would allow an EQB decision earlier than April 2005.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 715-839-4661. We would be happy to meet with you and discuss our comments in more detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pam J Rasmussen'.

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Permitting Analyst

c: J. Musso
G. Stevenson
L. Agrimonti



detail for our transmission line projects since we believe this issue is beyond the scope of this specific project and more appropriately addressed at an agency level.

- Potential property value changes on residential and commercial parcels

See comments below relating to right-of-way payments.

- Zoning requirements and project compatibility with local land use planning.

The Company believes that consideration of local zoning requirements is not appropriate in a routing proceeding. Xcel Energy is concerned that local governmental bodies will seek to impose their zoning requirements in contravention of the MEQB's clear authority. The Power Plant Siting Act vests the MEQB with the express power to issue a route permit for the 115 kV line and the 345 kV line, which permit would be binding on local governmental entities. Once granted, "[s]uch permit shall supersede and preempt all zoning, building, or land use rules, regulations, or ordinances promulgated by regional, county, local and special purpose government." Minn. Stat. § 116C.61. Accordingly, while the zoning classifications and uses along the routes are relevant to analyze impacts, consideration of zoning requirements and project compatibility are not proper because it would go counter the statutory preemption.

- Construction, operation, and closure effects upon the local economy (jobs, property taxes, change in property values, residential turnover rates) and right-of-way payments.

Xcel Energy has no major concerns with addressing these topics, as required by the rules. However, the Company believes it would not be appropriate in this proceeding to debate the amount and propriety of right-of-way payments, as these issues are outside the scope of this routing proceeding. We request that the scoping decision state that the propriety of right-of-way payments and the issue of whether those payments are adequate will not be considered.

Issues To Be Addressed In Additional Detail In The Environmental Impact Statement

- Analysis of the risks and impacts of the transmission lines on waterfowl and wildlife in wildlife management areas and wetlands, as well as methods to mitigate any problems created by nearby transmission lines.

Xcel Energy will work with MEQB staff to provide additional information on this issue.

- Assessment of the regulatory, legal, and safety issues that affect whether and how far transmission line poles can be placed in or near highway and roadway rights-of-way.

This issue is related to the zoning requirements and project compatibility with land use category discussed above. Again, it appears that local governmental authorities may be seeking to circumvent the MEQB's authority. While the Company believes that safety issues and line placement are properly part of the EIS, regulatory and legal issues are not appropriate because, as noted, the MEQB has preemptive authority.

Public Comment Form
Environmental Quality Board

Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line
Nobles County Substation
Nobles County to Chanarambie 115 kV Transmission Line

OPTIONAL INFORMATION:

Name:

Grant Post

Address:

Chanarambie Township

Representing:

himself

Comments regarding the proposed lines:

From telephone call.

- General complaints / concerns and specific request. Upset about how enXco wind project near Chanarambie Substation and his house changed the landscape and his lifestyle so dramatically - for the worse. Unhappy with view, noise, maintenance trucks, feeder lines, transmission lines.
- Unhappy with turbine access road locations and power pole locations; not at agreed upon locations
- Finally, request study of feasibility of

Please return comments to: John Wachtler, EQB Project Manager, 658 Cedar St., Room 300 Centennial Office Building, Saint Paul, MN 55155 or email them to john.wachtler@state.mn.us

Consolidating existing enXco 34.5 feeder & existing 69 kV line with new 115-kV line on one set of poles - feasibility analysis.