

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Section 3.0
Oral Comments

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

**Lonsdale 11/12/09 1pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#147-160)**

Overland, Carol

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#147

147a. I'm looking at the EIS, and on page 6-7, Figure 6.2.1.2-2, structural variations and calculated magnetic field strength at various distances from transmission. There's lines listed here and they list amps, and this line is not included in the circuit. It's a bundle of -- let's see, I'm forgetting now. This is 2085 MVA capacity lines, that's assuming all things are great and running at the highest capacity. But the amps listed here are a range like 827, 644, 247 amps. There's something seriously wrong there, those numbers are not right. So I urge you to recheck it.

(See response to FEIS ID#1c)

Wade, Phillip

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 6 of transcript)

FEIS ID#148

148a. I've noted during my life that under these rather large towers there's pretty wide strips of land that are clearcut. How is that going to affect the wildlife, and how will it affect the landowners with that -- that strip? Will you guys be buying that strip? Will that be an easement? How does that work?

(See response to FEIS ID#53c and FEIS ID#95c)

148b. I know that with the access to that property, I know that like the high line tree line, there's a pretty wide strip underneath that that's empty for truck access and stuff. Would that happen the whole strip, or not?

In addition to the NESC safety clearance standards the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) requires utilities to keep vegetation away from power lines. Vegetation management within the transmission line ROW is critical to the reliability, maintenance and operation of the transmission line. The extent of the vegetation removal will depend on a number of factors including type of vegetation, proximity to the line, and overall health of the vegetation. During easement acquisition the applicants would work with the landowner to determine what vegetation removal will be needed. If vegetation is removed that serves a

function such as living snow fence or wind break the applicant will work with the landowner to plant and reestablish new vegetation compatible with being located within the transmission line ROW.

Richie, Dennis

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 7 of transcript)

FEIS ID#149

149a. "I just want to comment on that. The utility likes to keep that strip clear, 'cause when they inspect the line and for access into it. It's preferred not to have any trees, anything other than, you know, you can put farm crops in, you know, corn, beans, whatever, but no trees, no structures. You can still farm, but they don't want anything else underneath that line..... If there is brush underneath the line that hampers their access, they take all of that out. They have to have access for their equipment for servicing and inspection of the towers. So if there's no immediate road access, you know, where you drive off a gravel road and cross the ditch and you have a tower right there, it's out in the middle of the field, they have to have access to that. And you can look all over Minnesota and they'll have these large right-of-ways and they are clear of everything except grass or corn crops."

Comment noted.

Balfany, Mike

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 9 of transcript)

FEIS ID#150

150a. If you look on the segment 5 alternate route and alternative route 5A 04, these encompass both 50th Street West and 57th Street West in Webster. And that will bring the power lines within one-half mile of Webster's Sky Harbor Air Park.

(See response to FEIS ID#7b and FEIS ID#113a)

150b. Concern brought up in the EIS as far as it pertains to agricultural GPS systems, and I had read a report here recently that had aircraft GPS systems being affected by out of band frequencies and I'd like to have that researched and be addressed.

(See response to FEIS ID#7b)

Vikla, Margaret

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 12 of transcript)

FEIS ID#151

151a. I don't think that this power line is that necessary.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Betchum, Judith

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 14 of transcript)

FEIS ID#152

152a. If they request an easement and take an easement on a farmer's land or anybody's land, a landowner, are taxes still due on that? Are you compensated for the use of the land? Is there a time limit on that?

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

152b. I am assuming the health repercussions of the power lines have been addressed, if not, they should be.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

152c. The easements, then, they can confiscate your land, though; is that correct? Or you're not qualified to answer that question?

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

152d. So if you're going down the road and there was a house here by the road and a house here by the road, if they had to they would curve the line to avoid those?

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

152e. When Mike talked about the GPS at the airline and the farmers, most of the big farmers now use GPS to plant their crops. And I don't know what the distance is on the interference, but that is critical.

(See response to FEIS ID#80b)

Call, Kayland

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 18 of transcript)

FEIS ID#153

153a. What size of a footing does a 200-foot tower require and how does that affect groundwater? Because most of us are on wells and it might have an impact on that.

(See response to FEIS ID#18c and FEIS ID#104d)

Nasby, Dave

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 20 of transcript)

FEIS ID#154

154a. The comment on the depth of the footings I do not believe. Because they just put some big power lines through Faribault, new poles, steel, and one pole from the corner, which I saw the hole dug, was 35 feet deep, 12 foot in diameter. Now, you're going to put -- and those power lines are not as big as what you're talking about here. So I do not believe that that is going to be the minimum or the maximum on footings.

The depth of the footings was corrected for the record. They can be 30 to 40 feet deep. (See response to FEIS ID#104d)

Overland, Carol

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 21 of transcript)

FEIS ID#155

155a. But the big issue with the well water is concrete leaching. And it leaches chemicals into the groundwater. And that's something that should be considered. If it's not in the EIS, it is something you should consider.

(See response to FEIS ID#18c and FEIS ID#104d)

Richie, Dennis

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 21 of transcript)

FEIS ID#156

156a. Maybe for all of us you can comment on why there's a need for this power line to begin with

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

156b. Are there other alternatives to a 345 kV line, and say a multiple of 115 lines, which are not intrusive at all, you know. They're shorter to wers, we see them all over the place, the H towers. Any time you get much over 115 you have a lot of issues with interference. You know, whether it's AM, FM radios, the TV, analog, I'm not sure how it affects the digital TV. But if you're getting TV off of an antenna that might be an issue. I mean, there's a lot of issues here. And if you have farm animals next to you or anywhere close to a 345 kV line, I can guarantee you your cows are not going to want to go ahead and milk.

(See response to FEIS ID#4a, and FEIS ID#18b)

Pankow, Cheryl

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 24 of transcript)

FEIS ID#157

157a. Is it true that you're telling farmers to pull chains behind their tractors when they're going to kind of ground them when they're going under the lines?

(See response to FEIS ID#8a and FEIS ID# 45b)

Balfany, Anastasia

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 25 of transcript)

FEIS ID#158

158a. I'm just wondering why you're not going down a major corridor that already, you know, bears power lines, like Highway 19 to 35W, why was that not addressed and why is that not an option?

The applicants have indicated that the routes were largely selected based on trying to follow existing ROW such as highways. However, these routes often also have residences along them. Routes were reviewed during the process and the public scoping process. Some of the suggested routes were rejected for various reasons, such as a particular route not meeting the need of the project or because a particular route would have to go through too many small towns. Based on, but not limited to, the information in the EIS, the hearing record, and ALJ recommendation, the Commission will make a decision on the final route permit in spring 2010.

158b. I guess my concern is that you're giving people such a short amount of time to comment on something that is so tremendously important.

(See response to FEIS ID#87a)

Scheffler, Hillary

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 29 of transcript)

FEIS ID#159

159a. I have a farm about a mile west of here and my building site is close to the road. The house is less than 100 feet from the original power lines. So the way I see it on the map there, the new power line would be across the road, which would put it 300 feet or closer to our house. That would be pretty close then.

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

159b. And it would run along my whole 76-acre farm on the opposite side of the road. But as far as I see, I would be compensated nothing, while the neighbor whose house, you know, would be a long ways from the line, they would get compensated for having the line go over their property. But here you'd be living right in the face of it when you look out your window and you get nothing.

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

159c. You know 300 feet is a health hazard.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

159d. Well, I work with heavy equipment, and I was down in Savage working on them power lines, and I know I could feel a tingle in my knees on certain days. They're tall, so if that power is coming down to the ground that far, it's going a long ways.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

Lund, Tara

Lonsdale 11/12/09, 1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 32 of transcript)

FEIS ID#160

160a. I was looking at the map and just noticed that Cedar Summit Organic Dairy Farm is not really shown on there as being within the 150 feet or the yellow lines. But it is, you know, that I think would be a good thing to have rechecked because the dairy farm is running right there. And

I'm still concerned about that. Plus, we are in a floodplain there, so I just wanted to mention that.

The location of the Cedar Summit Organic Dairy Farm is not within the ROW, as shown on map FEIS ID#160 in Appendix C. Section 6.8.1 of the DEIS addresses organic agriculture. As noted in the DEIS, the operation of the transmission line will not impact organic farm status. The applicants have also prepared an AIMP, approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), which outlines measures to avoid impacts to organic agriculture (see Appendix D).

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**Marshall 11/17/09 1pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#161-167)**

Wambeke, Dan

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#161

161a – “The first one is section 6.1.1, the section on visual and aesthetic impacts. There is a quote in there, it says, Indeed, the agricultural areas, meaning here, the power poles would be visible on clear days from up to two miles. I think that might be underestimating the visual impact a little bit. With as flat as it is here and with as few trees, I think it's going to be a dominant feature of the landscape for two miles. I'm sure they'll be visible longer than that, quite possibly up to 10 miles. I know I can see power poles that are less than half this height that are three miles from our house. So I think that should be changed a little bit.”

(See response to FEIS ID#143a)

161b – “Section 6.1.5, that's the impacts to tree groves and wind breaks. I was grateful to see this in here because I was one of the people that was lobbying that it should be considered, but I don't think it quite accurately captures how this type of impact affects people. There are a number of things in there that I think need to be changed.

Number one, Figure 6.1.5-1, it's a picture that's included with it, and the caption of the picture is A Typical Farmstead Wind Break. Now, the photo is of a house and there are something on -- it's hard to tell, but there's something like 10 trees next to the house. In this part of the state that's anything but a typical wind break. I don't know what would be the average number of trees, but I'm sure people in this room could probably tell you how many trees they have. I would guess it has to be over 100. So I think a new photo might be a good idea right there. I don't know if you have access to other photos, but I'll send you a photo of my house and you can use it if you want. We have, just on the west side of our property, we have about 120 trees. And I'm sure a lot of people have a lot more trees than that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#18a and FEIS ID#143b)

161c – “The next item pertaining to this is that there's just kind of a vague statement that says during public scoping meetings residents of western Minnesota identified the importance of trees for privacy, shade and wind screen protection around rural residences and farmsteads. I think that needs to be just spelled out a little bit better to really explain the impact that these do have. Because the wind breaks that are there are intentionally placed. They're designed in a certain way to get the wind to go up and over. And the location is really important, they're not just willy nilly placed, they're placed in a specific spot for a specific purpose. And the purpose is, in addition to helping out the aesthetic value of the place, it also helps to reduce heating costs and

snow removal. And, you know, when a blizzard comes through here, there's a lot of work to remove snow if it wouldn't be for those being in place."

(See response to FEIS ID#18a)

161d – "the third item that I want to bring to your attention regarding that. A little bit farther down it says that the Applicants indicate that the preferred route and alternate routes have been located to avoid the removal of trees to the greatest extent possible. And I'm sure that's true, but what I think this is getting at here is there's actually a difference between the purpose of a wind break or tree groves and impact to, let's say, a wooded area because these wind breaks are intentionally placed. So it may very well be true that the impact to wooded areas has been limited as much as possible, but I think it should be noted in here that by and large the impacts to wind -- to wind breaks and tree groves can be avoided in this part of the country. Just because they're in a specific spot, an alignment shift can very often be used to avoid this impact. Something as simple as going to the other side of the road, or in cases where there isn't a road, just shifting it over 50 feet might be all it takes to avoid having to take out any trees at all. So I think there should be a statement in there that reflects that."

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

161e – "Another item, this is a specific item. I'm talking on the corners of sections 1, 2 and 11 and 12, and on the maps with the EIS these are -- this spot is visible on maps SL 17 and SL 18, as well as the map on 7.1-13. There's a small wetland that I'm not sure if it's properly represented. It looks like there might be a small dot that indicates that there's a wetland there, but I think the dot needs to be larger. Because I think the square footage is about an acre in that particular spot. And in that particular spot, whether or not the alignment were shifted or anything, it's going to be the same impact there. So I would ask you to look into that and perhaps correct the maps and also the stats that are in the section 7.1.4.11."

(See response to FEIS ID#143e)

161f – "My next item pertains to Section 7.1.4.1, which talks about the human settlement impact for the Brookings to Lyon County. It's correctly noted a couple of narrow areas where there's some difficulty because things are directly across the road from each other. And that's good and I'm glad those are noted. That's a good start. I think there probably needs to be more that are identified. I was noticing in the section that talks about Lyon County to whatever the next one over was, there was some sections in there where different kinds of narrows were noted. Like, for example, there's one spot where -- northeast of Milroy where it was noted that the current alignment is fine, but if the alignment would change that would have a big impact on a home

which is immediately on the other side of the road. That's the kind of detail that I would really like to see up and down this line. And I know some of that is taken care of where people have requested an alignment change, something like that. But even in cases where people haven't requested that, I think there should be more of a detailed analysis that, you know, on this segment there are this many homes on the north side versus homes on the south side, that kind of thing. So anyone here, when it's your turn to come up, if you have issues like that, now is the time to bring them up."

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

161g – "I'd like to see just a statement or two sentences. And this pertains to the section northeast of Marshall on the preferred route, where the line runs from 340th Street South to 290th Street. The current alignment is on the west side of an existing 115 kilovolt line, and from talking with Dan Leshner from -- I don't know if he's here, but from Great River. It doesn't sound -- that sounds like a pretty straightforward alignment, but for the purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement, I think it should be noted what the -- what's at stake if that were to be changed. If that were to be shifted ever to the east side of the road, there's two properties that would be very much affected. One is a half mile south of 320th Street, and that particular farm site would have the line -- it's hard to tell, I didn't measure, but from the satellite photos I would guess 85 feet from the house. And they have a number of trees removed. The other one is the place where I live and in our particular case we would be about 100 feet from the line. We would lose approximately 120 trees. We have a hog barn that would be in the way.

Map FEIS ID#161 in Appendix C shows the location mentioned above. See also response to FEIS ID#39a.

161h – "And in addition to the normal impacts of losing trees, one thing that -- one small thing we do, we produce maple syrup and we sell it locally. We're not a big producer or anything like that, but we've got a lot of feedback from the people who purchase here who are grateful that we're doing it because they don't have to go to Wisconsin to buy it and that kind of think. And I think that's probably a land use impact, but that could be noted. And that's all I have on that."

Comment noted.

161i – “The one other item I wanted to bring up, just sort of a general comment on Section 6.2.1.3, which is a section that talks about the health effects of EMF. There's nothing specifically in there that I would take issue with that, in terms of the fact. The one thing that I do feel, though, it kind of -- it reads very much like just a statement that, well, there's all this stuff out there, but no one has been able to come up with a strong argument that there are health effects, and it kind of leaves it at that. I think it would be beneficial, you know, it's not the purpose of the Environmental Impact Statement to take a position on what the effects are, but there are experts out there that look at the same data and come to different conclusions. So I think it might be helpful in that section to perhaps summarize what some of the opposing viewpoint from an expert might be. I know that there's some testimony that is being -- or has been submitted to the docket on this from some intervenors that are farther east on the case, and there's a particular case where there's some evidence available. It would just be nice to see a summary in there, this is what the opposing viewpoint is.

(See response to FEIS ID#143h)

Sterzinger, Tom

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 12 of transcript)

FEIS ID#162

162a – “By December 1st will you now where the line will actually be?”

The regulatory process is discussed in Section 3.3 of the DEIS. A route would be chosen by the Commission at some point in the spring of 2010.

162b – “Right now you have several different lines, how do we know if we need to oppose what's going on?”

All possible route alternatives as identified in the Scoping Decision Document are discussed in the DEIS.

162c – “So March 30th they'll know where the line most likely will run and at that point you can still possibly realign it or – what if it is right in front, possibly, where our dwelling is at, and I'd be very much opposed to that because I don't want any power lines where we live over the top and we have children. Because they don't have anything to find is there any health risk. Nobody knows yet. And if they do, no one is actually going to say it does cause cancer.”

The applicants have indicated that they do not intend on displacing any homes or businesses. (See response to FEIS ID#2a and FEIS ID#39a)

Holmberg, Daniel

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 16 of transcript)

FEIS ID#163

163a – “I'm wondering how close these lines can be to a wildlife area?”

Wildlife resources are discussed generally in Section 6.12 of the DEIS and specifically for each route alternative in Section 7.

163b – “The alternate route of this line on the map as is proposed will go between the house, which is on one side of the road, and the livestock buildings which are on the other, and they're both real close to the road. And after they get by this building site, then it's routed north a mile. If they would route that north a mile two miles sooner, they would avoid all that. But where it has to turn the corner it's on the edge of a wildlife area, so I'm wondering if that's the problem?”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

Vankeulen, Ken

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 17 of transcript)

FEIS ID#164

164a – “I'm just curious, maybe you covered this before, Scott, but what's the reason that we're staying so close to the road and not trying to go through sections or fence lines or, you know, away from residences? Is there a reason that that wouldn't be more -- we wouldn't be seeing more of that?”

Section 4.4 of the DEIS addresses ROW requirements. Existing ROW were used when possible and areas along the route alternatives that share an existing ROW are noted in the DEIS. Also, as stated in the RPA, in selecting the preferred and alternative routes, the applicants were guided by the factors set forth in Minn. R. 7850.4100, which includes use or paralleling of existing ROW, survey lines, natural division lines, and agricultural field boundaries.

164b – “That brings up another point, then why wouldn't you go on larger thoroughfares if larger right-of-ways already exist?”

The extent to which each route alternative utilizes existing corridors has been evaluated and is presented in the DEIS.

164c – “The reason I mention that is generally you see on some of the larger roads people are usually set off a little further than some of these small rural roads. My house in particular, we've got a pinch point there, and I'm not 75 feet from the road, so there's going to be an issue there when it comes to the preferred route.”

The house mentioned above is shown on map FEIS ID#164 in Appendix C. (See response to FEIS ID#39a)

Sterzinger, Ron

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 20 of transcript)

FEIS ID#165

165a – “Is there a distance they have to stay from a well?”

Section 6.1.7 of the DEIS discusses domestic water well installation/maintenance with regards to the proposed project. (See response to FEIS ID#104d)

165b – “The line going by a dwelling, is there a distance they have to stay from that dwelling, or can they go right over the thing if they want?”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

Youngsma, Lucas

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 20 of transcript)

FEIS ID#166

166a – “That point of 75 feet is measured from the pole, not the furthest out power line, correct?”

See Figure 4.4-1(Typical right-of-way requirements for 345-kV portions of the project) in the DEIS.

Boerboom, Galen

Marshall 11/17/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 21 of transcript)

FEIS ID#167

167a – “I'd like to know if you would confirm or deny any health issues with a high voltage power line.... So you're saying that there is no health issues, if I'm understanding you right?”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

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**Henderson 11/19/09 5pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#168-186)**

Messerli, Allen

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#168

168a. The commenter proposed a route during scoping along RR ROW in Sibley Co. Route does not appear in EIS.

(See response to FEIS ID#82c)

Straub, Art

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 5 of transcript)

FEIS ID#169

169a. The commenter is concerned that meetings regarding this project were taking place prior to the acceptance of the application.

No public meetings initiated by OES were held prior to the date on which the Commission issued an order accepting the RPA (January 29, 2009). It is likely that public meetings held prior to that date were hosted by the applicant. Section 3.0 of the DEIS provides a detailed description of the regulatory process for transmission line siting and routing.

169b. The commenter is concerned that no representatives from the City of LeSueur were present at the public meeting.

Notice of public comment meetings on the DEIS were made public and any members of the public including City of LeSueur officials were welcome to attend the meetings.

Rist, Linda

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 7 of transcript)

FEIS ID#170

170a. The commenter is concerned about whether or not flooding in the River Valley near Hwy 93 and Hwy 169 was considered.

Rivers and floodplains in the Henderson area are discussed in section 7.4.4.11 of the DEIS. Considerations associated with the Minnesota River floodplain in the vicinity of the junction of State Hwy 93 and U.S. Hwy 169 are also provided in that section.

170b. The commenter is concerned about potential impacts to groundwater possibly happen to the groundwater?

(See response to FEIS ID#18c and FEIS ID#104d)

170c. The commenter is concerned about whether or not consideration has been given to big woods that will be impacted by the line.

Section 6.12 (Flora and Fauna) of the DEIS discusses potential impacts to vegetative communities and mitigation measures that could be implemented.

Casey, Irene (31827 Tyrone Rd, Le Sueur, 112-25-22 (TRS))

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 9 of transcript)

FEIS ID#171

171a. My comment is that I have small acreage,160 acres, which would be enclosed -- encompassed by the power line. I already have two power lines entrapping my farm and I feel it's totally unfair to have a third power line entrapping the same acreage.

The approximate locations of the power lines mentioned by the commenter are shown on the map FEIS ID#171 in Appendix C. These lines are not part of The Minnesota Electric Transmission Mapping Project Geographical Information System (GIS) data set created by the Minnesota Land Management Information Center and are assumed to be distribution lines. The distribution lines approximate locations were mapped using information from the commenter and high resolution aerial imagery.

Amman, Lori

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 9 of transcript)

FEIS ID#172

172a. As far as the state's concerned, has this been approved, the line? I mean, is it going through, it's just a matter of where?

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Bohlke, Wayne

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 10 of transcript)

FEIS ID#173

173a. The commenter has expressed concern about questions of need and reliability?

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Ruhland, Theresa

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 19 of transcript)

FEIS ID#174

174a. (In) Derrynane Township, Scott County. I know it's too small for any of you to see, but there is an existing 350 kilovolt power line running kind of at an angle across this area. And the proposed line creates little power triangles where many people's property and homes would be totally surrounded by 350 or higher power lines on all sides of them. I guess a triangle has three sides, but on three sides within a mile (indicating throughout). And I think this is very unfair...

Comment noted. A map of this area with existing transmission lines identified is available on map FEIS ID#174 in Appendix C.

174b. the DNR is suggesting west of us to have more north/south crossings to get from the alternate and preferred routes so that they have ways to address the river crossing. But there's a small section of line, which happens to be on our property, probably a two-mile-long line that has no alternate. It's both the preferred and the alternate.

In the area where the applicant's Preferred and Alternate routes are overlapping, there are opportunities to avoid the north south connector in Derrynane Township by following the Preferred Route until Derrynane Township and then following the Alternate route, or vice versa. In addition to the applicant's proposed routes, there was an opportunity during the scoping period to propose additional route alternatives.

174c. I know that through these meetings and procedures other routes have been suggested. I would appreciate it if they were seriously considered and that all options be looked at as far as routes for this power line.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Kamrath, Duane

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 21 of transcript)

FEIS ID#175

175a. Commenter would like to go on record opposing placing the line in the river valley near Buck's Lake.

Comment noted

175b. Commenter requests that a copy of the EIS be placed in the LeSeur and Belle Plaine Public Libraries.

The DEIS was sent to both the Belle Plaine and Le Sueur public libraries for public review purposes. In addition, copies of this FEIS will made available in Belle Plaine and Le Sueur public libraries, among others.

175c. The commenter is concerned that no representatives from the City of LeSueur were present at the public meeting.

(See response to FEIS ID#169b)

175d. Commenter is concerned about how the 1000ft. corridor is measured.

The 1000 foot ROW is measured from the proposed centerline along a horizontal plane.

175e. Commenter is concerned about pole structure type.

Pole structure types are discussed in detail in Section 4.3 of the DEIS.

175f. Commenter notes the “buy the farm option.”

The “buy the farm” provision is discussed in detail in section 6.1.4 of the DEIS.

175g. Commenter is concerned about the non-aerial river crossing option near LeSueur.

(See response to FEIS ID#87)

175h. Commenter is interested in the possibility of attaching the line to existing towers and or using existing ROW near the Belle Plaine River Crossing.

Routes using the existing ROW near the Belle Plain River Crossing were evaluated in the DEIS and is part of the applicants Alternative Route as identified in the RPA. However due to engineering and safety concerns the existing structures would need to be replaced in this area with new triple-circuit structures and could therefore utilize the existing ROW at Belle Plaine.

Fahey, Kevin

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 35 of transcript)

FEIS ID#176

176a. One question, the noise issue, is there a noise issue with these power lines?

(See response to FEIS ID#18b)

176b. Commenter is concerned about the involvement of the ALJ and his capacity to read and synthesize all of the comments.

RPAs for HVTLs are subject to environmental review in accordance with Minnesota Rule Chapter 7850, which defines the procedures for the routing process and the role of the Administrative Law Judge. Part of Rule 8750 requires the applicant to identify an alternate route. The specific route and/or substation location(s) will not be identified in the DEIS or FEIS. The Commission will make a decision on the final route permit in spring 2010.

176c. Commenter is concerned about property value impacts.

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

Dietz, Shonna

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 42 of transcript)

FEIS ID#177

177a. Commenter has concerns regarding plans for building a home and potentially an airstrip at 195th Street Avenue and 300th Avenue.

The locations of planned new houses, airports or similar private development are not included in the number of residences, airport conflicts, and similar data comparing routes in the DEIS. This is, in part, because of the difficulty of confirming these plans without specific construction permits or similar verification. Nevertheless, the potential conflict between a new transmission line in your area and your specific development plans are documented in your comment letter and are therefore part of the project record. The potential conflict can therefore be taken into consideration by the Administrative Law Judge and the Commission when making the final route decision as well as by the utility during final design should the route that affects you be selected. The area the commenter identified is shown on map FEIS ID#177 in Appendix C.

Straub, Janet

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 44 of transcript)

FEIS ID#178

178a. Commenter has concerns regarding how and which comments the ALJ will review.

(See response to FEIS ID#176b)

Unidentified

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 45 of transcript)

FEIS ID#179

179a. Commenter has concerns regarding how the complexity of the application, CON and routing process.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Hahn, Vera

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 49 of transcript)

FEIS ID#180

180a. Commenter has concerns regarding who will use the power carried on this transmission line and the need for the project.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Bohlke, Wayne

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 52 of transcript)

FEIS ID#181

181a. Commenter is concerned that City of LeSueur officials did not attend the Henderson, MN public meeting.

(See response to FEIS ID#169b)

181b. Commenter is concerned about the forum for public participation in the CON and routing process.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Sickman, Larry

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 57 of transcript)

FEIS ID#182

182a. I've just got one question, how many more routes are being planned?

Section 2.3 of the DEIS discusses the other lines planned as part of the CAPX 2020 project.

Kamrath, Duane

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 59 of transcript)

FEIS ID#183

183a. Commenter is concerned about how information from the EIS and EIS comment period is communicated to the ALJ.

(See response to FEIS ID#176b) Comments received by the OES during the DEIS comment period are reviewed, responded to and included as part of the FEIS and will be submitted to the ALJ as well as being incorporated in to the docket record

Helmberger, Joel

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 64 of transcript)

FEIS ID#184

184a. Commenter requests that the undergrounding section of the EIS be expanded to include: cost difference between above and below ground, setback requirements, opportunities for directional boring vs. digging, etc.

The applicants indicate that for 345 kV aerial transmission lines NERC requires annual ground line inspection. GRE also performs monthly inspections via aircraft. Total annual cost of inspections and maintenance for aerial lines is \$300 to \$500 per mile. For underground lines a monthly inspection of termination locations are typical. Annual inspection cost is similar to aerial, \$300 to \$500 per mile. Maintenance is most often associated with a cable or termination failure. Section 4.6 of the DEIS addresses the other questions posed by the commenter.

Burns, Michelle

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 67 of transcript)

FEIS ID#185

185a. Commenter requests that the routing process and how public comments are considered throughout the process be more clearly explained.

(See response to FEIS ID#176b)

Katzenmeyer, Mark

Henderson 11/19/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 71 of transcript)

FEIS ID#186

186a. Commenter requests a description of the poles that will be used for this line.

Pole structure types are discussed in detail in Section 4.3 of the DEIS.

186b. Commenter is concerned about potential for double circuit 345kV line.

Section of 4.3 and Figure 4.3-1 of the DEIS provide a description of the segments of the line that will be constructed using double-circuit capable structures strung with a single 345 kV circuit and segments that would be constructed using double-circuit structures strung with two 345 kV circuits.

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

**Lakeville 11/13/09 1pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#187-203)**

Maccabee, Paula

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#187

Paula simply asked two questions of Scott to help steer people in the right direction as the sort of comments they should make during the meeting. Scott responded to both questions during the meeting.

187a. "Mr. Ek, you've mentioned that you want people to testify to things in the EIS, but if they have issues like unique land uses associated with their property, or perception or information about effects on property values for their property, isn't that also part of what -- is part of this EIS discussion?"

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

187b. "you had mentioned at the -- the OES would be making a recommendation as to route. Is that going to be based on the information in your environmental impact statement and your information that you're gathering?"

The OES will consult the docket record which includes, but is not limited, to the EIS, public hearing documents, and the ALJ report when making a recommendation to the Commission on a route for this proposed project.

Priebe, Karen

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 11 of transcript)

FEIS ID#188

188a – Wetland on property 23820 Main Street in Hampton

"There are cattails and wetlands on the portion of the property where the alternate route from Great River was proposed"

Wetland impacts are discussed in section 6.11 of the DEIS. The detailed wetland data used in the DEIS is provided in Appendix B of the FEIS (FEIS ID#46). Wetland data in the DEIS are based on the NWI data; no wetland delineations would be conducted until a route permit has been issued by the Commission.

The applicants have indicated that wetland impacts will be avoided by spanning wetlands where feasible. Any permanent wetland impacts would be mitigated under the conditions of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit, and would comply with the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act as well. Wetlands within the vicinity of 23820 Main Street in Hampton are shown on map FEIS ID#188 in Appendix C.

188b – Monarch butterflies and pheasants that live on the property

“about every three or four years, the monarch butterflies land en masse on the trees on that property. I don't know if that has any bearing on this, and pheasants that live in that wetland, but I just wanted to bring it to your attention...”

The state is not aware of any evidence that monarch butterflies are impacted by HVTLs. Impacts on wildlife are discussed in section 6.12 of the DEIS.

Miller, Carolyn

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 13 of transcript)

FEIS ID#189

189a – The city is poised for growth and the line would cut the city in half.

(See response to FEIS ID#55a and see Section 1.0 “Problematic Route Segments”)

189b – Elementary school

“I was also very disturbed to see that one of the plans on the table includes running the line very close to our new elementary school.”

Proximity to schools and other human settlement features have been noted in section 7.5.4.1 of the DEIS and the location of these features, including the Elko New Market Elementary School have been noted on map 7.5-13 in the DEIS.

189c – Health effects of being near the line.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

Sirek, Math (2591 E. 260th St. Webster, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 17 of transcript)

FEIS ID#190

190a – The line would take down windbreak.

The windbreak identified by the commenter is identified on FEIS ID#190 in Appendix C.

(See response to FEIS ID#18a)

190b – Restored Wetland

(See response to FEIS ID#188a)

The wetland identified by the commenter are shown on map FEIS ID#190 in Appendix C.

190c – Stray voltage and magnetic fields

(See response to FEIS ID#2a and FEIS ID#8a)

190d – Plans to expand Hwy 2 to four lanes would push the line closer to houses.

(See response to FEIS ID#100a)

**Johnson, Trish (3940 220th Street East, Hampton Township)
Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 19 of transcript)
FEIS ID#191**

191a – “In the small segment of the route from just west of milepost 14 until the proposed new Hampton electric power substation, there are 28 homes impacted with at least 64 adults and 14 children.”

The proximity of each route to homes, places of worship and other human settlement features has been evaluated in the DEIS. An analysis of Human settlement features within the route segment from the Lake Marion Substation to the Hampton substation is presented in Section 7.6.4.1. Unique land uses and human settlement features along 220th Street near Hampton have also been noted on map FEIS ID#191 in Appendix C. (See response to FEIS ID#39a)

191b – “In this small stretch of route, I personally know of six adults with or in remission from cancer, another four adults and one child with a chronic illness and subsequently compromised immune system, and two older adults with pacemakers and defibrillators.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a and FEIS ID#46f)

191c – “There are three homes where grandparents are providing daycare to their grandchildren. There's a home daycare that has four children under the age of six.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

191d – “The Cambodian Buddhist temple, a unique religious, and cultural institution, is one of the largest in the United States. It is also located on the applicant's referred route on 220th Street. The temple serves a community of over 8,000 Cambodian Buddhists in Minnesota. There is housing on the property and the monks live there full time, as well as having worship services. Outdoor celebrations are held several times a year at the temple, drawing attendance from the surrounding states. In April, our family attended the Cambodian New Year's festivities at the temple with about 2,000 Cambodian families. This is two-day-long, outdoor celebration with young families, babies and toddlers, elders and teens. There was a communal dining, and the celebration of the New Year with singing, dance, and ancient Buddhist traditions and ceremonies involving all ages. Over 800 signatures from temple members have been sent to the OES requesting an alternate route that would avoid their religious center.”

The Buddhist Temple located on 220th Street near Hampton has been identified and discussed in section 7.6.4.1 of the DEIS. See also response to FEIS ID#191a.

191e – “Another unique land use is a racehorse breeding operation on 220th Street, right across from the temple. Their pastures border the road right-of-way. The owners derive their income from contracts to breed mares and raise foals for clients in the racing industry. Horses in this industry can be valued at tens of thousands of dollars. And the conditions under which mares breed foals, including impacts of electric fields, are important to customers in this competitive business.”

(See response to FEIS ID#8 and FEIS ID#191a)

191f – “There's a photographic studio along the proposed route that specializes in outdoor photography, emphasizing photos of families and their children. Their gardens are used as the studio for this business. This is another highly competitive business, which the owner has told me would not be viable with the current proposed preferred route.”

(See response to FEIS ID#191a)

191g – “The Hampton Woods, designated by Dakota County as an area of outstanding biodiversity significance, has 4,000 feet of frontage along 220th Street. It contains a large tract of sugar maple/red oak forest. The Hampton Woods provides habitat for a diverse number of natural plant species as well as wildlife.”

(See response to FEIS ID#191a)

191h – “My husband and I have just completed converting 100 acres parallel to 220th Street to natural prairie, with contributions from the Dakota County DNR and the U.S. Department of Agricultural Natural Resources Conservation Service. Our goal, working with those conservation agencies, was to provide additional habitat for wildlife in the area, to mitigate floodplain issues, and promote the natural environment.”

(See response to FEIS ID#191a)

191i – “In the DEIS, two routes are available, 6P-03 and

6P-06, that would mitigate the impacts on 220th Street. Either of these routes would avoid the 4,000 feet of frontage from the Hampton Woods, would reduce the impact on the unique religious, and cultural institution of the Buddhist temple, would reduce impacts to the wetlands associated with the south branch of the Vermillion River, would impact fewer homes within 500 feet of the power line, and would reduce impacts on vulnerable people who would live even closer than that to the CapX 2020 Brookings line if the utility's preferred route were selected. On behalf of our family and our neighbors, I request the FEIS for the Brookings power line clearly say that alternative route 6P-03 or 6P-06 causes less harm to people and the environment in the Hampton area than the CapX preferred route on 220th Street. And that one of these alternatives should be chosen to mitigate the impacts on children, health, property values, and unique land uses that would be caused by the CapX route on 220th Street.”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Howard, Karen (24580 Dakota Ave. Lakeville, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 24 of transcript)

FEIS ID#192

192a – Property is a release site for the Wildlife Rehab Center in Roseville.

Comment noted.

192b – Questions the accuracy of the wetlands on her property.

(See response to FEIS ID#188a) Wetlands within the vicinity of 24580 Dakota Ave. in Lakeville are presented on map FEIS ID#58 in Appendix C.

192c – Electromagnetic field and health effects

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

192d – Majestic Hills Ranch for Children and the effects of the line on children with pacemakers, defibrillators, wheelchairs, crutches and braces; or children with autism.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a and FEIS ID#58a)

192e – Noise/hum

(See response to FEIS ID#18b)

192f – Ability to bury the line

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

192g- Property value (cancerphobia)

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

Johnson, Kristen (21960 Darsow Ave. Hampton, MN)
Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 19 of transcript)
FEIS ID#193

193a – Preferred and alternate route are 75 feet from house.

As shown on map FEIS ID#191 in Appendix C, this residence is located 85 feet from the proposed centerline.

193b – Health effects (Children and adults that are immune compromised and/or in cancer remission)

(See response to FEIS ID#2b)

193c – Home value and ability to sell home

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

193d – Noise

(See response to FEIS ID#18b)

193e – Unique land use including 100 acre prairie land preserve and Hampton Woods

(See response to FEIS ID#191a and FEIS ID#39a)

193f - Buddhist Temple

(See response to FEIS ID#191d)

193g – Commercial land use including daycare provider, stud farm, and indoor/outdoor photography studio.

Comment noted. (See response to FEIS ID#191a, FEIS ID#191c, FEIS ID#191e and FEIS ID#191f)

193h – “On behalf of my family and neighbors on and near 220th Street, I request that the FEIS for the Brookings power line clearly state that alternate routes 6P-03 or 6P-06 causes less harm to people and the environment in the Hampton area than the CapX route on 220th Street. This alternative should be chosen to mitigate the impacts on children, health, property values, and unique land uses that would be caused by the CapX 2020 route on 220th Street.”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Rice, Terri Ann (4500 222nd East Hampton, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 36 of transcript)

FEIS ID#195

195a – Commercial use for photography studio would be impacted.

(See response to FEIS ID#191f) The location of the photography studio is shown on map FEIS ID#191 in Appendix C.

195b – “I would like to recommend, also, that the line be moved from the preferred route to the 6P-06 or the 6P-03, which would take the preferred route's affected homes from some 28 to three. So there is a huge change right there just by changing that routing.”

Comment noted

195c – “was if it caused interference with satellite systems. Being out in the country, you do not have the option of having cable, you have to have satellite. And my business runs off of satellite web and I need that to upload my orders, that's a big part of my business.”

(See response to FEIS ID#4a and FEIS ID#18b)

195d – Humming and sparking from lines.

(See response to FEIS ID#18b)

195e – Aesthetics

(See response to FEIS ID#10a)

Helmberger, Cindy

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 41 of transcript)

FEIS ID#196

196a – Property Value

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

196b - it seems like they just really have not tried to work with existing right-of-ways along the interstate or other roads or other land where they already have the right-of-way.

(See response to FEIS ID#164a)

196c – “there's just no compensation for the noise or -- I'm assuming, they're going to have to have lights on the lines because of airports being nearby and the height of those. So, again, you know, you're going to be distracted by those lights.”

The applicants will comply with FAA regulations (see Section 6.9.2 of the DEIS); however lights will not be required along the transmission lines. See also response to FEIS ID#18b and FEIS ID#10a.

196d – “as far as fire protection, those are massive lines. If they go down, if there's sparks, they need more fire protection. I think that the energy company should be paying for that.

(See response to FEIS ID#2b and FEIS ID#55a)

Maccabee, Paula

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 44 of transcript)

FEIS ID#197

197a – asks Scott to mention the “Buy the Farm” Provision. “Scott, you know, there's a mention in the EIS about the Buy the Farm provision, but if people didn't see that, maybe you could also let them know it's available.”

(See response to FEIS ID#95c)

Maas, Terry

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 46 of transcript)

FEIS ID#198

198a – Why have some of the routes been rejected already? Mr. Maas points out 5P-02 and says it has been rejected. Scott explained that some of the routes did not meet the need in the certificate of need.

5P-02 was not rejected. Mr. Maas misread the scoping document.

198b – “But one thing I think we should do is stand as united as we can and try to get our legislature to pass -- to get rid of the loophole about public utilities not having to pay fair market value. I think, as I understand it currently, the law is city, state, county, or federal have to pay fair market value, public utilities are exempt on that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

DeRoche, Terry (19421 Normandale Rd. Prior Lake, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 51 of transcript)

FEIS ID#199

199a – “a study should be done about burying the lines and using the heat that's generated from these lines to heat houses in these communities that they run through.”

Comment noted. The question is beyond the scope of the EIS.

Smith, Gary

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 54 of transcript)

FEIS ID#200

200a – “My other son and I are in the elk business, and presently I've got a herd of 41 elk out there. And I've done a little research and I found out firsthand, too, that the elk are kind of sensitive to stray electricity.”

(See response to FEIS ID#8a)

200b – “And, you know, I've got a good personal friend that lived by one for a while. And she told me every time she went to hang clothes out on the clothesline, she got a shock. And I know where those lines were, about 50 to 100 feet away from her house, and they weren't as big as these. So that's a concern, it's a health concern.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a and FEIS ID#8a)

200c – “And, of course, the devaluation of my farm, who the heck's going to buy it? I mean, I don't want it there. I farm that land. Now, I'd have to farm around all these towers that you're going to put up. Granted, you'll only maybe put three of them up, put that's enough”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

200d - "My son that's in the hay business, we're contemplating going into center pivot irrigation, and they're not going to work with power poles in the middle of my farm"

Center pivot irrigation is addressed in section 6.8 of the DEIS. These locations do not show up on the map as center pivot irrigation because center pivot irrigation is not currently in use at these locations.

200e - "I would propose if you want a strip of land through there, then you pay the taxes on it. Because the taxes I'm going to pay on that farm for the rest of my life, it's going to eat up whatever you gave me for an easement. And I still can't sell it when you've got those voltage lines running over it. Or, another proposal, why don't you pay me royalties on the power that's going through that power line for the rest of my life -- for the rest of that power line's life. Think about that. You're renting -- you aren't even renting the land from me, you're taking the land away from me and making a lot of money off of that."

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

Howard, Karen

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 61 of transcript)

FEIS ID#201

201a - "When you said that you didn't believe that electromagnetic fields were dangerous, there's been study after study after study saying they are. So I will disagree with you on that, respectfully."

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

201b - "one thing I want to say is when you build a road or when anybody builds a road, any county, any state, there's an easement already there. People put their homes off the road. They don't build them on the road, generally. Why can't -- and maybe because it adds another mile, two miles, three miles, that's a lot cheaper. They've already got the easement, why don't they follow the road system and quit going through these towns and over all these homes? They're ruining everybody's life. Go along the roads where there's already easements."

Comment noted

201c – “there have been lawsuits where, when the value of the property goes down like, say, twenty thousand down to ten, lawsuits have been won against utility companies. And it's been in Florida, Texas, and I don't remember the other state for sure -- New York. Okay. They've all won. I, for one, will sue if my value goes down. And I'm in agreement with everybody, I don't care if you give me \$10,000 for an acre. You're going to pay me for that little spot that your easel is on -- or whatever you want to call it, your line is on, but you're really ruining all the space between those poles, also. Because there is heat generated and there is electromagnetic fields. My animals aren't going to like it, I'm not going to like it. The poor kids that come out to the ranch are probably going to react, and I don't know what to say to you to say this is a dangerous situation. Especially for my property when I've got all these kids on defibrillators and pacemakers and braces. Those electromagnetic fields are dangerous.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

201d – “Just one more comment. If you bury the line, there's no more magnetic field to worry out about.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g and FEIS ID#54d)

Maccabee, Paula

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 64 of transcript)

FEIS ID#202

202a – “putting the lines underground will shield from EMF. Also, putting them underground permits to them to do phase cancellation. And, for example, in the 115 power – a 115 kV power line, the level of EMF, if you have it overhead, remains above two milligauss for as many as 50 feet. If it's underground, within 25 feet, there's no home that has even one milligauss, which is the control level in all these studies. So it is true that burying is not as simple as what people might think. Because right immediately above where it's buried, there might be still magnetic fields. But the -- even at a very short distance, like 25 feet, the health effect -- the level of magnetic fields goes below any of the studies showing correlation with health effects.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g and FEIS ID#54d)

Overland, Carol

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 1pm meeting (comment begins on page 65 of transcript)

FEIS ID#203

203a – “Yesterday you had said that foundations were ten feet deep, has that been corrected on the record today?”

The depth of the foundations was corrected on the record. They can be 30 to 40 ft deep.

203b – “I would like everyone to know that on page 6.7, where there's this chart showing EMF levels projected, the amp levels are way, way low, perhaps by a factor ten. All the modeling, everything in here is based on this (indicating throughout). This is information that came from the utility. It was not vetted or verified in any way by the Department of Commerce. And this is what they're basing the EIS on and this is what they are basing the impact on all of you landowners. So you need to know that these numbers are way off. And I'll be submitting, you know, specifics, but this is a 2,085 MVA line, and to think that it would be 875 amps, 827 amps, 355 amps, that's ridiculous. It's off at least by a factor of ten, if not a factor of 20, and you need to know that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1c)

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**Marshall 11/17/09 5pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#204-208)**

Lasnetski, Dee

Marshall 11/07/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 11 of transcript)

FEIS ID#204

204a – “I'm a nurse, and so I've been doing research just on the health risks and everything and I guess I don't have anything good to say about it. There is just -- there is risk for, you know, we are having small children, there's like six small children just on a mile road that are elementary age or younger, that are at an increased risk of leukemia and there's other health risks for prostate cancer, other cancers, breast cancer, and all this other stuff. And, you know, some say, yes, you can't necessarily prove it, but we've been doing studies since the 1970s on this stuff and they're finding this information that in the future we're going to be finding out more information on this stuff, and I don't see how these power lines can be put close to residential areas and put people at risk for, you know, who knows, maybe 20 years down the road we'll find out, but I don't want to put my family at risk at this.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

204b - once you guys decide like in March or April, how soon before you start putting them up?

The applicants anticipate that construction of the line would begin in the fourth quarter of 2011 as discussed in Section 2.10 of the DEIS.

Lacek, David

Marshall 11/07/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 6 of transcript)

FEIS ID#205

205a – “your preferred route, you're going down a minimum maintenance road, and it's not much of a road, the culverts are bad, and with cement trucks, who's going to maintain that road that's all busted up?”

(See response to FEIS ID#2b)

Nielsen, Richard

Marshall 11/07/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 7 of transcript)

FEIS ID#206

206a – “Why do you go around DNR ground? Why don't you go right straight through that and use that for the main lines instead of a lot of other things? It can be done, yes, but as a rule, when there's a lot of DNR ground, they stay away from it. Is it going to harm the pheasants? And it will go near her house with her kids. Is the wildlife more important than people nowadays?..... DNR is ground that everybody in the state puts money in and owns. And I guess as a rule, most -- I know we got some fish and wildlife people that wouldn't want it to go through, but as a rule, the majority of the people would much rather see a line cut across country through a bunch of DNR ground, or maybe some scenic ground, rather than put it right in front of somebody's house or in their backyard. I just don't think we're looking at people's lives much.”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

Lasnetski, Dee

Marshall 11/07/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 11 of transcript)

FEIS ID#207

207a – “Is there any way that we can rethink where these are going? You know, now that everybody is looking at this and going, wow, this is going to seriously happen, because I was talking to neighbors and talking to people, that's kind of the realization that we're getting to now. Can we look at this again and go, you know, is there better ways, you know, cutting either across DNR, you know? I mean, we're farmers, but I would rather lose land to put up these power lines than to risk anything health wise down the road, or anything with, you know, we got dairy farmers, everybody out in our area risking anything like that. You know, can we look at anything down the road here?”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

Lasnetski, Andy

Marshall 11/07/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 12 of transcript)

FEIS ID#208

208a – “Was there any studies done in relation to the livestock? Or was there anything -- did that weigh anything on the routes? The livestock producers in the area who are next to the line, the dairy farmers and the cow producers?”

(See response to FEIS ID#8a)

Brookings County - Hampton
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**Lonsdale 11/12/09 5pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#209-233)**

Braucher, Jim

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#209

209a – “not knowing that much about it, but you gather all the scoping data and you never do make a decision, your department, on where the route is, you just gather the data and assemble it?..... So the judge rules on the route, every route would be his decision based on your comments and recommendations?..... So at some point in time, you define the route, whether it's an alternate or a preferred?”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Dietz, James (Lanesburgh Township, Section 14)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 6 of transcript)

FEIS ID#210

210a – “I have a couple of questions on where or who did or if there has been yet, the wetland study done or the environmental studies, where we can find information about all that. Because I looked on the website and I really didn't see a whole lot of that information. Because -- in Section 14 is where I reside. Within a quarter mile of one of the determined routes there is a wetland that was just developed within the last five years. And there's a lot of migratory fowl that go back and forth crossing the line.....

the migratory fowl go on my property. I have some CRP that's set aside for wetland. And on another property, which is on the border of Section 14 and 15, they developed a wetland for ducks, geese, and they'll spend -- sometimes they'll stay there longer because there's a better area for them.

(See response to FEIS ID#53c and FEIS ID#188a)

The wetlands within this area are identified on map FEIS ID#210 in Appendix C.

210b – “(Canadian geese will) be crossing the high line or the voltage, and I’ve read that it screws them up if they cross the EMF fields. Well, different studies say different things, but have they done a study on this where we can look at it that’s up-to-date?” Well, there were some studies with the Canadian geese when they migrate, that if large flocks go through the EMF fields they get disorientated and sometimes for two or three days before they can figure out where they are again.”

Impacts on migratory birds are discussed in Section 6.12.2.2. The proximity of waterfowl and other wildlife habitat is detailed within each of the route segment discussions in Section 7.0 Details on the magnitude and extent of EMF fields are provided in Section 6.2.1. Electric and magnetic fields from generated from HVTLs decrease with distance. In the case of this project EMF levels would limited and ultimately diminish at distances of 300 feet and greater, well below the migration height of Canada geese.

210c – “Now, is there any place written that we can find that there are any real benefits for, specifically, Le Sueur County or any of the counties where the line is running through or just where the substations are stationed”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

210d – “Does Le Sueur County take any power from the line that’s running through?”

As discussed in Section 2.4 of the DEIS, two components of the project’s purpose are to provide community load serving benefits and to strengthen the transmission network in Minnesota. Electricity carried by the transmission line would, in part, serve Le Sueur County.

210e – “say somebody wants to put up a windmill or a wind generator, not a small one, but a larger one, do they have the ability in the future to tap into that line?”

As discussed in Section 2.4 of the DEIS, the project will add increments of transmission capacity to the network to support the continuing development of new generation. This includes wind generation facilities. The ability of a specific wind generation project, however, to access the transmission line would depend on the approval of the wind developer’s application to the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) and other applicable permits and conditions.

Morrison, Gail

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 13 of transcript)

FEIS ID#211

211a – “can you describe what the power line looks like, how tall is it and how wide it is?”

In general, towers would be 130 to 175 feet tall, with foundations that are six to twelve feet in diameter, and a 750 to 1,100 foot span between structures. (See response to FEIS ID#186a and FEIS ID#186b)

211b – “How large is the easement, assuming that there needs to be an easement purchased?”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

211c – “I notice that property values are one of the factors that are considered in routing this. Can you tell me how the property values are calculated and what role they play..... because the property I'm concerned about is farmland, but would hope to be developed. So the value would become virtually useless for development down the road. Nobody wants to build right next to a big power line. I mean, how does that get factored, how do you estimate that??

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

211d – “one last question, can you tell me why or what factors were considered to create the 5A-04 alternate where it's along 60th and then goes up Elmore over to 50th, the corner of 50th Street, and then east. Yeah. I mean, originally -- the original route -- the first alternate, stayed on 60th. And then at a -- supposedly somebody suggested it go up Elmore to 50th, and I'm wondering if you could tell me what factors that?

The public suggested route and alignment alternatives to the applicants' proposed routes through comments received during the scoping process completed in June 2009. Route alternate 5A-04 was one of the alternatives suggested by a member of the public and included in the scoping decision document. The Scoping Decision Document is included in Appendix F of the DEIS.

211e – “Does the alternate to the alternate, is it just as likely a route?”

The route identified as “alternate” is as likely to be chosen as the route identified as “preferred.” (See response to FEIS ID#176b)

Sandberg, Scott

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 23 of transcript)

FEIS ID#212

212a – “As I’m looking at this map, it looks like most of the route is along existing road right-of-way, some of it is not. Does the EIS prefer -- is there a preference in the EIS for an existing road right-of-way over a place where there is no right-of-way, and if so, how do they quantify that?... I understand there is a preference for existing right-of-ways, it's not absolute, it can be overridden. But is there any type of a scale or anything, you know, a house versus an existing right-of-way, is there any way that they quantify that, or it just, this is what we prefer and then we're going to weigh it all?”

(See response to FEIS ID#164a)

Morrison, Gary

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 23 of transcript)

FEIS ID#213

213a – “to mitigate the environmental impact, what are the thoughts about burying the line along the chosen route versus hanging the line as presently --?”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

Doyle, Chuck

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 31 of transcript)

FEIS ID#214

214a – “I'm one of over 50 residents from Webster Township, the Sky Harbor Airport. And I know there's been a lot of the studies done on the environmental studies, but obviously we have a safety concern as well with the location of the alternate 5A-04 routing on 50th Street. But, also, I was wondering if, due to the revenue from the airport, do the county and the township -- it's extremely large per capita, and I was wondering if there's been any impact studies on that if we're no longer able to use the airport, what factors would become of that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#113a)

Hautman, Linnea

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 34 of transcript)

FEIS ID#215

215a – “I first would like you to help me find my house on there tonight because I don't live on a road. I live on – my driveway is way off of Leaf. And I have some concerns, I read it pretty carefully and one of them is the health impacts on insulin pumps. They're not sure -- there's unknown impacts on that. So I have concerns about that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#3a and FEIS ID#46f) The residence is shown on map FEIS ID#215 in Appendix C

215b – “And I have concerns about where my house is located, and it seems like it's going to be like right in my backyard. And so I look at that whole -- that whole 75-foot area and it seems like it's going to be right there.”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

215c - "one of my concerns is it addressed noise levels, and it talked about the fact that, you know, different noise levels are normal in different areas. Well, we built our dream home in the woods, and we don't have neighbors close by. And we built it to live in the woods, in the quiet, so if the power lines give off any sound, that would be, you know, very difficult for our lifestyles or what we wish."

(See response to FEIS ID#18b)

215d - "I'm also concerned because our garage is right there, which is right near our house, and it talked about fueling vehicles within 100 feet of the line. And that's one of my concerns, was our lawn mower"

(See response to FEIS ID#45b)

215e - one is the corona effect on cell phones. And anybody that lives in my area can tell you that we are kind of in a horrid spot for cell phones right now. I have to have a specific phone with a specific antenna that raises up so that I can get reception in my home. So I was concerned about that since I have very poor reception right now anyway.

(See response to FEIS ID#4a)

215f - perceived unattractiveness, and that was one of my concerns. Because I chose to live in the woods and then, all of a sudden, that's there.

(See response to FEIS ID#10a)

Sackett, Nancy

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 39 of transcript)

FEIS ID#216

216a – “A couple other clarifications: One, when you talk about the 345 lines, could you -- I feel like there's a lot of people in here who may be -- this is maybe one of their first meetings, and explain that this is a double 345. And that even though they're not going to put it into activation necessarily right now, but that is proposed, that this will be a double-circuit 345. I know -- I learned at one of the last meetings that you can't add it together to make it 690. So I'm learning my electricity. But is that still accurate?.”

Double-circuited 345-kV lines are not equivalent to a 690-kV line. An overview of HVTLs is provided in Section 4.1 of the DEIS.

216b – “And just two quick questions about the ALJ's final decision and such. So when the ALJ makes their final decision, it cannot be changed at that point, once it's the final, final, final decision?”

The DEIS and the FEIS are not decision making documents, nor is the decision of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). (See response to FEIS ID#176b)

216c - “my real question is, you only have 30 days to apply for or sign on or however you want to say it, for the Buy the Farm Act. And so I'm -- and it's only 30 days. I'm just saying, at what point, at what date -- I know you can't give me a specific date, but what decision date do people have to make that -- start thinking about that?”

(See response to FEIS ID#95c and FEIS ID#2e)

216d – “And the bus stop issue, was that addressed in the EIS, and which section?... The fact that these lines are going to be going over school bus stops and when -- does this not ring a bell? We wrote in, we commented that -- the New Prague area schools, the lines are going to go directly over bus stops.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

216e – “if it's not on your property -- see, we -- it's going to be south of us. They've already -- it's proposed to be south of us, so it won't directly be on our land. So our property value's going to go down and, I don't know, maybe this is a question for GRE more, that we will get no compensation as far as our property value loss, even though it will be closer to our house than our

neighbor's, but it's on their property..... Well, I guess my concern is that, does the state have any regulation to compensate or help those people who are affected by it, but yet -- I understand the negotiation process, it's up to GRE because they're the one footing the bill, but if they don't -- they're not going to come, knock on my door, and say, oh, this affects you, can I give you some money? But it will -- it will still affect our property value. So I would think that there would be some kind of state regulation to help those people that are going to be affected by it."

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

Simon, Pat

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 51 of transcript)

FEIS ID#217

217a -- "And I just wanted to make a comment on the variation, it's a variation to the alternate. And it's -- on the map back there (indicating), it's 5A-01. But in the scoping document -- or on the docket, it was listed as ALES001 Schmidt (phonetic) and ARIC001. I'm not sure what the last name was on that one. But on Schmidt's -- on his proposal for the change to the alternate route, he made a statement that by -- what it is when you're coming from the west heading east, you hit 164 or 141. He wants to continue that route east a mile and then south a mile back to 28 and then continuing to Lonsdale. And his comment was that he affected only -- by taking that route, he would have affected one home instead of six....his statement is really not true..... And I'd like to actually show you -- if you take that route, we can go back there and I'll show you the yellow dots. Because his statement also says there's -- the ones that are within 300 feet, and there's numerous homes when you get to Le Sueur Avenue going south to County Road 28 that are affected."

(See response to FEIS ID#3a) Residences within this area are identified on map FEIS ID #3 in Appendix C.

217b -- "And when you look at the maps, there's a few homes that are not even shown on the map, Greg Entinger is in here today, and he's -- and I've got his address on here. His address is -- I've got his address, and he can come up to mic, he's not even shown on the map. There's another new home with two proposed new homes next to county road -- or Le Sueur Avenue that are not shown. And when I take that route -- when I drive that route, it's more like 11 homes are affected rather than six. So I'd like to show you on the map where you're missing homes"

(See response to FEIS ID#3a) Residences within this area are identified on map FEIS ID #3 in Appendix C.

217c – “And my last statement would be, I don't know why you'd want to leave the right-of-way and stay on the right-of-way and cross agricultural land -- environmental impacts on agricultural land, and woods, maybe. It's approximately 20 acres and -- pretty much center right through that woods.”

Potential impacts to agriculture and forested areas are discussed in Sections 6.8.1 and 6.8.2 of the DEIS. See also response to FEIS ID#39a.

Entinger, Greg (Lanesburgh Township Section 13)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 55 of transcript)

FEIS ID#218

218a – “If you look at Section 13 in Lanesburgh Township, I'm dead center. I'm a half mile off the road, I chose it that way. I wanted to get away from everything. I spend an extra \$5,000, \$7,000 to bury just my house power back to my property just so I don't have to look at that line. Now, I -- you know, again, as Pat just said, the woods is about 1,000 feet wide? And essentially, you're going to take 150 feet of that. Now, I've talked to a few people. I mean, if that is the route that's going to be taken, aren't we trying to be green here? Why are they cutting down this old growth of trees?

(See response to FEIS ID#39a)

218b – “My dad's a farmer, 40 years on that farm. Where are those poles going to go? In the dead center of his fields. Now, if there's a -- if it does go that route and you have the easement going through there, if we have full-length corn in the fall of the year, if the power goes out or something happens to that line, is it the rights of you guys just to drive through that corn and fix that, or do we have anything to say about it at that point?”

Policies for mitigating agricultural impacts are summarized in Section 6.8.1 of the DEIS. An AIMP has also been developed by the applicants. The AIMP identifies measures to avoid or provide compensation for negative agricultural impacts. See also response to FEIS ID#39a.

218c – “But I do need to give my address because I am not on the map. 13589 300th Street”

Comment noted and address recorded. Map FEIS ID#3 in Appendix C shows the location of this residence.

Overland, Carol

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 60 of transcript)

FEIS ID#219

219a – “I wanted to correct information about Buy the Farm. The Buy the Farm option is found in Statute 216E.12, Subdivision 4. And it means that if they come knocking on your door, meaning if they serve you with a petition to condemn, then you do have the option to tell them, you've got to buy me out. And I recognize that buying you out isn't what you want, you just don't want the power line, and it makes a lot of sense. But this is an option that you have that you need to know about. You have a 60-day window in which to let them know after they have served you with the condemnation petition of this that you want to be bought out. And at that point, it becomes a fight. You have to fight about what the value is. But you can do that, and it's not something that the utilities want you to know about, that's not something the state wants you to know about. But it's something that's very important, an important landowner right that is not found anywhere else in the country. So that exists.”

Commenter is correct. (See response to FEIS ID#95c)

219b – “You have the option -- in the hearings that are coming up, I handed out those flyers, and on the left-hand side, there's hearings that are listed. These are the evidentiary hearings. Not the public meetings, but the evidentiary hearings on the siting part of it. You have the ability as just regular people to come in and cross-examine the witnesses -- or ask them questions, I think, is how it's termed. But you have that option. So if you go there and you have questions that you want to ask the utilities, they have to have their witnesses there, you can ask them questions. If you have information you want to present, you can testify under oath. So you put it together, you know, get a copy of whatever it is that you want to make sure gets in the record. You know, pictures of your land, pictures of what will happen, pictures of the eagles' nests that are, you know, on your property or the neighbor's. Or, you know, whatever it is, the Minnesota River crossings that you want to try to protect. Bring that in and you can sit in the chair and testify about these things as a regular person. That is one of your rights under the laws of Minnesota. And do consider doing that because there's really no way that that's going to get in the record unless you do it.”

Commenter is correct. The entire regulatory process for the project, including public meeting and public hearing dates, is detailed in Section 3 of the DEIS.

Boyle, Duane (3850 West 50th Street)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 62 of transcript)

FEIS ID#220

220a – “And I have a wildlife management area, and I don't know if you're aware of that. I haven't seen it on the EIS. Maybe it's too small, I don't know. Here's the layout I'd like to give you that was made up by DNR..... With the help of the DNR, Minnesota Fish and Wildlife, established four dikes, created four ponds along Chub Creek. Along with the DNR, we planted 4,400 trees and shrubs. Also, all the natural grasses. We now have numerous ducks, geese, pheasants, hawks, turkeys, deer, frogs, turtles, and every other creature of wildlife. I chose Rice County because of its environmental qualities, beautiful rolling hills, wooded areas, and limited to two building sites per 40 acres. Along with my two neighbors, we have a total of 169 acres in wildlife habitat right now. I do not see where a 150-foot power pole fits into this scenario with its humming noises -- my son used to live under one -- and questionable electromagnetic fields. They are not environmentally friendly to crucial wildlife habitats and migration, along with being downright ugly. I would like to suggest or recommend finding a freeway to follow rather than a gravel road so narrow two cars can hardly pass safely.”

Comment noted. The property is identified on map FEIS ID#220 in Appendix C.

220b – “Maybe underground. I have read that Europe has 98 percent underground with their cables. If they can afford it, I'm sure we can. Let all the people that use electricity pay rather than the backs of a few landowners. Or maybe Xcel Energy should spend some of their 643 million that they made last year.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

220c – “Oh, I have one other question. With Big Stone being abandoned, where does this electric -- where is it coming from?”

The project's purpose, including information on the source of electricity to be carried over the transmission lines, is found in Section 2.4 of the DEIS. See also response to FEIS ID#7a.

220d – “What percent do you figure will be wind? I know by 2025 Xcel Energy is supposed to have 20, 25 percent wind energy through this area.”

It is not possible to exactly quantify the amount of wind-generated energy that the transmission line would carry at any given time. However, both the applicants’ RPA and Section 2.4 of the DEIS cite the need to increase renewable generation outlet capability, especially from the wind farms along the Buffalo Ridge area. See also response to FEIS ID#7a.

Overland, Carol

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 65 of transcript)

FEIS ID#221

221a – “Then what's that line going up to the north there, going to Granite Falls if it isn't connected to the former Big Stone transmission? We know that that's what it is.”

As stated in Section 2.4 of the DEIS, the project is part of a longer-term plan to strengthen the transmission network to meet 4,000 to 6,000 megawatts of additional demand for electrical power anticipated by 2020. The connection to the Minnesota Valley substation southeast of Granite Falls helps meet the purpose of strengthening the transmission network. See also response to FEIS ID#7a.

Wagner, Paul (3200 57th Street)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 66 of transcript)

FEIS ID#222

222a – “I am not on the map and neither are two of my neighbors.”

The commenter was mis-reading the map. Map FEIS ID#222 in Appendix C shows the location of the commenter’s house and those of his neighbors. See also response to FEIS ID#3a.

222b – “I’m also part of four groups of guys that got together. We have 160 acres. It’s all woods and wetlands. We have sandhill cranes that nest on my property, I videotape them. Turkeys, deer, pheasants, ducks. That’s why we did what we did there. I don’t want it to go on my neighbor’s, I don’t want it to go on the Dupay’s up on 50th Street, to all my neighbors and friends. I don’t want it to go -- not on my place, but I’m sure as heck ain’t saying it should go to their place. I think it’s a bad deal for everybody.”

(See response to FEIS ID#188a) Map FEIS ID#222 in Appendix C shows the location of NWI wetlands in the area.

Wagner, Robert (23895 Stoppelman)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 67 of transcript)

FEIS ID#223

223a – “A couple of my neighbors couldn’t come here tonight, but I wanted to make comments on their behalf. The alternate route comes within about probably 200 feet of one of my neighbor’s 100-head dairy operation and about 500 feet of another 100-head dairy operation. And that’s in Blakeley Township. Their actually the two largest dairy operators in Blakeley Township.”

(See response to FEIS ID#8a)

223b – “In addition, a third neighbor couldn’t be here tonight, and he has about 1,000 head of hogs, and that’s about 1,000 feet. Now, granted, the hog operation is not as affected as the dairy operations, because there’s been a lot of studies with milk production being affected by stray voltage and things like that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#8a)

Salaba, Deloris (9376 60th Street West, Lonsdale Section 22 Wheatland Township)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 68 of transcript)

FEIS ID#224

224a – “wasn't our road looked at way from the beginning and it was considered not acceptable?”

The preferred and alternative routes proposed by the applicants were considered, as well as route alternates proposed by the public through comments received during the scoping process completed in June 2009. It is likely someone requested the route in question to re-evaluated in the DEIS.

224b – “this alternate to alternate, like Linnea said, it would be going right in back of her house. The gentleman who's sitting right here (indicating), there's, what, three families there. That would go right over their houses. Our home is about 100 feet from the center of the road. Our neighbors are about 75 feet away from the road. So I don't think that alternate to the alternate is good.”

(See response to FEIS ID#39a) Map FEIS ID#224 in Appendix C the locations of residences mentioned above.

Koman, Steve (21595 286th Street Belle Plaine, MN - Le Sueur Township)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 71 of transcript)

FEIS ID#225

225a – “I have a couple of comments related to the environmental impact statement. And the sections here from 6.2.2 through 6.2.4, which specifically addresses my issues with explosives and fireworks storage, I'd like to say I support those comments. Although I found that it was a little superfluous and didn't really go into as much detail as I thought I would see in something like that for an environmental impact statement..... It was just in concern that although the environmental impact statement, you know, mentioned specifically the issues and hazards associated with -- especially with high power voltage lines by our facilities. Although, the alternate routes that were suggested by the applicant were in there, they essentially have rejected those and they are still intending to, you know, at least at this point in time, put that power line where they originally thought of putting it, which is putting my whole business in jeopardy and safety.”

As the commenter notes, the potential impact of electric fields on public health and safety, including effects on nearby explosives and fireworks storage, is discussed in Section 6.2 of the DEIS. The applicants have indicated they would work with the commenter to ensure that the transmission line remains at a distance sufficient to minimize or avoid conditions that would jeopardize the safe operation of his business.

Gassman, Shirley (30584 Highway 13)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 73 of transcript)

FEIS ID#226

226a – “I guess my main point is that the way that the first alternate route is -- or was chosen. I question why it comes along an existing right-of-way on 28, goes north, goes through mid -- section lines for several miles, and then would drop south again on to County Road 28. It just doesn't make sense to me that that would be a good choice. So my main focus is that I really feel strongly that we utilize existing right-of-ways, whatever the route ends up being.

(See response to FEIS ID#164a)

226b – “You know that we were actively involved in the spring and have been at task force meetings. Do we start this entire process over now with the judge as far as giving our input or is the information that we presented earlier on in the year, is that all being taking into consideration or is this like a starting over point?”

(See response to FEIS ID#176b)

226c – “Can you comment at all about the task force recommendation to take that southern I-90 route versus any of the other routes that were originally put in front of them?”

The southern I-90 route was not considered, as it does not meet stated need as described in the Certificate of Need for this project. The Certificate of Need for this project was issued in May 2009 and details regarding the need process can be found at:
<http://www.puc.state.mn.us/puc/energyfacilities/certificate-of-need/011260>

226d – “I listened to Mr. Entinger speak and I know some of our other neighbors are also affected in a similar way, where it was - by going through the middle of section lines, it would go over their homes. And I know one of my neighbors that, I think, is still here, Carmen Moliga, is affected in this very similar way. He put in underground lines to not have lines, you know, up to his property, and this would go very close – or over his home as well.

And then I had also indicated that there are two daycare businesses, one to the east and one to the west of me, who will be very adversely affected should this come through the middle of these sections. I know there were several comments about going underground, and can you make any comment to -- you know, I heard your comments as far as Europe, where they do so much underground lines, do you have any information to tell us why that is – I mean, I know you explained to us the cost and, you know, the various issues with going underground, but what makes them work over there that they can't work over here?.... I think a lot of information that people were pulling was, you know, on the Internet and that type of thing. I'm not an expert at it, by any means, so I can't, you know, comment on how much. But apparently there's, you know, quite wide usage in Europe and I'm just wondering if that could be explored more, or at least, you know, the feasibility of smaller segments, finding a way to make it work.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

226e – “And I know that on our property, everything on the north end, that is the closest to where the line would be, involves fuel barrels for farming, it involves grain bins for storing grain, and being able to access them when the storms come up or, you know, during inclement weather and things like that. So, you know, those are some of my safety concerns specific to my situation.”

(See response to FEIS ID#45b)

Docken, Jeff

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 78 of transcript)

FEIS ID#227

227a – “I have a question in regards to Sky Harbor's overlay, their zoning overlay or veil, whichever you may call it. Does the Public Utilities have authority to overrule or override an ordinance such as that? Say if Sky Harbor were to get their veil in place and you encroach in their airspace by putting this -- can you?... So what kind of a height do you have to have for the lines, that would be my question. Because I'm looking at some elevations and because -- on 50th Street, definitely. I think it would be a problem on 57th Street. It probably couldn't go under it. And they're both -- they both would be in the overlay, in the veil, and so it -- just to the north of it.”

(See response to FEIS ID#113a)

Prchal, Jody (30584 State Hwy 13 and 32155 Sanborn Dr. (County Rd 28) Montgomery, MN)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 80 of transcript)

FEIS ID#228

228a – “I'm not really sure of all this Big Stone and all the different projects that have been thrown around. But one thing, from a state standpoint, I'm hoping that these projects are coordinated so that we're not crisscrossing the state, ruining farms and wetlands, and keeping our natural resources preserved. I think that should be looked at in whatever, you know, capacity to make sure that we're not overlapping things and maybe building things that don't need to be done.”

All public utility projects must apply for a Certificate of Need before the Commission. The Commission determines whether an electric generation, electric transmission or pipeline project meets public needs.

228b – “In regards to the underground high-voltage power lines, as a mom, I sometimes go on the Internet for some down time at night. And I had Googled underground high-voltage power lines, and I came up with a website from Europe, it was called Eurocable or something like that. And I e-mailed them because there was a contact place on there, and I was amazed they e-mailed me back. And they sent me a PowerPoint, and then I did e-mail it to you, Scott. I don't know if you remember that. But there was a lot of information on there that talked about how it can be done. And maybe it is more costly, but like the gentleman said earlier, if, you know, the utilities pay for part of this, have the people that use the electricity pay for it, and it should be highly looked at.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

228c – “my other comment had to do with the I-90 route as well. I wish that would have been given a higher precedence somehow. I know it stems on these substations, but maybe those could have been looked at and tried to get it to the Cities, or wherever it's going, in a different way.”

(See response to FEIS ID#226c)

228d – “my last comment was with the Entinger farm person. My son is a fifth-generation that will someday inherit the land. And when we were picking rocks this spring, all I could think about was walking under power lines. It's not -- you know, it's not something we want our future to be.”

Comment noted.

Boyle, Duane

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 82 of transcript)

FEIS ID#229

229a – “I got my information on underground cables from Leonardo Energy. And there's just a pile of it, you can hardly read through it all. But they've got Italy in there, France,

and just about every European country that is using underground cables. Of course, their population is a lot bigger than ours and they price the land different when power lines go through. They feel like they don't have to use the 150-foot variance underground, they can go with, like, 30 feet. So they're saving a lot of money. But that's all on that Leonardo Energy.”

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

Deering, Sam (437 Cass Court)

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 83 of transcript)

FEIS ID#230

230a – “the 50th Street route, I believe, the elevation there from the EIS statement is 150 feet, not 130.”

Correct, if the commenter is referring to alternative route segment 5A-0-4

230b – “We have a new house that we completed this year. It is not shown on the map. I believe there's one other one on 45th Street that also isn't on there. I don't know when the aerial photo was taken, but there's a couple there to take care of.”

The residence mentioned above is shown on map FEIS ID#150 in Appendix C.

230c – “we're concerned with the property value. We moved quite a distance down to the airpark. There are homes there that, you know, pay quite a premium for the lot.

Everything else is because you all share in the airport rights. And if it's just a grass, you know, pasture at some point in time, that certainly will affect the property value and the ability to resell the house. We're on one-acre lots, not ten or 20 acres or so. So people that -- you know, the 50 homes that are down there are down there because of the runway.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

230d – “The other thing with regards to power lines in Europe, they all use DC current instead of AC current. It makes quite a difference. And next week I will e-mail you some more information on that so you're a little bit more up to speed on that.”

Comment noted. The proposed project is an alternating current (AC) configuration.

Dietz, James

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 84 of transcript)

FEIS ID#231

231a – “It's a story by Neil Lawrence that was released in Midwest Today, April/May of '96. It's about high voltage power lines, links in illnesses and possible causing of cancer.

It was sort of a funny story when I first heard it. A few years ago, a dairy farmer living in Wisconsin near high voltage utility company transmission lines couldn't turn off the lights in his barn. Even with the switches in the off position, night after night, he had finished his chores, he'd go back out to the barn and find the light bulbs still glowing from the electrical charge hovering in the air. The cows were none to happy about it either because the constant light prevented them from sleeping and they gave

less milk. But the story doesn't seem so funny anymore, not after the state of recent records of children developing deadly illnesses or adults dying premature of rare diseases, all apparently because they had the misfortune of living near amounts of high electrical current. A growing body of scientific evidence suggests that invisible EMFs, electromagnetic fields, created by everything from high voltage utility lines to personal computers, microwave ovens, TVs, electric blankets are related to a frightening array of cancers and other sorts of serious health problems in children and adults. This is something a lot of people don't understand and need to be made aware of."

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

Salaba, Clarence

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 86 of transcript)

FEIS ID#232

232a – "my question is, you made the comment that MnDOT doesn't want the line on 169, and I'd like to know why. And my comment is, since when does MnDOT take precedence over all of these people, destroying or disrupting their lives, whether it's on the preferred route or the alternate or the alternate to the alternate? I guess I'd like an answer from someone because it does not seem fair to all of these people to have a big giant like Xcel Energy and all the people, all the corporations that are involved, again, to disrupt so many lives."

(See response to FEIS ID#7a, FEIS ID#87f and FEIS ID#270)

232b – "But you bring up the bridge issue and it was commented so many times about burying the line for short distances, can't that line be buried and be in that corridor?"

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

Coffing, Larry

Lonsdale 11/12/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 89 of transcript)

FEIS ID#233

233a – “I’ve got a small dairy. We milk about 140 cows. It’s an organic dairy on the alternate of the alternate on 50th Street. And we’ve -- in the last few years, my son and I, we’ve expanded the herd a little bit because he wants to -- dairy. So we’ve spent upwards of \$700,000 doing the expanding, and we’re looking at spending four or five hundred thousand again just to expand some more. And we are concerned with the power line possibly running 1,000 feet from the barn with all this stray voltage. And I’ve been involved with stray voltage on my farm already one time. I spent probably 20,000 bucks to straighten it out, and it was on my own farm. But I did have the power company out working with them. And they spent several days with them, and I personally think I just got blown off, to tell you the truth. But I did get it corrected. I hired an outside company to come in and counsel me, and we did get it corrected. Okay. And then, I -- about three years ago, I attended the -- I was at the dairy conference over in central Wisconsin. There was probably 400 dairymen there. And they had a conference -- or not a conference, but -- what do you call it, a breakout session or whatever, that has to do with stray voltage and power companies. And it was all dairy farmers that were all involved. And the meeting started at like 5:00 in the afternoon, it was supposed to last until 7:00. At 11:30, I got tired and went to bed. There were still most -- or not hardly anybody had moved, left the meeting yet, and they didn’t really know what to do. But what impressed me the most is how much these -- how many of these dairymen had so much trouble with stray voltage and they couldn’t correct it. Several of them had been -- had went broke already. And they hired outside companies. Some of the bigger dairy guys that had three, four, five hundred cows had spent upwards of \$200,000 to correct the problem and hadn’t really succeeded. They’ve lost many animals to death, all kinds of different problems, bacteria growth and herd health. It was just -- just a big problem. Anyway, what I’m getting at is, how do I get compensated if I run into a problem? If this power line does go by my property, how do I get compensated for all this investment and maybe no -- maybe not even make enough money to make a living, you know?”

(See response to FEIS ID#8a)

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

**Lakeville 11/13/09 5pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#234-247)**

**Edwards, Patrick (10006 305th Street West, Northfield 55057 Greenville Township)
Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)
FEIS ID#234**

234a – “you discussed on the alternate routes and some of the other routes that had taken place, I -- when this came out on April 30th and when I first got notification that CapX was starting up and everybody got notification of these meetings that took place last April and May, the route that takes place near my house wasn't on it. And then, when I got notification of this meeting, the route was on it as an alternate to the preferred route. And I was just curious how come that wasn't taken with this scoping decision document when you first did it, and -- or was it in there before? And I don't know why it wasn't on the maps before.”

The applicants submitted the “Preferred” and “Alternate” routes in their permit application to the Commission on December 29, 2008. On January 29, 2009, the Commission issued an order accepting the RPA as complete and authorizing the OES to begin work on the DEIS. During the public scoping meetings and comment period prior to the issuance of the Scope for the EIS, suggested route alternatives from the public were accepted. Suggested routes that met the project need were included in the Scoping Decision Document and were evaluated in the DEIS. It is important to note that the DEIS and the FEIS are not decision making documents. A specific route and/or substation location(s) will not be identified in the DEIS or FEIS. The Commission will make a decision on the final route permit in spring 2010. All route alternatives are evaluated and considered equally in the document and data is presented for each of the routes and provided to the Commission. Further information on the regulatory process that governs transmission line routing and permitting can be found in Section 3 of the DEIS.

234b “This is one of the new routes that somebody suggested and now I've got a route going behind my house. Unfortunately for -- I think for this process, it really pits communities against communities, it pits neighbors against neighbors. I don't want this, I want that guy to have it. He doesn't want it, he wants me to have it. None of this seems very fair. I don't like the process at all, but I definitely do not want this thing near my house.”

(See response to FEIS ID#234a)

234c – “Down where I live, they've tried to minimize the impact, as well as a lot of the other country areas where they minimize impact on the amount of homes put in per acreage, one per 40, one per 80, whatever it may be. They haven't clustered homes so it doesn't impact the outlying areas. I have some wetlands that are right behind my house. There's a 20-acre hunting area that my neighbors and I have used for years. There's two dairy farms, one on either side of me, that this route goes within 250 yards of. The – at both places, the cows all are out in the fields where this would go directly over.

My home is up on a hill, it overlooks the valley. So where the power line is proposed is down the hill from me 130 feet. Everything from the southeast side to the south side to the southwest side is going to be one big view of wires from my home. I'm not even going to have the luxury of looking underneath it, I'll be looking right through it."

(See response to FEIS ID#10a)

234d – "The EMF thing doesn't seem to be properly addressed by the Minnesota Utilities Commission. This seems like there's a lot of -- from what I've found so far, because I've really only been looking into this for the past couple of months heavily, but it appears that a lot of private companies go out and do EMF studies and they put up these studies, professors, things like this. A lot of schools do this type of stuff. But I don't find much from utility companies, governments. There was one, like, in Sweden where I found a government survey over there and -- but they all raise alarms about the EMF fields on these wires. So that, of course, is a concern."

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

234e – "My wife and I have started -- well, actually, we're in the starting stages of putting together a bridal business. We wanted to have a place where people can come out and have weddings at our property. This is going to kill that. Nobody's going to want to take bridal pictures or have a wedding with a hum in the background and photos with a 345-kilovolt 200-foot tower in them. So this is not going to place well with my future plans."

(See response to FEIS ID#10a and FEIS ID#18b)

234f – "On a small scale part of the impacts of this, I don't have regular Internet. We don't have cable out there. I get wireless Internet from town, which is going to have to go through these wires somehow. I don't know how that's going to affect that because I know nothing about it. But I can't help but think that a 345 kilovolt power line that hums is going to affect my wireless communications at my home. It's not a big deal, still, it's an impact."

(See response to FEIS ID#4a and FEIS ID#18b)

234g – “I guess the main thing is it's such a beautiful area out there. And I know that you all have beautiful homes that you're very proud of, but to have this thing going through there, I mean, I feel like it should be in places that are already established, highways, roads. It shouldn't be going through anybody's countryside, really. I mean, if it has to go, I really feel like that's the proper place for it.”

The extent to which each route alternative utilizes existing corridors has been evaluated and is presented in the DEIS. See also response to FEIS ID#10a and FEIS ID#164a.

Overland, Carol

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 10 of transcript)

FEIS ID#235

235a – If you look at page 6.7 regarding the EMF calculations, figure 6.2.1.2-2, where it says structural variations and calculated magnetic field strength at various distances from transmission. It lists various levels of amps: 827, 644, 247, 841, 355, 776, 1,006. Well, this line is -- it's a -- and this is important because it has to do with how they calculated the EMF that you may be affected by. And the configuration of the line is a 954 ACSS conductor. Those are just words, but that describes the type of conductor it is. It's a very high capacity conductor. And there's two of them together, it's called bundled, and those have an emergency rating of 2,050 MVA. This is in the record in the certificate of need proceeding. ... if you take the MVA and you put that over the kilovolts and you get the amps. Now, the thing is, the MVA, that's megavoltage ampere -- megavolt ampere, which has a lot of zeros after it. The voltage is 345, but it's 345 kV. There's a lot of zeros after that, too. Not quite as many, there's only three. But if you do that calculation and you take the 2,050 MVA on the top and you put the 345 kV on the bottom, you end up 5,942 amps. Now, here they're talking 800, 300. So something's wrong here. We need to take a look at that.

(See response to FEIS ID#1c)

235b – And another issue that I wanted to raise -- let's see, the property value information. There's a lot of studies out there about property values, so send that in as comments. You know, you can find it. And I'm sure you're concerned what this might do to property values, look it up on the Internet, send it in as a comment, please.

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

235c – Another thing that you should take a look at is -- let's see, Buy the Farm is mentioned here -- no, it's not mentioned here.

(See response to FEIS ID#95c)

Johnson, Robert (3940 220th St. East Hampton, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 13 of transcript)

FEIS ID#236

236a – In reviewing available literature and in consideration of my own experience of appraising properties, I see the value decline curve for properties collocated with ultrahigh voltage transmission lines like the 345 kV power lines of the Brookings project looking something like this: For any habitable property in open areas, whether it does -- whether residential or commercial, that are within 1,000 feet of a transmission line, the property value is likely to drop ten to 20 percent, depending upon the sight lines and the proximity of the power line structures to the ingress and egress of the property. In other words, the higher the ugliness factor, the greater the drop in value. Where poles and lines are closer than 600 feet, but still more distant than 200 feet, I would expect to see a market value discount of 20 to 40 percent. And for any property where transmission lines are closer than 200 feet, I would expect a market value discount of 50 percent or more. And if the strength of the electrical field at the property is two milligauss or above, some people would consider the property to be totally uninhabitable

We would also ask that the section of the draft EIS that addresses decreased property values and is based on research done in the 1990s be updated to reflect a likely greater impact on property values and increased public concern about EMF in our weak real estate economy.

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

236b – “Specifically, my wife and I recommend and support the alternative routes 6P-3 and 6P-6. These are perfectly practical routes which would take much of the lines through open fields, thereby avoiding significant numbers of occupied homes and commercial buildings. Further, we would ask that the final EIS include a statement that these routes cause less impact to human beings and their property than the applicant's preferred route along 220th Street East.”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Ou, Pengsan (2295 220th St. East Hampton, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 21 of transcript)

FEIS ID#237

237a – “I would like to begin to state that we strongly oppose the proposed route that runs along 220th Street, either on our temple or too near to the temple.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b) Map FEIS ID#191 in Appendix C shows unique land uses and human settlement features along 220th Street near Hampton.

237b – “I would like to note that every year we have from -- we have people come together at the temple seven to eight times during a year. Each of which consists of -- between 500 to 1,000 people come together and celebrate. Plus some occasional gatherings when people come to practice the meditation and the -- watching Buddhism....I believe that among the residents along Highway 50, we are the largest people in number residing over there and come to celebrate.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b) Map FEIS ID#191 in Appendix C shows unique land uses and human settlement features along 220th Street near Hampton.

Mueller, Alan

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 24 of transcript)

FEIS ID#238

238a – “Beginning at the back in appendix F, table 1, there's a list of major issues raised during the public scoping period. And I noticed that the top one was health and EMF, which is identified here as having been mentioned 428 times. Next is property value and compensation, 369 times. Then route selection, 297 times; proximity to homes, 294 times; and so on. I won't go through them all. But I tried to pay some attention to how those issues are actually dealt with this in document. And my general reaction to it is, is this a document that is supposed to have been created by a state agency acting on behalf of the residents of Minnesota. When I read it, it reads like a promotional document for the applicants. Over and over again, serious issues are waved off with meaningless or insulting statements. And the issues that I think are really on people's minds are not addressed very seriously. So, you know, given that the basic purpose of this meeting, I think, is to take comments on this document, I think it's a turkey.”

The commenter does not identify the issues that he believes are not addressed seriously DEIS.

238b – “on page 2.0, what is CapX 2020? And I have a question for whoever would like to answer it that I have yet to see answered, just what is CapX 2020? Is it a corporation, is it -- what is its business structure and who owns it, what assets does it have, what are we dealing with here? And it says a joint initiative, but that doesn't tell me anything about what its business structure is, whether it has any assets, whether it has any ability to accept liability for the consequences of this project. So that's my question.”

The DEIS provides on page 2-1, that CapX 2020, “CapX2020 is a joint initiative of regional electric utilities partnering to satisfy increasing demand for electricity in the region by constructing new HVTL. The initiative is made up of 11 transmission owning utilities in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and the surrounding region: Great River Energy, Xcel Energy, Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Dairyland Power Cooperative, Minnesota Power, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Missouri River Energy Services, Otter Tail Power Company, Rochester Public Utilities, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and Wisconsin Public Power.”

238c – “second observation on this box is it mentions increasing demand for electricity in the region. Unless I'm mistaken, Xcel's electricity sales, for example, are down by about 15 percent, and essentially, every utility in the country is seeing a reduction in electricity sales. And although some people would attribute that to the present depression and think that it's going to bounce back, even if it does it's not going to bounce back on the timetable that was used to predict the demand here. So I think that by putting these statements in the EIS about growing demand when there isn't any, you've made a mistake and reveal a bias in

favor of the applicants. So I would recommend that all that kind of promotional language be taken out of the EIS unless you're prepared to defend it or provide some factual information to say that it's actually the case."

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

238d – "At page 4.5, there's a reference to -- there's a statement: Underground lines require additional equipment to compensate for voltage rise along the distance of the transmission line. I'm familiar with voltage drop along transmission lines, but not rise. So I'm curious to know what kind of equipment's being talked about there? It strikes me as being an erroneous comment, that there would be voltage drop along the line but probably not voltage rise.

This voltage rise is referred to as the "Ferranti effect" and is more pronounced for underground lines than for overhead lines. A variety of sources were consulted in preparing the undergrounding section (Section 4.6) of the DEIS and the information presented in this section has been reviewed and is accurate based on existing information available to the OES.

238e – "Now, on the following page there's some discussion of undergrounding for purposes of river crossings. And what I notice here is there are several paragraphs about the downside of undergrounding, the expense, the inconvenience, and so on. But there's no discussion of the advantages of it, the most obvious of which is avoiding of eyesore of having the wires hanging across. But I think there ought to be a balanced discussion in the EIS and not merely a discussion that kind of helps the utilities avoid the expense of doing something in a better way. So I would recommend that you correct that wording."

(See response to FEIS ID#1g)

238f – “at page 5.1, there's a discussion of utility right-of-way acquisition process. And the paragraph on eminent domain says: If, however, a negotiated settlement cannot be reached, the landowner may choose to have an independent third party determine the value of the land acquisition. And there's a little bit more. That's not a definition of eminent domain that I've ever heard from anyone else before. And I had the opportunity to attend a legislative committee meeting last week, at which quite a number of landowners and other people testified about their perceptions of the eminent domain process in Minnesota. And, without exception, they said that they didn't think there was a level playing field and that the process allowed them to be pushed around by the developers of transmission lines. You know, I have not been through the process myself, but I think a more balanced, accurate discussion of that is called for by the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act.”

The eminent domain process is beyond the scope of the DEIS as the Commission does not have jurisdiction over the process that utilities use to exercise their right to use eminent domain.

238g – “But on visual impact here, which is at page 6.1, you say, it is therefore difficult to predict whether a transmission line project would alter the perceived visual character of the environment or viewshed and constitute a negative visual impact. That's a ridiculous statement, if it's not intended as a joke. I've never heard anyone suggest that having a transmission line hung up would have other than a negative impact. So, again, I think you ought to take these kinds of ridiculous statements out of the EIS and replace them with some kind of a more balanced discussion.”

As noted in the DEIS, the level of impact to visual resources generally depends on the sensitivity and exposure of a particular viewer and can vary greatly from one individual to the next. Section 6.1.1 of the DEIS provides a discussion of potential mitigation measures to help reduce negative visual impacts

238h –

(See response to FEIS ID#95f)

238i – “at page 6.6, figure 6.2.1.1-1, there's a chart that illustrates the relationship between electric field strengths and the sensitivity of pacemakers. And what I notice here is that for one type of pacemaker, the field strength on the center line of the transmission line is two to three times higher than the level that could screw up the operation of a pacemaker. And I haven't seen in here, and maybe I missed it, any real discussion of what that means. Does that mean that people who have pacemakers should stay away from the transmission line, and if they live near it they should move, or what? Should they have an ambulance standing by, should they get a new pacemaker? And not meaning to be flippant, but because of all the wording in here that suggests that EMF is harmless, I think you really ought to address the actual dangers that this chart acknowledges.”

(See response to FEIS ID#46f)

238j – “There's some discussion in here about the generation of oxides of nitrogen by transmission lines and its effect on air quality. But there's no estimate of the amount of nox that would be generated by this project, and I think we need some actual numbers here. You're saying, in effect, that the project would not cause violation of air quality standards. Which is probably true, just as if every one of us in this room disabled all the emission controls on our cars and trucks, that by itself wouldn't break the bank. But I think you ought to include here some more meaningful information and not just wave it off that way.....Well, I have some experience with debating air pollution issues and what I'm suggesting is that it would be good to know the actual amounts of nox in pounds or tons or whatever unit you care to use. Because that's how we look at the nox emissions of other kinds of facilities such as a power plant or a truck.”

Power plants and trucks are point sources of pollutants such as NO_x, and pollutant emissions can reasonably be expressed in terms of mass per year. Emissions of nitrogen oxides and ozone from this transmission line will occur in very small amounts spread out over the entire distance of the 230+ miles of the transmission line and would vary depending on weather (humidity) conditions. The impact of these emissions relevant to air quality along the line is therefore assessed in terms of the maximum one-hour concentration. Furthermore, expressing these impacts in terms of parts per million offers a point of reference that allows a straightforward comparison to state and national standards shown in Table 6.3.1-1 of the DEIS.

238k – “at page 6.11, you talk about corona discharge and electrical interference.

And you mention that electromagnetic noise is created in the frequency range of FM radio broadcasting, which pretty clearly acknowledges that there is EMF at frequencies far higher than 60 hertz. You know, FM radio is in the range of 100 megahertz. And it would be helpful to have some discussion of that, some discussion of the frequencies at which electric and magnetic radiation would be produced by this project.”

(See response to FEIS ID#4a)

238l – “on property values, I -- that's already been discussed, but I noticed in here a quote -- this is from a gentleman named Mr. Solum who was hired by NSP to estimate the effects on property values of transmission lines. And the report says in the -- the quote is in the report, Mr. Solum asserted that the very minor positive and negative impacts he observed indicate that there is virtually no impact present that is attributable to the presence of a transmission line and so on. And, again, I don't think that that's a factually correct statement and probably ought to be removed. But in one of these, and I think I'm missing it now, you attempted to enumerate some of the benefits to property values that might accrue from transmission lines. And one of them, and I can't find it right now, was that a mode right-of-way might bring more whitetail deer to the area, and there were some others of that kind. And if you're serious about them, leave them in. But I really think, again, that a more honest discussion of the impact of this project on people's property values would be appropriate.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

238m – “there's a discussion here of impacts on birds and the fact that raptors might be killed by flying into the wires. And I didn't find it, and maybe it is in here, some estimate of the number of birds that would be expected to be killed. You know, usually we look for some kind of concrete estimate, and I didn't find it. Is there one in here somewhere?”

(See response to FEIS ID#20a)

Mackinnon, Jennifer (25526 Pillsbury Ave.)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 39 of transcript)

FEIS ID#239

239a – “the terminology concerns me because I feel that a lot of people look at this alternate route -- or the alternate routes that were originally proposed and they have a -- kind of lulled into compliance (sic) thinking that, well, this isn't going to happen to me and that, you know, the science and the government and the research will prevail. When it's more of whoever cries the loudest and whines the longest is really the people who prevail as far as it not being in their neighborhood, in their front yard.”

(See response to FEIS ID#176b)

238b – “30 feet from my well is the tributary of the Vermillion River. We have fought for years trying to keep it clean, trying to keep the runoff from our neighbor's manure pile from going in there and, you know, not a lot of help from the county or the government and not a lot of feedback or communication addressing our concern.”

Potential impacts to watercourses on the route segment from the Lake Marion Substation to the Hampton Substation are evaluated in Section 7.6.4.11 of the DEIS. The residence and associated well mentioned above are shown on map FEIS ID#239 in Appendix C. Note that the proposed alignment is on the opposite side of the street from the commenter's home and well.

Kruger, Doug

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 43 of transcript)

FEIS ID#240

240a – “the proposed primary route goes right directly across our front part of our pasture, probably about, I don't know, 250 feet from our front door, somewhere in that area.

We've been there since 1987. I wanted to make sure that everybody's aware that there's a stretch of wetlands area that goes from the pond on the north side -- or on the south side of Blaine -- or of Highway 50 and kitty-corners as a tributary to the Vermillion River. It goes through my property, through my neighbors', and pretty much follows the Highway 50 area all the way eventually and feeds into the Vermillion River.”

(See response to FEIS ID#188a) Wetlands within the vicinity of the property mentioned above are shown on map FEIS ID#66 in Appendix C.

240b – “I'm presently having a runway put in right on the end of my property. And as a matter of fact, Dakota Electric is right now burying the power lines at my expense so that I can get in and out of there with a very short takeoff and landing, experimental aircraft I'm building.”

(See response to FEIS ID#66a)

240c – “For us, if the power line goes through the primary route, which is along Highway 50, most probably it will make our property unsellable. And I would be more than happy to sell it, but I'm sure, at this point, they're not going to take health considerations and that kind of stuff into account. So our choices are going to be either try to sell it and can't, or get some form of medical problem, cancer or otherwise, at some point in the future. So it effectively makes us choose between cancer or some form of medical problem or walking away from our house. And if it's unsellable, basically, for us it's going to be walking away from our mortgage and ensuing who knows what kind of credit history after that.”

(See response to FEIS ID#10b)

240d – “In my opinion, at the very least, instead of running these power lines across and down right-of-ways, it would be much, much better to just run it across the middle of the fields. If there's dairy farmers or whatever in the way, then bury it right there, whatever. But it should be kept far as -- far way from the houses and public areas that people dwell in.”

Comment noted. (See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Mumm, David (1055 230th St.)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 46 of transcript)

FEIS ID#241

241a – “the preferred line parallels the crude oil pipeline near my house. And I was under the impression, but I haven't done any research, that that's not supposed to be an acceptable case. What is the story on that?..... back to the requirements between the crude oil and the power line, would that be in this EIS document that's online or is that something that comes later or -- it's probably already figured out, I assume, is what the – what the distance requirements are between the two utilities.....

But there must be a state rule as to minimum distances that -- I'm curious what that rule is, and if you don't know offhand, you can get back to me.

Because we're talking two major -- two major utilities here. We're not talking a natural gas line feeding a house and a local one -- small one-phase service. You know, we're talking major utilities here.....So I guess I'd like to see -- point me to wherever that is at some point, whatever those requirements are.”

The concern with running a transmission line parallel and in close proximity with a gas pipeline is that the corrosion protection system on the pipeline may not work as designed due to interaction with the electric transmission line. There are no set distances. Situations such as this would be dealt with on a case by case basis. Map FEIS ID#241 in Appendix C shows the residence and pipeline mentioned above.

Quinnell, Warren (29479 Chippendale Northfield, MN)

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 50 of transcript)

FEIS ID#242

242a – “I said I've got three center pivot irrigators sitting out here and your line wants to go through the center of my fields. I said I make my livelihood off of farming. If you put them through there, that takes my irrigators out of commission because I can't run them.”

Potential impacts to land based economics including agriculture were addressed in the DEIS. Land use compatibility concerns along the route segment from the Lake Marion Substation to the Hampton Substation are addressed in Section 7.6.4.8 of the DEIS and center pivot irrigation locations in the area are shown on Map 7.6-17. Center pivot irrigators are also shown in more detail on map FEIS ID#242 in Appendix C.

Topp, Bev

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 52 of transcript)

FEIS ID#243

243a – “One of the things that came up was whether or not these two easements might overlap. I know, and it's sad, that we won't know that until you get to the evidentiary hearings, practically, and they name the final line, where it's going to go. But the fact is that they (pipeline and transmission line easements) can overlap. I think everybody should be aware of that. It is okay for them to overlap. So it is a definite possibility that that will happen.”

(See response to FEIS ID#241a)

Ziniel, Nick

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 53 of transcript)

FEIS ID#244

244a – “I just want to put it on the record, we've been hearing a lot about, you know, all the things that can happen, who lives where, what's in front of your house, in back of your house. I just want to put it on the record that I oppose the alternative route. It seems like a lot people are opposing the preferred route. It's unfortunate. We're all in the same position here, nobody wants it. The alternative route, with a lot of my neighbors, I have a few of them that are here, we'll see the power line two times. We'll see it in our backyard and we'll see it on our front yard. Because it's about maybe 1,000 yards going down Pillsbury, which will be in the front of my yard. And then, I'll see it in my backyard as well. Now, it is a distance. But, again, it goes back to that value of seeing it and there -- it's there. So I just went on record that I oppose the alternative route. I don't want anybody upset because the preferred route -- we're all in the same boat. But I think I need to put that on the record because I think it is going to make a difference, the one lady did say.”

Comment noted. (See response to FEIS ID#7a)

Johnson, Robert

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 54 of transcript)

FEIS ID#245

245a – “The first question is that in drafting and working through the EIS process, is it the assumption of your department or agency that the power line is going through? I mean, that's just an assumption made, that's pretty much a given, isn't it?I mean, theoretically

You have no control over the PUC, you're providing information that the PUC will ultimately consider.

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

245b – “Which leads to question number two, which involves a confusion that I think exists possibly in this audience tonight and then involves a question I’ve heard other people ask, which goes something like this: Let’s just pretend for a minute that the CapX utility partners woke up one morning and found that the demand across their system had gone to zero and was going to stay at zero forever, so that the need is gone. What you’re doing and the creation of the EIS and the whole process continues on in any event, doesn’t it? I mean, you have no input with respect to need, you don’t make any decisions with respect to need. All you’re doing is creating the EIS with respect to the routing. Is that essentially correct?”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a)

245c – “lastly as a footnote to that, I was asked a question by a landowner that I did not know how to answer, and that was whether the lines are built along any particular part of the entire Brookings/Hampton route, if for some reason -- if the decision was made that some part of that segment did not need to be built or was not wanted to be built, the utilities could come in and take their right-of-ways and they retain those right-of-ways whether they’re used or not. Is that your understanding, too?”

(See response to FEIS ID#7a and FEIS ID#2e)

Kaufenberg, Ray

Lakeville 11/13/2009- 5pm meeting (comment begins on page 58 of transcript)

FEIS ID#246

246a – “I looked at the count of houses in your appendix in the back, on the Lake

Marion substation to Hampton, I found that it’s still inconsistent with the hand count that was conducted and submitted to you on April 29th, '09, based on the house indicators of the applicant’s application maps. I would request that this house count be reviewed and corrected, if you found them incorrect, by November 30th before the next ALJ meeting. And I would appreciate receiving an e-mail with the correct count, if it’s corrected.”

(See response to FEIS ID#3a)

246b – “I participated in an ATF meeting and I know personally that you received repeated and significant input on one factor for you to analyze, and that was the impact called fairness. It was one of the most important things submitted by the ATF, frankly, not to mention the public. But yet, as I looked through the booklet, I saw no section addressing that as an impact. But yet the input that was received by you talked about fairness in the route process being addressed, fairness in negotiations and land compensation, especially to those who live across from power lines and won't be getting any compensation. Fairness in the accuracy of the data submitted by the applicant. Numerous errors were brought to light to you, very significant errors, where they changed the outcome of what they're suggesting. And fairness in the criteria for route selection and substation decisions. Fairness in the applicant providing mitigation where possible. Yet, as I looked at this book, I saw that you had a table of the most important issues in the back and fairness wasn't even listed in there and it wasn't even in the footnote under other. So it seems to me that was omitted and I'd like -- and I guess I can't help thinking that was intentional.”

The completeness and accuracy of the EIS are based on the Scoping Decision Document. Fairness was not included in the scope and an evaluation of this very subjective issue was not included in the Environmental Impact Statement. (See response to FEIS ID#7a)

246c – “the ATF spent considerable time talking about moving the Lake Marion substation further south to a better site where it wouldn't have to impact the three wetlands that, if it's expanded where it is, would have to be filled in, according to your report. Yet, in the environmental impact statement, there's nothing in there, in that section, about the Lake Marion substation which at all addresses that. So I don't know. People spend time, they research things, they come to these meetings, and you ignore them.”

As explained in the Scoping decision document and at the advisory task force meetings, moving the Marion substation to a southerly location would not meet the stated need as defined in the Certificate of Need issued for this project. The Certificate of Need for this project was issued in May 2009 and details regarding the need process can be found in the Certificate of Need docket at: <http://www.puc.state.mn.us/puc/energyfacilities/certificate-of-need/011260>.

246d – “Under potential mitigation for visual and aesthetic effects, section 6.1.1, you -- it was presented to the public that the look of these posts would be rust colored, which makes it a contrast against the skyline. It was brought up at more than one meeting that I attended you could use colored posts, which are used in Bloomington and other areas. The blue-colored posts that blend in with the landscape. Yet, to my amazement, when I look at mitigation for aesthetics, I see no discussion of colored poles being used whatsoever. I'm not sure what I'm supposed to think about that, but that's the most obvious mitigating factor to the aesthetics.”

Comment noted.

246e – “Under the section on human settlement and mitigation to proximity of homes, I see no discussion in your environmental impact statement of the impact on property values and farming -- continuing farming operations in terms of ongoing monetary compensation. Yet, our ATF group and the public meeting after the group -- or the public input after the ATF meeting, you received a detailed plan for the use of shared sacrifice dividends, which would be given by the utility company to people affected by this power line, both the landowner and the person across from them. Yet, there's not even a word in there. People spent time writing this up, they came to the meetings, and you blew it off.”

(See response to FEIS ID#2e)

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

**Morton 11/18/09 1pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#235-251)**

Anderson, Duane

Morton 11/18/09,1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#248

248a. How do you determine the effects on property value where you put the route through? How are property values determined, what effect that will have on property values...?

(See response to FEIS ID#2e and FEIS ID#10b)

248b. Commenter asks how aesthetic impacts are determined and what affect the line will have on aesthetics.

(See response to FEIS ID#10a)

248c. Commenter asks how health issues, health concerns of the magnetic field created by the power line are determined and what affect the line with have on this.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a)

248d. Commenter asks how these impacts will be remedied.

Mitigation of impacts are discussed for each impacted area in the DEIS.

248e. Commenter is concerned that DNR north-south connector route is an indication that DNR does not support the alternative route

In a letter from the DNR dated, April 30, 2009, the DNR states, "... it is important to have the flexibility to determine the river crossing independent of which overall route to the west is environmentally preferable. This flexibility can be achieved by adding a route segment alternative connecting the preferred and alternate route to the west of the Scott County Minnesota River crossing." Additionally, a meeting was held with representatives of the applicants, OES, USFWS, and DNR on October 5, 2009, specifically to discuss the potential of connecting the preferred and alternate routes west of the lower Minnesota River due to concerns regarding riverine corridors. The routes depicted in Appendix G of the DEIS describe and evaluate potential north-south connector routes including the USFWS/DNR route discussed at the October 5, 2009 meeting.

Schmidt-Harrington, Jeannette

Morton 11/18/09,1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 8 of transcript)

FEIS ID#249

249a. Okay. What I'm interested in is considering the origin -- or the alternate route, okay. We had talked about that out in the lobby a bit. But the more I look at it, okay, I can picture in my mind Highway 19 running east and west. I can visualize the south edge of the Minnesota River Valley, which parallels it, and then on the other side I can picture the northern, you know, elevation where the valley ends to the north. Okay. Where is the alternate route going to hit? In the middle, on the south, on the north? I can't tell. There's no towns to really key into there, so that's why I'm wondering... Okay. Then tell me where it is in terms of the valley. Is it on the floor of the valley, the north edge of the valley, or the south edge?... So they would be removing the old and replacing it with the new?

Maps showing the locations of the route alternatives and including topography near the river crossing at Redwood Falls are available in the DEIS Section 7.3. It is anticipated that existing lines in this area would be removed and replaced with new structures should a route permit be issued.

Hettig, Chris

Morton 11/18/09,1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 11 of transcript)

FEIS ID#250

250a. We've seen many new towers go up along the ridge, Minnesota River Valley ridge, and we're finding our radio interference, it doesn't work as it used to. I'm wondering, the study that you do about emissions coming from the tower, do you take into account all of the other communication towers that are nearby?

(See response to FEIS ID#4a and FEIS ID#18b)

Larsen, Scott

Morton 11/18/09,1pm Meeting (comment begins on page 13 of transcript)

FEIS ID#251

251a. I was just going to ask a question. Is the National Historic Preservation Act 106, has that been complied with... Is there a cultural resource management plan in place?

Section 6.6 of the DEIS provides a discussion of compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.

251b. I guess Upper Sioux would like to participate in our comments. I don't know if the 30th will work for us, though. 'Cause I have asked somebody from the state to send me the actual big maps. Because what I need to do is I need to bring that back to my tribal elders, 'cause there's a lot of running battles within Minnesota, a lot of tribal cultural properties, burials, that Chippewa is not aware of, and they understand that, too. I did talk with Dave Maddows at Chippewa earlier, and we would love to see that and put them on there and give some comments in these certain areas. We're not going to hinder, we don't want to hinder the project, but we'd like to see those, we'd like to offer our assistance in having some of our cultural monitors on site who have actually got the schooling at Red Wing school. I use them all over the place. But I do see some sites within Minnesota that we should have an interest in in sensitive areas.

Comment noted. Detailed maps were provided to the commenter to enable a review of historic places of significance to the Upper Sioux Community.

Brookings County - Hampton
345 kV Transmission Line Project
PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

**Morton 11/18/09 5pm Meeting
(FEIS ID#252-253)**

Gronau, Clint

Morton 11/18/09, 5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 3 of transcript)

FEIS ID#252

252a. I have been in that area all my life and I'm very disappointed that they would set the power line going across the Minnesota River in a pristine area. I had looked at the alternative route, at least there they followed a power line that was already there. I just would have loved to have met the people that thought they should put this power line in a pristine area versus one that's already got, you know, something. It's already being used, I should say, partly, you know.

(See response to FEIS ID#10a)

252c. And the power lines, you know, they pass my place, they're very close, I've already got a 115 kilovolt line south of me that was put in in about 1956, it's about 300 feet from my house, and now this one is proposed to go on the west side of me about the same distance, give or take, we don't know yet, you know. And I also know that in cutting wood under the ground of these power lines that after a few hours I have very bad headaches. And my old power line is 115 kilovolt and this one is going to be three times the size. So I'm very concerned about my health, and anybody else's, too, for that matter. 'Cause my house is so close to where the new power line is going to be.

(See response to FEIS ID#2a) Map FEIS ID#252 in Appendix C shows the residence and existing transmission line mentioned by the commenter.

Kuester, Lance

Morton 11/18/09,5pm Meeting (comment begins on page 11 of transcript)

FEIS ID#253

253a. And we were not made aware of the potential impacts until mid-October. And there had been public information meetings and the public comment period had ended April 30th and Mr. Mueller did not receive any information as to how this might impact him until mid-October. And the reason being is somehow some north-south connector lines, north-south connector lines were put in at a very late date. And so we feel we're playing catch up right now, and I guess what we'd like to see is a delay to the November 30th deadline for the comments.

(See response to FEIS ID#87a)

253b. But we need to focus on the north-south, what is referred to as USFWS, the DNR alternative. And the question then becomes, because there are also three other routes, what is called example one, example two, example three, and the USFWS/DNR alternative. So is that alternative something that is preferred over example number three or something preferential to example one or example two? By default and the way it's phrased in the document it appears that the USFWS/DNR alternative by de facto has been identified as something preferred over other routes to serve that particular purpose.

(See response to FEIS ID#248e)

253c. In addition, in the DEIS, and this relates specifically to Section 6.12 which addresses mitigation, and that's on page 6-26. And it states in there, I don't have it with me right now, but it states in there that -- I'll paraphrase. These north-south connectors can be used as mitigation. And that simply cannot be the case. You cannot use a new segment of a route to now somehow compensate or mitigate for what a preferred or alternate route would be. When all is said and done, the new – the newly revised route, whether it contains segments of the alternative -- or excuse me, the alternate or the preferred and what capacity that might be needs to be looked at in its entirety. And then if there's any mitigation to be applied, it needs to be applied to the route as a whole at that particular point without applying mitigation somewhere in the middle of the process.

Once a route has been chosen, specific route details and mitigation measures will be determined during the route permit process. The north-south connector route examples were evaluated in the DEIS and that information was included in Appendix G of the DEIS.

253d. In addition, we notice that USFWS easements, commonly referred to as FMHA easements, are also taken into consideration. But there are many other kinds of resource-related easements that are out there. And those include U.S. Department of Agriculture Wetlands Reserve Program easements, which are scattered throughout the state of Minnesota. And also board of water and soil resource rail easements. Were these taken into consideration when you folks were trying to compare apples to apples as to how this particular -- how the particular routes were identified, and an analysis relative to the resources, the natural environmental resources that are contained or near or on those particular routes?

Figures were made to summarize the easement data for each route alternative. Data is available in Appendix B FEIS #253. Data used to create the figures are from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and easements include those lands currently enrolled in the following programs: RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota), RIM/WRP (Wetland Reserve Program), RIM/WRP II, PWP (Permanent Wetland Preserves), CREP (Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program), and CREP II.