

January 2, 2009

Office of Administrative Hearings
Attn: Judge Richard Luis
PO Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

RE-CapX2020 Project-Brookings County-Hampton 345 kv

Dear Judge Luis:

I am writing to clarify and restate the position of the City of Le Sueur relative to the above mentioned transmission line route as it approaches the Minnesota River Valley and seeks to cross the Minnesota River. Your files would contain a letter from me on behalf of the City dated December 7, 2009. Please allow this letter to supplement and clarify the proposals we put forth in that previous letter.

We must first make it clear that our proposal to cooperate with the CapX2020 officials in offering the use of our City's existing transmission corridor/easement was made on the presumption that the stated "Preferred Route" was the inevitable route as it approached the Minnesota River.

If it was a given that the "Preferred Route" would result, our proposal was made for the following reasons:

1. The City wished to provide an alternative slight southern shift in the route which would allow it to avoid the previously mapped crossing through the Buck's Lake wildlife sensitive habitat area.
2. The City wished to bring the river crossing for the line within this same corridor which would move it away from a number of residents who would be effected by the mapped "Preferred Route", which had it going up the hill on the west side of Highway 169.
3. The City sought to forge cooperation with CapX2020 which would have allowed them to use our existing corridor and the City to then run and upgrade our transmission lines on the new CapX2020 towers.

It has now come to our attention that CapX2020 concludes they could not benefit from our corridor offer. We also understand from testimony by environmental, wildlife and transportation officials that the "Alternate Route" which has the Minnesota River crossing occurring near Belle Plaine would be preferred to the Le Sueur crossing.

We wish to make it clear that the City of Le Sueur never invited the "Preferred Route" crossing. Our proposals were only made under the understanding that IF WE WERE GOING TO BE COMPELLED TO DEAL WITH A TRANSMISSION LINE CROSSING we wished to try to lessen its effect on our citizens, natural resources and neighbors while at the same time providing some possible benefits in reliability and cost savings to our power customers. In affect trying to make the best from a difficult yet inevitable situation.

Given the negative effects on the environment and citizenry and its nominal, if any benefits, please allow the record to reflect the official position of the City of Le Sueur on the CapX2020 transmission line route as it relates to the Minnesota River Valley crossing is to support the "Alternative Route" or northern route in the Belle Plaine area.

Thank you for your further consideration in allowing us to clarify and I apologize for any confusion our previous proposals may have created.

Sincerely yours,

Robert Oberle
Mayor, City of Le Sueur