

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Steve Cary [jscary3@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, October 12, 2010 10:09 AM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: RECENT POWERLINE MEETINGS

DEAR JUDGE LUIS:

AFTER RECEIVING "NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF FINAL OFFER" MAILED TO US AS A "PERSONS ON PROJECT LIST", I CALLED SCOTT ECK RE ANY FURTHER MEETINGS OR HEARINGS. AT THAT TIME HE SEEMED UNSURE AND GAVE ME A NUMBER FOR CAPX. I WAS TOLD BY THAT THERE WOULD BE FURTHER HEARINGS, BUT PROBABLY NOT TILL OCTOBER 2010. ALSO THAT NOTICES WOULD BE SENT LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER.

SINCE WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE NOTICE, I WAS SURPRISED TO LEARN ABOUT THE RECENT HEARINGS IN BELLE PLAIN AND ARLINGTON. I CHECKED WITH OTHER NEIGHBORS IN SECTIONS FIVE AND SIX OF ARLINGTON TOWNSHIP AND THEY HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY NOTICES EITHER. AND ALL OF US ARE ON THE ALTERNATIVE ROUTE. I ALSO TALKED TO SCOTT ECK THIS MORNING AND HE CONFIRMED WE WERE NOT INCLUDED IN MAILING FOR THESE HEARINGS

I DID HAVE QUESTIONS FOR NFWS RE: THEIR LETTER AND THE GENERAL HABITAT AND POPULATIONS OF EAGLES IN THOSE TWO ROUTES. TO ME THERE SEEMS TO BE NO BASIS FOR THEIR STANCE ON BEHALF OF BUCKS LAKE ROUTE. THERE WOULD BE JUST AS MUCH HABITAT (GENERAL HABITAT AS WELL AS EAGLE HABITAT) EFFECTED BY USING THE ALTERNATE ROUTE. IT ALSO APPEARS TONY SULLINS WAS NOT INVOLVED ENOUGH TO GET A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE SITUATION.

MY BIGGEST CONCERN IS WHY ALL THE LANDOWNERS ALONG THE ALTERNATE ROUTE WERE NOT NOTIFIED OF THE HEARINGS.

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10/14/2010

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Bill Diers [diersphoto@mac.com]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 9:07 AM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: attn: Judge Richard Luis_CAPX Comments

Your Honor:

Mike Albrecht (Belle Plaine, MN) asked that I send you a note, to give you my observations of the Bald Eagles, other Bird activity and my experience with the ecosystem within the MN River Valley corridor between Belle Plaine and Henderson/Le Sueur.

It seems that currently, the issue at hand is how many Bald Eagles are at Buck's Lake vs. Belle Plaine. It also seems that the process to determine how much affect the CAPX will have on the MN River Valley, with regard to the Bald Eagles, has now pitted the Henderson/Le Sueur group against Belle Plaine---which seems to be counter-productive from a conservation standpoint.

Whether there are more Bald Eagles at Buck's Lake, vs. Diers Lake, vs. Hillstrom's Lake, vs. Bristol's Bottoms is irrelevant. As the testimony and record shows, there are scores of Bald Eagles (resident & migratory), migrating and resident Waterfowl, Herons, Egrets, Pelicans, Tundra Swans, Canada Geese, Red Tail Hawks, Coopers Hawks, Sharpshinned Hawks, etc., that are residents or just pass through the Valley from Mankato to Bloomington.

I don't see how any location in the MN River Valley could be selected, for an Above Ground CAPX crossing, between Mankato & Bloomington and not adversely affect the multitude of Birds, especially Bald Eagles, within the Valley.

Is it okay to disrupt 20 Bald Eagles at Buck's Lake, vs. 15 at Hillstrom's Lake? I can take you to several locations between Le Sueur and Belle Plaine and show you as many Bald Eagles and other Birds, as there are at Buck's Lake. Buck's Lake is not unique. I know of at least 3 lakes, similar to Buck's Lake, between Le Sueur and Belle Plaine, with as many resident and visiting Bald Eagles and other Birds. Buck's Lake has the advantage of a highway skirting its edge, so even the untrained birder can view the Bald Eagles, etc. The Valley is ever changing. In five years the Buck's Lake ecosystem may change and more Eagles will move to the Diers' bottoms or the Bristol's bottoms or Hillstrom's Lake. So what has been accomplished if the CAPX crossing is located at Belle Plaine and suddenly there are more Eagles and Herons and Pelicans there.

After reviewing the CAPX testimony from the past several months, regarding Eagles in the Henderson/Le Sueur/Belle Plaine area, I did not see any specific documentation with regards to who actually provided Bald Eagle data to the USFWS. I am curious as to what "Eagle experts" and data, specifically, Mr. Tony Sullins used to base his decision on, with regards to his June 10, 2010 letter, to GRE. If Mr. Sullins feels there are adequate numbers of Bald Eagles at Henderson/Le Sueur to deny a BGEPA permit for that crossing, then a BGEPA permit would also have to be denied for the Belle Plaine crossing, as both locations have almost identical Bald Eagle populations, resident and migratory, per my personal observations since 1991. I do not agree with Mr. Sullins that the Belle Plaine crossing is a practicable alternative, when both ecosystems and number of Bald Eagles are almost identical.

In my opinion, the odds of a Bald Eagle "take" at the Belle Plaine crossing is as great as Henderson/Le Sueur.

If CAPX wants to cross the MN River---it must be put Underground. The technology is in place to accomplish that. I briefly studied the CAPX website and as usual, with any large Corporation, (or "Cartel" in this instance), the problem with an Underground Crossing is the cost factor. I am constantly frustrated that the MN River Valley continues to be neglected for the benefit of business entities, because it is easier to disrupt the MN River Valley---than not. I mean, who cares, it is only one of, if not the most polluted river in all of North America. We have had over a half dozen "100 year Floods" in the

past 17 years. Why?.....because of the destruction of the potholes and sloughs above the Valley. Who pays for that ecologically? The MN River Valley and everything trying to live in it, from Eagles to Humans. The Valley is now poisoned beyond belief from the Ag industry. The current flooding and erosion---is unprecedented.

It is the State of Minnesota/USFWS responsibility to protect the MN River Valley. Allowing CAPX to construct above ground Power Lines to cross the MN River is NOT protecting the MN River Valley and its ecosystem. The CAPX project would cause harm.

We don't need to add another layer of adversity to the MN River Valley. We need to look at ways for our human encroachment to co-exist and help heal the Valley. Not to add another detriment to it.

I began studying Birds of Prey with Mike Albrecht in 1969. I was one of a hand full of Falconry permit holders in the state of MN at that time. I have observed, hunted and fished the MN River Valley near Belle Plaine/Blakeley since I was born in 1955. Mike's son, Adrian and I discovered the Curtis Mueller nest in November of 1991. At the time, according to the MN DNR Bald Eagle specialist at New Ulm, that nest was the first Bald Eagle nest to be constructed in the MN River Valley, east of Ortonville, in the previous 100 years.

Mike Albrecht and myself observed and recorded activity at the Curtis Mueller Bald Eagle nest site, per a request from the New Ulm MN DNR Bald Eagle specialist, for several years. Mike and I have continued to observe and track Bald Eagle activity in the Belle Plaine/Henderson area ever since.

Orville Heitkamp, our Belle Plaine High School Science teacher was my mentor in school. Orville Heitkamp was one of the founders of SAVE---Save America's Vital Energy. Where in 1970, I marched on the MN State Capitol, as a 15 yr. old, with other students, local residents and SAVE, to protest NSP's desires to dam the High Island Creek Valley, just north of Henderson. NSP planned to construct a Hydro Power Plant. The project was defeated.

My conservation roots were instilled in me by my Father & Uncle who were born and raised in Blakeley, MN, where I now own the "Diers Bottoms" with my brothers & sisters. The property has been in our family since 1894. I have personally witnessed the MN River Valley be devastated in the past 50+ years from flooding, erosion, sediment and pollution---a predictable result---from the fence row to fence row farming practices, started in the 1970's.

A aerial CAPX MN River Valley crossing is unacceptable. It's very simple, if CAPX wants to cross the MN River Valley---ante up the funds and go non-aerial---or find another route. The State of Minnesota and the USFWS needs to act and protect the MN River Valley---now.

Sincerely:

Bill Diers

Bill Diers Photography, Inc.
www.billdiersphotography.com
diersphoto@mac.com
612-719-5333

September 30, 2010

Dear Judge Richard Luis,

My wife and I live in Faxon Township. I'm on the secondary route and you are hearing all of this from my heart. Great River Energy wants to run power poles and lines through my property. I have spent 23 years working my land to create it to look the way it does. I've planted 1,500 trees and am very proud of my property. Then, all of a sudden, they decide to go through my property with a monster which is high voltage power poles and lines. I already have new pipeline 400' north of my house. It is not fair to me and my family to have both. I have worked for Center Point Energy for 39 years, and I know that stray current gets on pipelines from these power lines. Afton has lines like these and when I work on gas lines I have to wear gloves because of the shocks from stray current. My company is aware of the fact that it's not safe to have stray current on pipelines.

My whole life is based on my property. I'm outside all summer doing things and I spend most of the winter cutting wood on my property. How can a utility company take that away from me after all this time? My son has plans to build a house next to mine and that would be sad if power lines came through here. I know the lines make noise from the power going through them and there would also be wind noise coming from them. It seems like it is windy here most of the time, because it's out in the open. There would never be any peace in my life if this happens. In 1991 I adopted the Hwy 25 ditch and my family of six cleans ditches twice a year and that would be close to lines and unhealthy let alone dangerous. Next to my home, Boy Scouts clean the ditches for 2 miles and then the Belle Plaine School also cleans 2 miles of ditches. Would you want your kids cleaning ditches next to power lines? I recently talked with Bob Anderson who is a professional photographer and he has been taking pictures of eagles and studying their habitat

September 30, 2010

on lines and power poles for years and he said eagles live in harmony with the poles and lines. If you get a chance give him a call (563-382-6300) and he will give you an earful on eagles. He is a very nice guy who is full of information on this subject. Then I called Pam Beamanson from Xcel Energy and we had a chat and she also said there is no problem with eagles and power lines and poles. Her number is (1-800-328-8226). I also called Prairie Island Nuclear Plant in Red Wing, and I asked about eagles there, and there is open water in the river and in the winter time the eagles feed from there. They said there is no problem with eagles dying there so what does that tell you. I shared that information with Tony Sullins and of course he got upset because he knew I knew way more about eagles then he wanted me to know.

Faxon Township is the fastest growing township in Sibley County and with the new 212/312 Hwy it will be growing much faster in the future. Great River Energy also wants to install lines and poles near Hwy 25 which is the prime ground in Faxon Township. Twenty plus homes will be affected by alternate route and the cost is millions more which Great Rivers Energy doesn't want to talk about. There are so many reasons to put a stop to this including a family that takes in foster kids and their home would be about 400' from lines. There are 9 people living in that house hold currently. That would not be fair to those children. For the sake of my family and to all the other neighbors on this route I hope you can make the decision to cancel this line on Belle Plaine river crossing. It would benefit no one in Faxon Township. Thank you for your time Honorable Judge Richard Luis.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Debra Fahey

September 30, 2010

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Dolores [dhagen@closingthegap.com]
Sent: Tuesday, September 21, 2010 5:56 PM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: 345 kV Transmission Line-PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474

Administrative Law Judge, Richard C. Luis:

My first question is simple. Exactly what (if anything) of the Henderson Feathers materials submitted to Scott Ek and the Office of Energy Security (OES), and to you, directly, related to the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474, is part of the record? Are we to re-submit the materials for your NEW series of public meetings or can we rely on any of the documents, letters, petitions, etc., already submitted, as being part of an existing record?

I ask the question because it would appear the much of what has been submitted by USFWS and Henderson Feathers as it relates to the Minnesota River crossing has been ignored or at best misinterpreted.

Letters from USFWS to Great River Energy as early as March 2009 to and including June 2010 clearly state the position of the USFWS responsibility to husband the ecology of the Minnesota River with their recommendations that the river crossing (if to be overhead lines) must be located in the least offensive place available, that of the Belle Plaine area where an existing power line crossing already has disrupted the river ecology. To put it as simply as possible: It makes no sense to tear another hole in the river environment by construction of a new power line crossing when one already exists... no sense at all to destroy another location.

Those simple words are mine, not those of USFWS. Thousands of man hours and hundreds of thousands of tax dollars have been spent by USFWS coming to that conclusion, following the rules of their charge - to protect the "Service trust resources that include migratory birds, Federally listed species of concern and lands owned, leased, or managed by the Service." To disregard their recommendations seems misplaced, for they are the recognized authority from Federal, State and Local entities. I find it hard to believe that more tax dollars are about to be spent rehashing the obvious.

But what do I know. It seems there will be more hearings conducted by your honor... and will I have to resubmit our hundreds of documents to make the point? Please let me know.

Respectfully yours,

Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Dolores [dhagen@closingthegap.com]
Sent: Monday, October 11, 2010 12:41 PM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: Capx Brookings Docket - 08-1474
Attachments: Luis - Final Submiss#55F3DF.pdf; ATT00001..htm

Judge Luis:

Attached are my "Comment" files addressing the Brookings Routing under PUC Docket # 08-1474 from Dolores Hagen and Henderson Feathers, Inc. They are in a pdf format and contain the petition signed by 527 Le Sueur/Henderson residents, previously filed with OES but apparently NOT included in the EIS or making its way to you in any form. Also included is NEW information, never before submitted. I'm also sending this same file via U. S. Mail, to insure the information therein reaches you.

I apologize for this duplication, but due to the importance of this information, I feel I must cover all means possible to insure this evidence reaches your desk.

TO: Judge Richard C. Luis

RE: PUC DOCKET NO. ET-2/TL-08-1474

FROM: Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers, Inc.

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TO: ALJ Judge Richard C. Luis

FROM: Dolores Hagen

RE: PUC Docket No. ET-2/TL-08-1474

I apologize for the way this information must now reach you. It has come to my attention that volumes of information, documents, petition signatures, etc., appear to have not been made part of the record. These materials, and God only knows how many others, were submitted during the Task Force meetings and EIS procedures but never made it into the record. This may be called an oversight, but for the time being, since the record will close "again" on the 18th of October, I am forced to inundate your office with materials that were submitted in a timely fashion, but were ignored or left out for undetermined reasons and now must be re-submitted for inclusion in your decision-making process.

To make it absolutely clear, this is now new information, already submitted, but MISPLACED OR IGNORED. I am re-submitting certain pages of the court reporters record of the Monday, April 6, 2008, 5:00 p.m. meeting held at the Hog Wild Saloon and Eatery in Henderson. It contains my testimony concerning the submission of 527 petition signatures rejecting Le Sueur as a choice for the crossing of the Minnesota River.

A copy of the actual petition and the 527 signatures are attached to this file.

In an October 7th, 2010 phone conversation with Scott Ek (OES), he was unable to establish what was and was not made part of the record. He suggested re-submitting the petition. I'm also re-submitting the letters, as part of the documents submitted to OES at the time the petition was submitted, just to make sure they are available to you during your decision making process.

NEW MATERIALS - NEVER BEFORE SUBMITTED:

Apparently, at the Belle Plaine hearings, there was discussion of Buck's Lake in winter. Is Buck's Lake open water in winter.... Does it Freeze? Much of Buck's Lake freezes completely... If you examine the pictorial (photographic and video) evidence already submitted for the record, you will see that the fish kill is dramatic, the result of a shallow lake where the oxygen level depletes and results in what we call a "fish-cycle" (frozen fish in the ice) for the eagles each spring. It is why we hold EAGLE ALERT each spring... Migrating eagles come to this "fish smorgasbord" because when ice melts it exposes all those frozen fish for the eagles and they come by the hundreds.

During the winter oxygen depletion in the water forces fish to the south end of the lake where springs supply oxygenated fresh water into the H2O environment. Fish move toward that fresh water source resulting in a eagle-feeding area, rich with fish struggling to that oxygen supply. It's not a large area, but one that provides an active eagle foraging section of the lake enhanced by spear fisherman who breakup the west-southwest shoreline along Hwy 93 that abuts the south end springs (an area the DNR often opens to promiscuous fishing). The fisherman are after those same congregating, oxygen deprived fish that the eagles are after.

In addition to Buck's Lake, the Minnesota River, that flows adjacent to the lake, is open all winter providing additional feeding area for the resident eagles.



This picture was taken on the shore of Buck's Lake (2009) when representatives of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and United States Fish and Wildlife Service came to Buck's Lake to investigate Buck's Lake, the eagle populations and nests in the Le Sueur Area.

Photo by Art and Barb Straub



This photo illustrates the surface of Buck's Lake in the area along the trenches in the ice, made by spear fishermen. The fish are easily speared due to the conditions created by the freshwater springs on the south end of the lake and about the western shoreline of the lake along Hwy. 93. Resident eagles find this feeding ground just as attractive as do the spear fishermen.

Photo by Art and Barb Straub

The URL below is a video posted on YouTube (that was also thought to be made part of the record). It contains a smattering of video clips from the multitude of video documentations that exist of the wildlife in and around Buck's Lake and the Henderson/LeSueur area. If proof of the statements made by Henderson Feathers are in question, I ask that this video (and the many others) be viewed by ALJ Luis and the PUC. If given the opportunity to view the evidence they can make a just and informed decision as to the correct placement of the 345 kV Transmission Line in question.

<http://www.youtube.com/user/henderson212?feature=mhum#p/u/12/iqMbmnnO3-o>

Henderson Feathers works closely with all federal and state environmental organizations including Audubon Minnesota, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Any information we provide to them such as a new eagle nest or a downed raptor such as an eagle, they respond appropriately. In the case of a nest, they (both DNR and USFWS) investigate and determine the authenticity of the report. In the case of a downed eagle, DNR retrieves the body. Henderson Feathers, whose volunteer members are out in the field working with organizations such as the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Minnesota Ornithologists' Union have a responsibility to report any new or unusual occurrences found in the natural environment and we do. That does NOT mean that DNR or USFWS shirk their job of verification.

I'm hoping this information reaches you and your staff. An e-mail I sent your office on September 21st 2010 was never acknowledged or answered so I'm concerned there may be a glitch in the system. I'm going to cover my bet with a copy of these documents being sent to you via Certified U. S. Mail and as an e-filing. Please understand that I'm not trying to aggravate you, just trying to make sure the information gets to its intended destination. A copy of that September 21st e-mail is also attached to this file.

I have discovered that many other documents we submitted, including dozens of letters from city, county and state organizations, both governmental and private are among those languishing in files held by the Office of Energy Security, but it would appear, were never included in the EIS or other systems that may be in place to inform you or the PUC. As you can imagine, this is very disappointing, especially when you accept a petition from Belle Plaine citizens but are forced to ignore the one from the citizens of Le Sueur because you were never appraised of its existence. Something is wrong here and I think it needs to be fixed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers, Inc.
dhagen@closingthegap.com
(507) 248-3824

Petition

This petition was available for signature on-line as part of the Henderson, MN web site and in retail locations in Le Sueur and Henderson for people who did not have access to a computer.

To the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security for the Environmental Report and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission concerning the Cap X2020 Brooking County-Hampton 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line

We, the people, respectfully request that the Minnesota River Crossing for the CapX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line proposed routing at Le Sueur, Minnesota, known as the Le Sueur Crossing, within the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone, be removed from consideration as routing option for the project.

Article I: The Resident Eagles

The five eagle nests in the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone require protection under the Bald Eagle Act of 1940.

Article II: The Migrating birds

The Minnesota River Flyway through the area in question is used by 100's if not thousands of migrating eagles, and dozens of other bird species that use the unique feeding area known as Bucks' Lake as a major feeding stop. In addition, the 345 kV line would inhibit floodplain habitat as well as result in strikes by birds flying in the river corridor.

Article III: The Nesting Habitat

The Buck's Lake Blue Heron Rookery within Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone along with the floodplain habitat for dozens of other nesting water bird species must be protected and preserved. There were nineteen active Blue Heron Nests in 2008 alone.

Article IV: Ground Water Protection

The soon to be decommissioned Le Sueur sewer ponds are clay lined and may not withstand compromise through clay layer puncture that could result from power line tower construction. This could contaminate surface, river and ground water resources of the floodplain habitat and potentially the city water supplies.

Article V: Economic Impact

The Scenic Byway and Henderson Feathers tourism efforts center on the MN Hwy 93 bordering Bucks' Lake. Placement of the 345 kV line at the Le Sueur Crossing would force termination of those efforts.

Article VI: Human Habitat

A residential area housing development within the city of Le Sueur and the Hermel Addition is believed to be in direct line of maximum impact to those residents.

Following are copies of the 527 signatures attached to this petition, copies of the court reporters transcript of my testimony when it was originally submitted, copies of several letters from governmental and private organizations and the letter to the Office of Energy Security that accompanied the submission of these documents. Also included is a copy of the e-mail sent to ALJ Luis requesting information as to documents in the record. In addition are pictures that document winter on the surface of Buck's Lake.

Internet Petition Signatures

Signed	E-mail address	comments
1 "Dolores Hagen"	dhagen@closingthegap.com	"Please let them use the alternative route."
2 "Jeff Steinborn"	jsteinborn@mac.com	
3 "Joshua Reinitz"	jreinitz@myclearwave.net	"We cannot continue to sacrifice our valuable, precious, and rare natural resources in the name of human ""progress"" and ""growth"", especially when the energy would come primarily from non-renewable sources. The time has come to work in harmony with the natural world, the survival of our species depends on it." 1
4 "Michael Reinhardt"	mcrein@frontiernet.net	
5 "Lee Plonske"	gardensofsiouxtrail@q.com	
6 "Jennifer Sissons"	jasissons@shaw.ca	
7 "Vicki Plonske"	vicki.lesueur@msn.com	
8 "Fran Schlup"	f.schlup@mchsi.com	"All points are important, but especially the nesting areas, and wildlife habitat, migratory flyway, and eagle activity." 1
9 "Julie L. Wychor"	jlwychor@charter.net	"Please remove the Le Sueur Crossing as a routing option for the CAPX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line for the environmental reasons listed in this petition." 1
10 "Cathy S. Johnson"	johnsons1989@usfamily.net	0
11 "Tom Kolter"	tom@evolutionshirts.com	
12 "Marcia Fossum"	marciafossum@yahoo.com	1
13 "ken gabbert"	xlh_97@yahoo.com	0
14 "Brian Nagel"	bnag@frontiernet.net	1
15 "Carol Jackson"	jacks096@tc.umn.edu	1
16 "Julie Determan"	jdeterman3@mchsi.com	1
17 "Keith Swenson"	keithswenson@mchsi.com	1
18 "Laura Boelter"	gboelter@frontiernet.net	1
19 "Dennis J. Graham"	dgraham@frontiernet.net	1
20 "mike osmond"	bassangler@charter.net	"I just think it would be a real shame to screw this natural habitat up." 1
21 "Mark Katzenmeyer"	bigdog@prairie.lakes.com	"I am against the CapX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line proposed routing at Le Sueur, Minnesota." 1
22 "Bob Dunlap"	rdunlap@gac.edu	1
23 "Shirley Katzenmeyer"	SKatzenmeyer@DoanePetCare.com	"I am against the CapX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line proposed routing at Le Sueur, Minnesota." 1
24 "Dr. Karen Katzenmeyer"	kkatzenm7@hotmail.com	"I am against the CapX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line proposed routing at Le Sueur, Minnesota." 1
25 "Marion Heinz"	heinz6@frontiernet.net	1
26 "Karen Swenson"	kkswenson@mchsi.com	1
27 "Nicole Richter"	gfchamber@mvtvwireless.com	1
28 "CLAY CRAVEN"	claven55@hotmail.com	1
29 "John Morrison"	jemorris5@charter.net	"Please find an alternate site." 0
30 "Dianne Ruby Nagel"	rubles53@hotmail.com	1

- 31 "O.William Bruins" wmb Bruins@gmail.com 1
- 32 "Mary Gillespie" holthouse@holthouse.org 1
- 33 "Barbara Conrad" bconrad87@hotmail.com 1
- 34 "Richard Worm" shadowmax@frontiernet.net "Under the Bald Eagle Act of 1940, all bald eagles nests are to be protected. Do not interrupt their habitat with the power transmission line being planned." 1
- 35 "Doug Thomas" doug@edvisons.coop 1
- 36 "Budd Hagen" budd@closingthegap.com 1
- 37 "Al Batt" snoeowl@aol.com 1
- 38 "Rebecca Lystig" markbeckylstig@comcast.net 1
- 39 "Joe Hagen" joehagen@mchsi.com 1
- 40 "Sarah Schuette" slschuette@gmail.com 1
- 41 "Charlotte Beseke" cbeseke@tseinc.net 0
- 42 "Kurt Schultz" kurtkaren@earthlink.net "Please protect this natural treasure and choose an alternative route for the proposed transmission line." 1
- 43 "Kim Byrne" Kim_M_Byrne@lesueurinc.com "Please do everything to protect this very important natural area. Find a different route!!!!" 1
- 44 "Becky Hagen" becky@closingthegap.com 1
- 45 "Connie Kneip" ckneip@closingthegap.com 1
- 46 "Craig Mandel" EgretCMan@msn.com 1
- 47 "Kiki Byrne" kikibyrene32@hotmail.com 1
- 48 "Amy Katzenmeyer" amykatzenmeyer@gmail.com 1
- 49 "Tiffany Culbert" tiffany.culbert@southcentral.edu 1
- 50 "Beth Dana" bethdana@gmail.com "Change the route!" 1
- 51 "Josh Eyrich" josh.eyrich@emerson.com 1
- 52 "Loran Kaardal" loran.kaardal.b46s@statefarm.com 1
- 53 "Shawn Hilgers" smh68@frontiernet.net 1
- 54 "Arthur J. Straub" artstraub@gmail.com 1
- 55 "Brenda Kotasek" kotasekb@live.com 1
- 56 "Samantha Conrad" samantha@crownexttrusions.com 1
- 57 "Doug Thomas" doug@edvisionsschools.org 1
- 58 "Mary Michels" kotasekb@live.com 1
- 59 "Tiffany Reinitz" namastetiffany@yahoo.com 1
- 60 "Tony Nagel" statechampion10@yahoo.com 1
- 61 "SUSAN FELMLEE" comminsh@frontiernet.net 1
- 62 "Marc Hagen" marc@closingthegap.com "Change the route!! Keep away from the eagles! Power lines MESSES up everything around the Bucks Lake!" 1
- 63 "Bob Williams" bxwilliams@cbburnet.com "I have been an avid birdwatcher for 15 years and I spend a lot of time in the Minnesota River Valley. It is a major flyway for migrating birds as well as a prime area for resident and nesting species. Major portions of the river valley have been designated as Important Birding Areas by Audubon Minnesota. The remaining natural habitat in the valley is an asset to all Minnesotans and should be protected at all costs." 1
- 64 "Lynn Reinhardt" gleinhardt@myclearwave.net 1

65 "Wendi Engel" wendiengel@q.com 1

66 "Andy Aukes" dxtrdxtr@yahoo.com 1

67 "Cindy Reinitz" frogwoman1995@yahoo.com 1

68 "Brian Sartor" brian@sartor.com 1

69 "J Brophy" jb@inet-serv.com "This habitat is far too valuable to this, and future generations, and must not be developed. Please consider other routing options." 0

70 "Jacqueline Schulz" jaxi.schulz@gmail.com "Please consider the alternate route. Too much habitat has already been estroyed, please keep this area intact." 1

71 "Mary E. Hall" mehall53@msn.com 1

72 "Linda Sparling" hagsela@aol.com 1

73 "Linda Whyte" birds@moosewoods.us "The ultimate damage that results from habitat deterioration and destruction can rarely, if ever, be undone, and often has consequences more far-reaching than we can anticipate. All possible effort must be made to spare the springs and wetlands of the area from disturbance." 1

74 "David S. Carman" dscarman@charter.net 1

75 "Jenny Cowette" jcowette@iphouse.com 1

76 "Butch Ukura" oatmeal@embarqmail.com 1

77 "dee grant" glitterkween@comcast.net 1

78 "Matthew Schaut" mschaut22@yahoo.com 1

79 "Richard Vincent" r-bvincent@msn.com 1

80 "Marcia Becker" dmbecker@usfamily.net 1

81 "Kathy Engel" kengel@tds.lib.mn.us 1

82 "Beverly Carey" careybd@gmail.com 1

83 "Brett Straub" bstraub@mchsi.com 1

84 "Jeff Phillips" phillij43@yahoo.com 1

85 "Meredith Daniels Bumbalough" scotty_daniels@yahoo.com 1

86 "Krystal Sejrup" skizmoz_kms@hotmail.com 1

87 "Mary and Steve Nesgoda" marynesgoda@hotmail.com "Please let us know if there is anything else we can do to help." 1

88 "Rick Bruns" rjbruns@mchsi.com 1

89 "margaret knoblauch" mknoblauch@mchsi.com 1

90 "Monie Kahlow" dmkahlow@msn.com 1

91 "Travis Rademacher" trademac68@yahoo.com 0

92 "Judith A. Jones 329 SO. main LeSueur Mn 56058" judithajones2002@yahoo.com "I will sign but why are you getting so upset for this when no one cares that the giant wind turbines are going to ut on the ridge top all along the river making migration a hazard." 1

93 "SUSI OTTING" SUSIOTTING@YAHOO.CO 1

94 "Lisa Bjorkman" lisa7071@comcast.net 1

95 "Denise M. Hogan" Denisemhogan@aol.com 1

96 "Carol Overland" overland@legalelectric.org "Please add me to your mailing list" 1

97 "Kent Thostenson" runhotshot@aol.com "No windmills please" 1

98 "Amy Hunt" gillysmom2000@yahoo.com 1

99 "Dave Kolter" dkolter@frontiernet.net 1

- 100 "Rebecca Reinhardt" becca_hardt@yahoo.com "Please do not disrupt our property values and nature settings that are irreplaceable. This can only lead to additional destruction of land/nature from now on without going back. Business conveniences should not surpass the quality of living for families in the area (including animals)." 1
- 101 "lori butler" starbo_the_dragon@yahoo.com 1
- 102 "brad butler" starbo_the_dragon@yahoo.com 1
- 103 "Bill Hokeness" billhoke@hickorytech.net "Preserve the Scenic Byway use the alternative route." 1
- 104 "Sharron Hokeness" amanda@hickorytech.net 1
- 105 "Jeanne Gill" jeannegill9@aol.com "This power line is basically scheduled to go through my back yard and I am very upset. I am concerned for the wildlife(I have Eagles nesting and flying overhead all the time) and for the effects it will have on my Family." 1
- 106 "Lindsey Pomplun" lindsey.pomplun@sibleymedical.org 0
- 107 Debra dmricks@frontiernet.net 1
- 108 "Mary Ann Pilling" edmary@frontiernet.net "please reroute the high voltage transmission lines and protect Bucks lake area habitat" 1
- 109 "Susanne Arens" susanne@crystalpeak.com "Save the homes of the Eagles." 1
- 110 Susanne susanne_80919@yahoo.com 1
- 111 "Sylvia Straub" straub@gustavus.edu 0
- 112 "Peter Straub" straub@gustavus.edu 0
- 113 "maureen ricks" meanier@prtel.com 1
- 114 "Terry Leonhardt" tleonhar@frontiernet.net 1
- 115 "sara burns" sb0475@comcast.net 0
- 116 "Dana Goetsch" Dana.Goetsch@mchsi.com 1
- 117 "John G. Murphy" JGMDakota@hotmail.com "Please use an alternate route that has less environmental impact." 1
- 118 "Tammy Richards" tmricha2@yahoo.com 1
- 119 "Betty Schwarz" bschwarz@myclearwave.net "This petition is vital to the protection of an important wildlife area." 1
- 120 "Brian Kane" whitewing54@live.com 0
- 121 "Brian Kane" whitewing54@live.com 0
- 122 "Wanda Houska" byker_chik@hotmail.com 0
- 123 "Peg Rodarmel" prodarmel@aol.com 0
- 124 "Larry Hylarides" ljh528@yahoo.com 0
- 125 "Tim Ziebarth" zebo112@myclearwave.net 1
- 126 "Tim Rinehart" tk4gg804@usfamily.net "Our farm is right on 320th street - the proposed route of Cap X 2020. I own 160 acres of which 100 acres are in the Forest Prairie Creek. I do not want a power line to come through my property interrupting this wildlife area and disrupting the habitat that I have worked hard to establish." 1
- 127 "Paul Lindfors" paul.lindfors@mnsu.edu "Significant environmental studies must be done before the proposed route for the power line is considered. The present proposal does not appear to address these issues." 1
- 128 "Robin LaFortune" fortune@frontiernet.net 1

129 "Maureen A. Graham" spunklaker@yahoo.com 0
 130 "jeremy knish" j.knish@mchsi.com 1
 131 "Elaine Tohal" etohal@yahoo.com 1
 132 "Colleen Reichenberger" colleen.reichenberger@gmail.com 1
 133 "Randy Schroeder" rschroeder@frandsenbank.com "Please either re-
 route or cancel the proposed power line!" 1
 134 "Renee Drew" mrdrew12@aol.com 0
 135 "Ross Reichenberger" ross.reichenberger@gmail.com 0
 136 "Stephanie Christensen" chris402@umn.edu 1
 137 "Linda Howe" dlinassoc@aol.com 1
 138 "mark and jackie Lieske" mjl56044@frontiernet.net 1
 139 "Jayne Kane" JayneEKane@aol.com 1
 140 "Erin Pinske" erpinske@yahoo.com 1
 141 "Janet Nordstrom" janet@myclearwave.net "This power line would jeopardize wild
 life in the area and should not be allowed to be built." 1
 142 "Barbara J. Christensen" bjchris49@yahoo.com 0
 143 "allan prahl" alprahl@yahoo.com "ther is already a line just south of the
 proposed route. This could be used just as well as going thru bucks lake." 1
 144 "Leah Krumrey" leahk20002000@yahoo.com 1
 145 "James Tohal" jtohal@yahoo.com 1
 146 "Rebecca Lystig" markbeckylystig@comcast.net 0
 147 "Suzanne M. Buck" sbuck@rpmglc.com 1
 148 "Milo Christensen, Jr." mbchris7@redred.com 1
 149 "warren mathiowetz" kharma@redred.com 1
 150 "Gary Zebell" zebell@frontiernet.net 1
 151 "Kris Tiegs" ktiegs@frontiernet.net 1
 152 "Tresa Phillips" treasaphillips@yahoo.com 1
 153 "McKayla Boelter" boel0044@d.umn.edu 1
 154 "Jessica Westra-Smith" nitram2k@yahoo.com 0
 155 "Steve Reinhardt" SjReino@aol.com "An alternate route must be used
 that would have a lesser impact on wildlife/habitat, than that of the proposed crossing at
 Bucks lake." 1
 156 "Andrew D. Smith" drewbec@aol.com 1
 157 "Nicole Brattelid" brattigirl1@yahoo.com 1
 158 "Vicki Reinhardt" vickir@lesueurinc.com 1
 159 "Tony Brattelid" lilcountry78@yahoo.com 1
 160 "Karen Coil" karencoil@yahoo.com 1
 161 "Martha Wavrin" H20dogs@frontiernet.net 1
 162 "shirley gassman" sagassman@netzero.com 1
 163 "Shawn Schroeder" shawnmschroeder@yahoo.com 1
 164 "Lori Rischmiller" lpjir@hotmail.com 1
 165 "Mary Randall" maryr@ittakestwo.com 1
 166 "Tammy Arnold" dtearnold@gmail.com 1

167 "matthew reinhardt" reinom1@aol.com "the transmission lines should follow a major road not cut across a lake or other habitat area that could change where certain birds and/or animals live!" 1

168 "deeanna pfarr" deeanna719@yahoo.com "Buck lake is part of le sueur/henderson history. Home for Bald Eagles and Falcons. It is best to leave Bucks Lake as it is. Find another option for the power line....." 1

169 "deeanna pfarr" deeanna719@yahoo.com "Buck lake is part of le sueur/henderson history. Home for Bald Eagles and Falcons. It is best to leave Bucks Lake as it is. Find another option for the power line....." 1

170 "Bonnie Pfarr" deeanna719@yahoo.com 1

171 "James Pfarr" deeanna719@yahoo.com 1

172 "Katie Zelasko" solidoaklabs@hotmail.com 1

173 "Craig Zelasko" solidoaklabs@hotmail.com 1

174 "Caden Zelasko" solidoaklabs@hotmail.com 1

175 "Lori Ammann" birddogjazz@msn.com 1

176 "Annetta Paulson" Annetta_Paulson@hotmail.com 1

177 "Troy Ammann" Troy.Ammann@daviscofoods.com 1

178 "Tami Gosen" tamijo@skylarktech.com 1

179 "Mary Aldrich" maldrich@mchsi.com 1

180 "Ruby Johns" anlechar@msn.com "At one time we counted 27 Bald Eagles on the lakelt was a beatiful sight to see. I hate the thought ofnot being able to drive by and stop to watch the young Eagles and all the other birds that stop and visit Bucks Lake. We have even had Loons as early as last spring make an appearance." 1

181 "Lowell Marks" l_martinmarks@yahoo.com 0

182 "Ruth Quinell" r_quinnell@yahoo.com 1

183 Robin diceoflife@yahoo.com 1

184 "Cory Pauly" angel2cory@yahoo.com 1

185 "Phyllis A Smith" philydil@hickorytech.net 0

186 "Barb Heyn" barbh1@mchsi.com 1

188 "shirley enstad" dsenstad22@embarqmail.com 0

189 "Jodi Prchal" mrsprchal@aol.com "CapX2020 should find other routes that will not impact the little land we have left that is natural and agricultural." 1

190 "Tim & Sharon Kretchmer" timsharonluke@aol.com "Follow the existing powerlines" 0

191 "Gary and Barb Comfort" grcomfort@bevcomm.net 0

192 "Carol Mader" cmader@bevcomm.net 1

193 "Pete & Carol Dietz" customcutsCarol@hotmail.com 1

194 "Hannah Knoblauch" hannahknoblauch@yahoo.com 1

195 "Ross Christensen" rc_cola68@hotmail.com 1

196 "Wayne C. Christensen" wcc9439@yahoo.com 1

197 "Kim D" kim_brown21@yahoo.com 0

198 "Lavonne Hipp" lavonne.h@hotmail.com 1

199 "Ambria Hutton" ambop22@hotmail.com 1

200 "Richard Worm" shadowmax@frontiernet.net 1

201 "Mark LaRose" mark.larose@mchsi.com 1
 202 "Vicki M. Zebell" zebell@frontiernet.net 1
 203 "Rachel Paulson" brya0110@umn.edu 1
 204 "Ben Hutton" Bjhdels@myclearwave.net 1
 205 "Tina Tordsen" dolphin_lover23@msn.com "i will gladly sign,i cant wait to see the eagles in the spring and i always go take pictures every year...." 1
 206 "Tabitha Ingles Braam" tabithabraam@yahoo.com 1
 207 "Dena Karels" dena_karels@yahoo.com 11
 208 "Michael Schultz" sdsu_fowler@hotmail.com "Please find an alternative route for this transmission line." 1
 209 "Gail Wentzlaff" gailsellshomes@hotmail.com 1
 210 "erik olson" erikolson@northstarmortgage.org 1
 211 "Mason Zeiher" masonbase@hotmail.com 1
 212 "Dorothy Seaver" lesueurdot@msn.com "Please leave the natural habitat as it stands and find an alternative method." 1
 213 "Kristen Johnston" jkjohnston5@gmail.com 1
 214 richard chilman rchilman@yahoo.com
 215 michele olson shelly123olson@yahoo.com
 216 tammy skogberg skogberg@frontiernet.net i really liked the video
 217 Jennifer Turensky jturen1@yahoo.com concerned citizen of LeSueur
 218 Mary Bliesmer mary.bliesmer@mnsu.edu
 219 kathy keech racerswife19@msn.com
 220 Dave Sunderman Lone_eagle7mm@hotmail.com
 221 Gail Chilman Gail_C_Chilman@lesueurinc.com
 222 Kalyann Allen toyladybiz@gmail.com
 223 Laurie Steinborn Laurie_L_Steinborn@Lesueurinc.com
 224 Wanda Houska byker_chik@hotmail.com
 225 Leon Scheible gacct002@gmail.com
 226 Linda Scheible gacct002@gmail.com
 227 Brian Kane whitewing54@live.com
 228 Nick Feser fese0005@umn.edu
 229 Judith A. Hathaway hathaway@hickorytech.net
 230 Cathy Malinowski satellite69@myclearwave.net
 231 John Meger poutmiester@yahoo.com
 232 Lona Meger lmeger82@yahoo.com
 233 Claire Meger lmeger82@yahoo.com
 234 Breanna Meger lmeger82@yahoo.com
 235 Gary Meger Sr. lmeger82@yahoo.com
 236 Jamie Erickson lmeger82@yahoo.com
 237 Mary Miska poutmiester@yahoo.com
 238 Lesa Vosejpka poutmiester@yahoo.com
 239 Tim Vosejpka poutmiester@yahoo.com
 240 Paul Friesz poutmiester@yahoo.com
 241 Ralphine Friesz poutmiester@yahoo.com

- 242 Greg Marquette sue-n-greg@msn.com The loss of habitat is the single most serious factor in wildlife species numbers and health. Damaging or destroying an area like this should not happen. An alternate route should be used.
- 243 Enoch Peterson bloobeerd@yahoo.com
- 244 Marie Mathews memathewsch@msn.com

Hand-Signatures on the Petition

To the Minnesota Department of Commerce, Office of Energy Security for the Environmental Report and the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission concerning the Cap X2020 Brooking County-Hampton 345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line

We, the people, respectfully request that the Minnesota River Crossing for the CapX 2020 345 kV Electrical Transmission Line proposed routing at Le Sueur, Minnesota, known as the Le Sueur Crossing, within the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone, be removed from consideration as routing option for the project.

Article I: The Resident Eagles

The five eagle nests in the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone require protection under the Bald Eagle Act of 1940.

Article II: The Migrating birds

The Minnesota River Flyway through the area in question is used by 100's if not thousands of migrating eagles, and dozens of other bird species that use the unique feeding area known as Bucks' Lake as a major feeding stop. In addition, the 345 kV line would inhibit floodplain habitat as well as result in strikes by birds flying in the river corridor.

Article III: The Nesting Habitat

The Buck's Lake Blue Heron Rookery within Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone along with the floodplain habitat for dozens of other nesting water bird species must be protected and preserved. There were nineteen active Blue Heron Nests in 2008 alone.

Article IV: Ground Water Protection

The soon to be decommissioned Le Sueur sewer ponds are clay lined and may not withstand compromise through clay layer puncture that could result from power line tower construction. This could contaminate surface, river and ground water resources of the floodplain habitat and potentially the city water supplies.

Article V: Economic Impact

The Scenic Byway and Henderson Feathers tourism efforts center on the MN Hwy 93 bordering Bucks' Lake. Placement of the 345 kV line at the Le Sueur Crossing would force termination of those efforts.

Article VI: Human Habitat

A residential area housing development within the city of Le Sueur and the Hermel Addition is believed to be in direct line of maximum impact to those residents.

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Frank Tiep	248-3805	56044	
Bob Tiep	248-3805	56044	

Lois Smiser	507-304-5867	56044	
Luisa Dwyer	507-665-3887	56058	
Tom Buler	507-665-6122	56044	
Kathanna Bander	507-665-6122	56058	
Ken Bader	507-354-8367	56073	BOLD RIDE PERUMTEL.NET
Judy Loewe	507-248-3345	56044	gjloewe@frontiernet.net
Bert Kerels	248-3313	56044	
Arlene Kerels	248-3313	56044	
Marge Ambersen	612-910-7393	56044	mwarembersen@lakekn.com
Debra Zipfel	248-9635	56058	
Shirley A. Mink	507-248-9635	56058	
Anna Mae Scheiber	507-665-3147	56058	
David Scheiber	507-665-3147	56058	
Genevieve Cords	507-665-3947	56058	
Ginny Ogden	612-5-2311	56058	lucyogden@yahoo.com
Leticia Brown	665-1032	56058	leticia.brown@yale.edu
Mariella Deigan	612-756-4268	56058	rmsteigera@ucksu.com
Jeanne Gill	665-0050	56058	jeannegill9@aol.com
Brad Fahy	612-501-6400	56058	fahyb@aol.com
Brenda Tuck		56058	
DAVE BEUTLER	507-665-4843	56058	
Beth Smith		56017	
Deborah Mager	507-271-1109	56058	ron.mager@gmail.com

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Violet Yahrke	665-3659	56058	—
Dale Keshen	352-6217	56058	
Mary Anderley	1-612-501- ⁸⁰⁷⁸	56058	
Jim Anderley	1-412-532-9872	56058	
Nicole Whalen	⁵⁰⁷ 665-2464		
Steve Wick	⁵⁰⁷ 665-2584	56059	
Nichole Wentzloff	612-750 1504	56058	wentz041@d.umn.edu
Brad Fahy	612-501- 6400	56058	
Pauline Denzer	507-665 26204	56058	
Theresa Doherty	507-665- 3098	56058	
Bette Herrmann	665 2565	56058	
Thomas Gipton IV	665- 2375	56058	
Bruce Steink	665 6053	56058	
Pat Freid	665 6907	56058	p-freid@mchsi.com
Cyndy Ludewick	507-262 4235	56058	ME4544LUDAY@MAIL.COM
Darlene Maly	⁵⁰⁷ 665-3624	56058	Wanderer
Jayne Miller	665-4237	56058	LeSueur
Tom Gipton III	665-6775	56058	LeSueur
Kris Hank	665-4108	56058	
Paul Hank	665-4108	56058	
Jodi Prchal 952	758-4213	56069	Montgomery
Deanne Hammer	665-6505	56058	LeSueur
Judy Dahn	665-2139	56058	
Cheryl Wike	665-6976	56058	" "

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Julie Thomas	507-248-3306	56044	orangejuleet1162@yahoo.com
Rhonda	507-665-6813	56058	rhonda@myclearwave.net
Sally Olson	507-665-6598	56058	sally7@aol.com
Tom Manek	507-665-2120	"	
Beri Callahan	507-665-3744	56058	callahan256@msn.com
Ann Gupter	507-665-6775	56058	
Judy Thurner	507-665-2749	56058	27558 328 St. Le. SUPER MN
Pam McKnight	952-545-5159	55305	Mtka, mn
Vicki L. Meyer	507-340-8729	56001	Mankato, Mn.
Karen Wolf	507-248-3421	56044	wolfpak@myclearwave.net
Dawn M. Knoll	507-248-3645	56044	—
Shirley Monahan	507-665-6973	56058	cheirlady2@gmail.com
Todd Redmann	507-665-8081	56058	TREDMANN_1@MSN.COM
GREG GERTIN	507-248-7533	56058	GREGGARY U GERTIN
Ruth Gumbert	507-665-8974	56058	ruth623@hotmail.com
Dawn Gumbert	507-665-8974	56058	N/A
Lynn L. Schultzy	612-518-6610	56058	lynnls8@msn.com VENUS GLANCY@aol.com
Venus Glancy	(507) 665-2025	56058	KE SUEUR.
Jim L. Bock	507-248-3388	56044	
Tony Larson	507-248-9643	56044	
Megan Schwab	507-665-4020	56058	
Greg Wediger	507-665-2052	56058	
Lyne Logre	612-737-9023	96734	
Robert J. Dehn	507-524-4547	56065	decker5@hickorytech.net

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Laura Riddling	665-2350	56058	hopeispotential@gmail.com
Alle Krueger	248-3298	56044	
Erin Kapsner	248-3781	56044	erinkapsner@yahoo.com
Mark Kapsner	248-3781	56044	
Donna Bieseke	665-0042	56058	
Wendy Mueller	665-2281	56058	
Meg Paulson	665-3807	56058	
Ken Paulson	665-3807	56058	
Katie Doherty	665-4189	56058	
Carol Kaufman	665-4076	56058	—
Michael J. Kaufman	665-4076	56058	
John Huff	868-4234	56044	
Margie Steinborn	665-6538	56058	
Donna Steinborn	665-6538	56058	
Greg Plonche	612-702-4883	56058	
Elga Brunka	665-2115	56058	
Amey Herdel	248-9620	56044	
Jim Michaelis	248-3876	56044	
Kristen Pfarr	665-4216	56058	
Don Poth	665-3011	56058	
Nicholas Champin	665-6969	56058	
Jana Champin	665-6969	56058	
John Poth	952-461-2366	56044	
Rick Bruns	507-665-4188	56058	

Kristina Knoll	248-3849	56044	
Sara Denn	380-8556	56044	dancer4847004@yahoo.com
Amy Schollen	248-3197	56044	
Eigene Schollen	248-3197	56044	
Hel Frey	868-4196	56041	
Tina Summers	868-4196	56041	
Jim Seavel	612-991-1282	56011	
Jim Wartman	248-3411	56044	
Erin Kasper	248-3781	56044	
Jane Sells	248-3671	56044	
Melissa Hudson	248-3599	56058	
Grant Hudson	248-3599	56058	
Jan Thompson	248-3801	56044	
Mary Sere	952-292-7442	56058	
Mark Beseke	248-3568		
Kerwin Wolter	248-3612	56044	
Goldy Tooley	612-209-6486	56044	
Deak Brumm	507-381-6057	56044	
Salitha Stanford	320-296-1942	56044	
Tammie Rueda	(507) 248-3255	56044	
Cassie Knoll	248-3849	56044	
Don Beseke	248-3849	56044	
Jan Plesin	612-205-4184	56044	
James Leuch	507-248-3708	56044	
Laurence Hacker	507-248-3486	56044	
Ruby Johns	952-221-9057	56044	
Cina Zurn	507-248-3620	56044	

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Al Shand	507 934-1029	56082	
Janet Altsch	507-934-1029	56082	
Paul Berndt	507/605-6514	56058	
Janice Lueck	507-465-3290	56058	
Vera Hahn	507-237-2090 - 55334		
German Hahn	507-237-2090 - 55334		
Gregory Zippel	507 2459635	56058	
Pat Steckman	507-248 3458	56044	patsteck@mcnhsi.com
Carmen Wigan	507-248 3520	56044	
Stan Wigan	"	"	
Kallie Boehne	507- 248- 3383		
Erlene Boehne	248 3592	56044	
Walter Giese			
DeAnne Hie	507-43- 7901		
Patricia Baesch	507	56082	
Matheus Kaesch	"	56082	
Ruth Han	507-904 2105	56044	
Sara Iken	507-665 6762	56058	
Steve Iken	507-665 6762	56058	
Alan Walter	320-833 2219	55314	
Jane Kufner	507-605- 2621	56058	
Paul Meierbach	507-248 3635	56044	
Paul Sch	612 282 7941	56058	
Mark Weg	612-522-1888	55912	markweg_ford@msn.com

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Mary Ann Roberts	665-2758		
John F. Straub	612-807-6561		
Janet Straub	507-665-6550	56058	jstraub@austfamily.net
Rena Lehman	507-665-6378	56058	ittybittygees@hotmail.com
Ron Lehman	/	/	
Rachel Lehman			
Andrew Lehman			
Joseph Lehman			
Don G. Othe	665-6813	56058	RKG@MYCLEARWAVE.NET
Robin G. Othe	-	11	
Barry G. Othe	-	1	
Martha May	665-6318	56058	marthas15@hotmail.com
Dorothy Anderson	665-2001	56044	
Sheryl Meyer	665-2519	56058	SRmeyer@frontier.net.net
Terence Meyer	665-2519	56058	
Ronald Wyz	665-2077	56058	
Dave Papaska	665-2991	56057	
Bill Kronik	665-6523	56058	
Howard P. Zolubsky	665-6522	56044	
Allen Braun	665-3758	56057	

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Maureen			
Luan Biazale			
Venus M. Glancup			
Kurt Wilke			
Pat Lepichon			
Nancy Muehl		56058	
Mike Moller			
Lee Duhon			
Lee Duhon			
Janet M. Kuntz			
Janet M. Kuntz	612 203	56058	
Janet M. Kuntz	6415	56058	
Janet M. Kuntz		56058	
Janet M. Kuntz		56058	
NORA USKEY		55960	
DARREN UETZ		55960	
Charles Bussle		56041	
John Fickler			
Kathleen Luskay	527-240	56041	
Wanda M. DeVil	0560		
	507-948	56044	
	3305		

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Nancy Marie Jansen	952-905-8164	56044	mmiller@frontiernet.net
Larry Van Lene	248-3563	56044	
Lisa Gamache	248-3563	56044	ms.lisa@frontiernet.net
Tricia Wayland	248-3563	56044	
Amy Laduke	248-3551	56044	Brad.laduke@netzero.com
Brad Laduke	248-3551	56044	Brad.laduke@netzero.com
Kirk Ahrens	507-351-9103	56044	Jeep05@wchs.com
Janet Westphal	507-351-4208	56044	
Hanella Freeman	952-873-2156	56044	Flowergal68@msn.com

Gladys Kotarsch	248-3224	56044	—
Kenny Bud &	248-3378	56044	
Matt Dwyer	952-220-5768	56011	
Boris Higand	248-3500	56044	
Sammy Shaluff	248-3222	56044	
Margaret Wagner	1-907-581-6605	96058	
Leanne Davis	606-283-2839	56058	
Alan Hunt	320-256-3127	56044	
Cal Casey	617-702-7414	56058	

Oetbie Schroeder	665-3821	56044	
Bob Latzke	665-314	—	
Art Lofke	—	—	
Mae Bloog	248-3693	56044	

Donna Wright	549-3246	56090	
Gerald Wright	507-549-3246	56090	Gerald.Wright@mnso.edu
Janet Madson	507-248-3317	56058	
Linda Kist	507-248-3322	56058	
Rita	507-248-3337	56058	
Gore Skut	507-248-3387	56058	
Lisa Braun	507-248-3690	56044	
JR Jones	507-248-3690	56044	

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Fay Witt	612 716-7520	56058	SueWitt at Hotmail.com
Susan Witt	612 703-3052	56058	SueWitt at Hotmail.com
Erlin Witt	507 469-9168	56058	
Maria Witt-Schwinger	612-532-8465	56011	

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Sandi Andersen	507-868-4058	56044	seasewhapy@yahoo.com
Marion Matting		56044	

ALLAN LAWRENCE	612-499-1833 CELL	56058	
Donna Hague	665-0044		
Janet Madson			
Sue BARRON			
Meel Kahle			
Mike Moriarty	7632919011	56058	
Jul Precher			
Irene Kroeche			
Barthelme Jones		56058	

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Irene L. Casey	507-665-2831	56058	Tyroneirene@aol.com
Grace Kamath	507-665-6367	56058	
Duane Kemnitz	507-665-6367	56058	
Barry Kahle	507-765-3857	56058	
Shirley Katzmeyer	665-1857	"	SKatzmeyer@decade.net.com
John T. May	665-6318	56058	john.t.may@netzero.net
Ron Anderson	" 2938	"	
Paul Kotasek	665-2758		
Bob Kotasek	665-2758		

PETITION FOR CAPP X 2020 "HELP SAVE BUCK'S LAKE"

name Phone Zip Code E-mail

Elizabeth Westphal 507-469-2647 56044

Chae Johnson 507-469-2647 56044

~~Karl~~ Randy Notermann 507-248-3718 56044

Karl Notermann 612-702-8425

Donna Oestreich 507-248-9658 56044

Janebay Kluver 507-248-3733 56044

Olisa Beise 612-859-7136 56044

William Blutchins 507-720-9741 56044

Tami Collins 507-248-3709 56044

Jeff Collins 248-3709 56044

Bonita Boehne 248-3614 56044

Kath Seaver 55338

Risa Stunborn 248-3827 56044

Name	Phone	Zip Code	e-mail
Cindy O'Neal	665-2311	56058	lucyoneal@yahoo.com
Leticia Snow	665-1032	56058	leticiasnow@yahoo.com
Maria Deiga	662-756-4268	56058	rmsteigera@uchsi.com
Jeanne Gill	665-0050	56058	jeannegill9@aol.com
Brad Fahey	612-501-6400	56058	faheyb@aol.com
Brenda Tuck		56058	
DAVE BEUTLER	507-665-8441	56058	
Beth Smith		56017	
Deborah Mager	501-271-1109	56058	ron.mager@gmail.com

Aylene Robinson	665-6382	56058	
Shirley Bump		56044	
Markus Tette	665-3021	56058	
Maureen Pioske	665-3039	56058	

PUBLIC COMMENTS

MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2009

5:00 p.m.

In the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a
345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County,
South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota

PUC Docket Number ET2/TL-08-1474

Hog Wild Saloon & Eatery
514 Main Street
Henderson, Minnesota

This is testimony from Dolores Hagen at the April 6, 2009 Hearing. Only my direct testimony is reproduced and only to verify the items in question were indeed submitted in a timely fashion. They are being submitted here so they can become part of the record that will reach Judge Luis.

3

1 MR. EK: So we'll open it up to
2 questions. I guess what I'll do is go around,
3 if you just want to raise your hand. And you're
4 going to have to kind of bear with me here. And
5 also, when I get to you, if you could state your
6 name and spell it for the court reporter and try to
7 speak as close as you can into the microphone so
8 that she can be sure to get down what you have. And
9 I'll try to stand by you because we only have one
10 mic, unfortunately, and -- so we can get the back
11 and forth questioning and comment.

12 I see Delores back there.

13 MS. HAGEN: I'll come up.

14 MR. EK: Oh, no, that's all right.

15 MS. HAGEN: Dolores Hagen, D-O-L-O-R-E-S,
16 Hagen, H-A-G-E-N.

17 Hello, everybody. I've got three pieces
18 of information I'd like on the record. There has
19 been a petition on the Henderson website, it has
20 five articles -- very specific articles. I don't
21 think I'm going to try to -- there's too many people
22 here to waste the time to read them all, but I'll
23 supply it to the court reporter, would that be
24 better? Would that be better? I think it would be.

25 The subject is eagles, the wetlands, the

1 resident eagles, the migrating birds, the nesting
2 habitat, the groundwater potential disruption,
3 economic impact, and human habitat, and the articles
4 are delineated in a paragraph each. I'll give this
5 to the -- everybody who signed the petition knows
6 what's on it.

7 There are 481 individual people who have
8 signed this petition asking that this route for the
9 crossing of the Minnesota River at Le Sueur be
10 discounted as unacceptable. The other area -- by
11 the way, I'm holding -- the petitions are still out
12 in the field and the additional people who signed
13 the petition, in addition to the 481, will be added
14 before the deadline, which is the 30th of April.

15 The third element -- or second element
16 I'd like to bring up are letters from both
17 governmental and civic organizations in the area. I
18 have a letter from the Henderson Area Chamber of
19 Commerce, the Henderson Township Supervisors, the
20 Audubon Society of Minnesota, the Henderson Lions
21 Club, Tyrone Township, Minnesota River Valley Scenic
22 Byway Alliance, and the mayor of Henderson,
23 Minnesota. And again, I won't read the letters,
24 everybody here would like to comment, so we'll just
25 ask the court reporter to enter them into the

1 record.

2 The third item, there is a considerable
3 amount of information available to you here, but
4 some of it is in error and I would like the record
5 to be cleared. If you go to section 10 of the
6 information provided here, or if you go on the
7 website, you will find information that is wrong.
8 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service in early
9 December submitted a letter to the engineering firm
10 suggesting their analysis would recommend the
11 Le Sueur crossing for the Minnesota River as opposed
12 to the alternative site.

13 Since that letter has been written, they
14 have been down here -- nine people, from both the
15 DNR and Fish and Wildlife, have been down here at
16 the request of the head of that department to
17 reevaluate that situation and to hold in abeyance
18 their original decision. In other words, hang onto
19 to your hat, folks, we haven't made a decision yet.
20 That isn't what the papers you will read say. I
21 just want you to know that what's in those papers
22 just ain't true, they're still making up their mind.

23 And that's all I have, Scott can have her
24 back.

25 MR. EK: I just want to clarify for


1 Dolores, that the -- just want to make sure that you
2 get those comments in, make sure that we get those
3 comments before the 30th, certainly, for sure. And
4 I know you talked to me about that, but just to get
5 it on the record.

6 And the topics -- I forget, though, the
7 topics you rattled off that would be looked at and
8 have studied, they're in the record. All of them
9 that you mentioned are something that we will be
10 studying. And you're indeed correct, the Fish and
11 Wildlife Service contacted me with their request for
12 abeyance on that original letter, and it wouldn't be
13 reflected in the permit application or any
14 documents, it's relatively new.

15 And I haven't heard any new news on
16 what's going on, but there -- Dolores is correct,
17 there was an abeyance letter from the Fish and
18 Wildlife Service, just to clarify that.

19 And I think I've got all that.

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6 MS. HAGEN: Dolores Hagen, D-O-L-O-R-E-S,
7 Hagen, H-A-G-E-N. This time for Henderson Feathers.

8 Several people have come up to me in the
9 last ten minutes asking me to stress something I
10 neglected to talk about and that's the scenic byway
11 and the tourism aspect of what Henderson is about to
12 enter into this coming year. It has been for two
13 years and hopes to continue, which is a serious
14 tourism effort on behalf the scenic byway and the
15 tourism of the valley that we sit in about to be
16 intersected by a power line.

17 The major nature of this entire effort is
18 Bucks Lake, and as you know, the preferred route
19 sits right on top of Bucks Lake, right through the
20 middle of it. The heron rookeries would be gone,
21 the eagle alert would be gone, we would no longer be
22 able to invite people to stand under a power line.

23 EPA will tell you pregnant women, don't
24 even drive under one. It would no longer be a
25 tourism attraction, it couldn't be. We could no

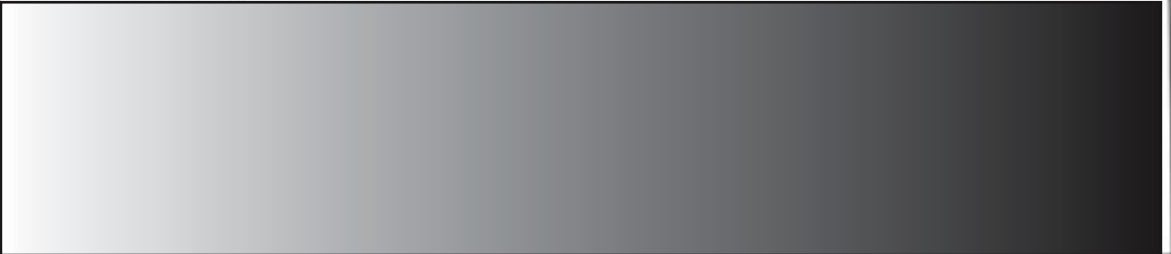
1 longer take children down there for Nature
2 Neighbors, it's our education program that we run
3 out of Henderson. It would be a tragedy to lose
4 those things.

5 I just want you to know that we think
6 there is another place to cross the Minnesota River
7 other than the Le Sueur crossing. You've got one on
8 the books, consider that one.

9 MR. EK: Dolores, I suspect we'll be
10 hearing from DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
11 when it comes to the scenic byways and the areas you
12 mentioned.

13 And also, all of you here, by all means,
14 suggest an alternative to the river crossing Dolores
15 is mentioning, it just helps to know. The more
16 comment letters we get, the more important we know,
17 you know, that subject, that area, that alternative
18 is to the folks in this community or communities
19 that we've already seen.

20 I'm trying to get around the room here.
21 Yes, sir, if you could state your name and spell it,
22 please.



April 23, 2009

TO: SCOTT EK

Office of Energy Security | Energy Facility Permitting
85 7th Place East, Suite 500 | St. Paul, Minnesota 55101-2198
Office: 651.296.8813 | Fax: 651.297.7891

FROM: DOLORES HAGEN

Henderson Feathers
526 Main Street, Henderson, MN 56044
(507) 248-3824

This collection of documents contain information from professionals on environmental and natural resource issues, economic impact data, correspondence from governmental and civic organizations as well as the expressed concerns of hundreds of people living and/or working in the Minnesota River Valley near or in the City of Le Sueur, MN all demonstrating the inappropriate choice of using the Le Sueur Crossing as the river crossing of choice for the Brookings County – Hampton 346 kV Transmission Line Project.

Several items of significant importance, contained in the applicants public data have been found to be in error and/or in direct conflict with statements previously expressed by government agencies. These changes are brought forth detailing evidence that demonstrates why those statements must be corrected and to established their weight as correct when given consideration by the OES, ALJ and PUC.

It would appear the “Needs” application for this project has been finalized and routing is now the question at hand. We would like to address the questions we assume would be of concern to the OES, ALJ and ultimately the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and weigh each with factual data for both the preferred and alternate routes as defined by designation in the OES and Great River Energy documents available to the public specific to the areas known as the Minnesota River Le Sueur Crossing and the Belle Plaine Crossing.

Architectural Sites Within 1 Mile of the Preferred Route Centerline, Cedar Mountain to Helena to Lake Marion
Tables H-8 and H-9--- **13 affected sites** in Le Sueur County

Architectural Sites Within 1 Mile of the Alternate Route Centerline, Cedar Mountain to Helena to Lake Marion
Tables H-13 and H –14--- **3 affected sites** in Le Sueur County

Impacts fewer homes (human habitat) within 500 feet

Examination of the two options (exposed by the public during the OES public meetings) show many of the affected homes are NOT on the maps, indicating less than accurate information has been used in the decision making process to date. A visual examination of the two-river crossing areas (via drive-by) show:

Le Sueur Crossing: Both commercial and residential area within the 1.25-mile route width at the Le Sueur Crossing area affecting many homes and businesses. In addition a major tourist attraction known as Bucks' Lake where the routing crosses the Scenic Byway with a roadside pull-off area (though not housing, it is a human habitat concern) in direct line of the proposed route.

Belle Plaine Crossing: open spaces with an existing 69 kV transmission line and nothing where the line crosses the Scenic Byway except open cropland.

Natural Resources

An extensive re-examination of both river crossing areas was ordered by Charles Blair (USFWS) (at the request of Henderson Feathers and other wildlife interests) resulting in his request to "to hold in abeyance" his prior comments expressed in his original determination letter expressed in his correspondence with Angela Piner of HDR Engineering, Inc. in December of 2008. Nine representatives of the DNR and USFWS attended the re-examination, the results of which have not been made available at this time. The information provided to USFWS by Henderson Feathers and others has been made available to OES and should be taken into consideration in any and all OES environmental and Natural Resources determinations made as they relate to the river crossing areas of the proposed routes. The evidence is overwhelming as to the dominant sensitivity with more impacts to natural resources at the Le Sueur Crossing area over that of the Alternative routing, regardless of the measuring stick used. We just hope the new and future determinations will be made considering the new factual data and provable evidence rather than political justifications.

Over 100 Pages of Natural Resource Data previously submitted: Rather than attaching the Henderson Feathers research data to this file, we presume our original filing of that information with OES will suffice to make it part of this record.

Economic Impact

Economic impact at the Le Sueur Crossing includes tourism. In 2006 the City of Henderson commissioned a study on the economic impact of birding. The study was undertaken and submitted to the Chamber of Commerce in 2007 complete with demographics, income and education impact and geographic studies placing a dollar figure on potential birding tourism revenues. References were taken from U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service reports from 2001 as well as the National Survey of Wildlife-Associated Recreation which produced the economic facts that resulted in the formation of Henderson Feathers, a regional center for birding in the Minnesota River Valley and the creation of Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone; a dedicated section of the Minnesota River Valley. The area covers 2.5

miles south of Le Sueur to 6.5 miles north of Henderson housing five active eagle nests, a 20 nest Blue Heron Rookery and countless acres of vital wetland nesting habitat for water birds using the Minnesota River Flyway and housing 22 bird species on the Audubon Minnesota Birds at Risk and the DNR birds at Greatest Conservation Need lists.

Henderson Feathers, and the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone were created in conjunction with the Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway program. The Scenic Byway runs along the major tourism attractions (Bucks' Lake and the Blue Heron Rookery) and would be cut in half by the preferred route of the 345 kV transmission line. The entire Henderson Feathers, feather program, Eagle Alert would be destroyed, as would the Nature Neighbors (planned children's program for Buck's Lake). The roadside viewing area (the major Scenic Byway feature along MN Hwy #93) would have to be discontinued as it would be within the danger zone directly under the proposed power line...in jeopardy from EMF's stray voltage and other health and safety considerations connected with high voltage transmission lines. More than half of the existing and planned activities of Henderson Feathers and the Le Sueur Henderson Recovery Zone would be lost much less the creatures, natural environments and creature habitats that will also be lost if the preferred route is used.

Heath Hazards from Power Lines

In direct contrast to the applicant's claims and OES statement regarding their own research, the following is submitted giving credence to the public concern where heath and safety issues involving high voltage transmission lines are concern.

Dr. David Carpenter, Dean at the School of Public Health, State University of New York believes it is likely that up to 30% of all childhood cancers come from exposure to EMFs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) warns "There is reason for concern" and advises prudent avoidance".

Martin Halper, the EPA's Director of Analysis and Support says "I have never seen a set of epidemiological studies that remotely approached the weight of evidence that we're seeing with EMFs. Clearly there is something here."

Concern over EMFs exploded after Paul Brodeur wrote a series of articles in the New Yorker Magazine in June 1989. Because of Paul Brodeur's reputation. his articles had a catalytic effect on scientists, reporters and concerned people throughout the world.

In November 1989, the Department of Energy reported that "It has now become generally accepted that there are, indeed, biological effects due to field exposure."

The EMF issue gained more publicity in 1990 when alarming reports appeared in Time, the Wall Street Journal, Business Week and popular computer publications. ABC's Ted Koppel and CBS's Dan Rather both aired special segments on EMFs.

In addition to the long-term health concerns, buying a house with high fields will be an economic disaster. In a few years, when power line radiation is as well known as asbestos and radon, a house with high fields will be practically impossible to sell. Already there are hundreds of lawsuits regarding EMFs and property devaluation.

EPA Says the Threat Is Real

By 1990, over one hundred studies had been conducted worldwide. Of these, at least two dozen epidemiological studies on humans indicated a link between EMFs and serious health problems. In response to public pressure, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) began reviewing and evaluating the available literature.

In a draft report issued in March 1990, the EPA recommended that EMFs be classified as a Class B carcinogen -- a "probable human carcinogen and joined the ranks of formaldehyde, DDT, dioxins and PCBs.

After the EPA draft report was released, utility, military and computer lobbyists came down hard on the EPA. The EPA's final revision did NOT classify EMFs as a Class B carcinogen. Rather, the following explanation was added:"

At this time such a characterization regarding the link between cancer and exposure to EMFs is not appropriate because the basic nature of the interaction between EMFs and biological processes leading to cancer is not understood."

Curiously, this rather unusual logic appears on the same page as the following: "In conclusion, several studies showing leukemia, lymphoma and cancer of the nervous system in children exposed to supported by similar findings in adults in several/ occupational studies also involving electrical power frequency exposures, show a consistent pattern of response that suggest a causal link. "

When questioned about the contradictory nature of these statements, the EPA responded that it was "not appropriate" to use the probable carcinogen label until it could demonstrate how EMFs caused cancer and exactly how much EMF is harmful.

This explanation does not satisfy many critics who claim that the EPA's upper management was influenced by political and economic considerations exerted by utility, computer and military lobbyists.

Health and safety issues are real, and no amount of political nay saying is going to make the concerns go away.

In addition to the inherent health issues of overhead power lines are the health issues related to the

Le Sueur Crossing area and it's proximity to the soon to be decommissioned sewer ponds at Le Sueur. These are old style clay-lined sewer ponds with inherent issues of clay punctures and contaminants moving to groundwater if and or when clay is damaged by construction equipment. There is real concern as to how this area will remain safe if power line towers are placed on or near the clay-lined ponds. We can find no reference to this potential problem anywhere in the documents available to the public except one reference quoting Mr. Skok (Water Treatment Manager for the City of Le Sueur) who states; "decommission the ponds in three to five years... do not have final plans for what to do with the area; selling the land is another possibility... ponds will be dredged back to original depths but the clay liners in the ponds will be left in place, and dikes will remain but will not be maintained." Mr. Skok's descriptions are not reassuring and provide no evidence that this problem has been addressed by the city of Le Sueur, the power line applicants or any governmental agency currently assessing the installation of the power line over this sensitive area.

Considering the number of years of planning and the intense investigation that has been conducted to date to determine these two potential routes for this 345 kV why hasn't a route further south (avoiding the Minnesota River Crossings) been considered?

We ask this question with one major concern at the base? Avian traffic follows major rivers. The Minnesota River Flyway is a very important migration route for dozens if not hundreds of species. Research shows there is no safe way to prevent migrating bird collisions with power lines.... So if there is an option to keep power lines out of migration routes why aren't they considered? In other words, if this transmission line were to follow a route south of Mankato, it would prevent any required crossing of the Minnesota River and in doing so prevent the crossing of migration routes for those birds. This is a VERY large concern. It is just one of the many environmental and natural resources questions that could be eliminated on this particular transmission line permit application if a more southern route was considered.

Why couldn't such southern routing of this line be considered now? If the answer to that question is delay, we would like to point out that the demissished demand for power as well as locally produced alternative sources of energy have and are both on the increase, making any delay in construction of this particular transmission line within the limits of reaching it's ultimate goal of meeting the forecasted growth in demand.

Letters from area governmental and civic organization are also attached to this document to become part of the record. All reject the "preferred route" and are as follows; Tyrone Township, Henderson Area Chamber of Commerce, Henderson Lions Club, Henderson Township Supervisors, Mayor Keith Swenson, Henderson Mayor, Audubon Minnesota, and Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Alliance.

We offer two alternatives to the preferred route for this 345 kV transmission line:

- #1: Use the Alternative Route (including the Belle Plaine Crossing of the Minnesota River)
- #2: Use a Southern Route, south of Mankato (loosely defined as US #14 and I 90)

In rejection of the route known as the #preferred route" are the following 527 people:

The following paragraph appeared on the Henderson, MN website as a solicitation for support against the preferred route as defined by Great River Energy for their Cap X2020 345 kV Transmission Line Le Sueur Crossing of the Minnesota River.

The Cap X2020 345 kV Transmission Line PREFERRED crossing of the Minnesota River is at Le Sueur. That line will cut right through the middle of Bucks' Lake, the Blue Heron Rookery and the very heart of the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone. To see all the reasons TO USE THE ALTERNATIVE route, GO TO:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iqMbmnnO3-o>

After viewing the video, PLEASE, YOU CAN HELP - SIGN the petition. Go To:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/CapX2020/>

Thank you for your help.

Attached is the petition as it appeared and the 244 electronic signatures submitted via computerized method. (See attached)

Not everyone had the ability to sign the on-line petition so pen and ink locations were set up in and around Le Sueur and Henderson and the attached 283 signatures were also against the use of the Le Sueur Crossing and the Preferred Route for the proposed 345 kV Cap X2020 Transmission Line. (See attached)

A grand total of 527 people signed the petition against use of the Le Sueur Crossing of the Minnesota River and supporting the Alternative Route as the one that should be used.

February 2, 2009

Dr. Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101

Re: Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a route permit for the Brookings County
- Hampton 345 dV Transmission Line Project MPUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474

Dear Mr. Haar:

This letter addresses the proposal for three big 345 KV (high voltage) lines, in particular the proposed Le Sueur Crossing for the Brookings County- Hampton 345 dV Transmission Line Project along the Minnesota River Flyway and within Audubon Minnesota's Lower Minnesota River Important Bird Area, 2 ½ miles south of Henderson Minnesota in southeast Sibley County. We understand that these transmission lines are needed to increase the strength of the grid in Minnesota and to provide for renewable electricity generation development – primarily wind energy. However, we need to make sure these lines are appropriately routed to serve renewable energy development, but we must also be sure to reduce the environmental impact in wildlife/ bird sensitive areas by these lines.

Audubon Minnesota recommends that the Buck's Lake route (2 ½ miles south of Henderson), be removed from consideration as the location for the CAPX2020 transmission lines in the Henderson area and recommend it be routed across the river at a less sensitive area. This area is within the Lower Minnesota River Important Bird Areas and is migratory habitat for hundreds of bald eagles, a great blue heron rookery (over 20 nesting pairs), great egrets, multiple species of ducks, common loons, swans, whites pelicans and numerous other species of waterbirds. The pull-off area 2.7 miles from the Henderson city limits makes an ideal spot to observe any and all of these birds for tourists and birdwatchers.

Audubon Minnesota respectfully requests that due consideration be given when planning the routing of the CAPX 2020 transmission line so as to minimize the disturbance of this great migratory bird habit and route the lines through less sensitive areas. We realize that these lines will need to cross the Lower Minnesota River at some point but having them routed some where other than at Buck's Lake South of Henderson would reduce the overall environmental impact on the bird species found in this sensitive area.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Peterson, Ph.D
Vice-President/Executive Director
Audubon Minnesota – State Office of the National Audubon Society



Henderson Area Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 216
Henderson, MN 56044-0216

In the Valley of the Future

February 4, 2009

Ms. Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers
516 Main Street
Henderson, Minnesota

Re: Cap X2020

Dear Ms. Hagen:

We would like to thank you for the information, especially the video. It was informative and useful to fully understand the ramifications of the proposed power line.

Henderson Feathers has been a welcome addition to our city and your continued efforts to feature the natural environment provided by the Minnesota River has had a positive impact on the City of Henderson.

Please accept this letter as support of your work to prevent destruction of the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone. Eagle Alert the many Minnesota Ornithologists' Union field trips you host along with programs such as Natures Neighbors are all significant to the economic and environmental health of Henderson. Though we understand and support the need for electrical power, we urge CapX 2020 and the Office of Energy Security Facility Permitting office to choose the alternative route for their new line, that is less intrusive to the river and wetland environments of the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone.

Respectfully Yours,
Henderson Chamber of Commerce

Jeff Hayden,
President

Henderson Township Supervisors

Henderson, MN 56044

January 9, 2009

Ms. Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers
P.O. Box 68
526 Main Street
Henderson, MN

Dear Ms. Hagen:

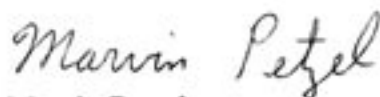
Thank you for your informational presentation regarding the routing of the CapX2020 River Crossing and the implications it brings to the Bucks' Lake area and Henderson Feathers.

After subsequent review of the maps offered by CapX 2020 and the video of the affected area it is the decision of the Henderson Board of Supervisors to support your efforts for continued development of the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone and to do all we can to assist you in protecting the zone from any surface and/or aerial obstructions.

The important natural resources within the Zone are very important to the Township Board. We applaud your stand and join with you in rejection of the CapX 2002 routing that would interject damage or destruction to the natural habitat for so many eagles, eagle nests, the heron rookery and other wildlife native to the area. The overall objectives of the Scenic Byway and Henderson Feathers are much the same as those of the Township Board and as supervisors; we submit this letter to accompany your communication to the Public Utilities Commission and the CapX 2020 conglomerate.

It is our intent to participate in any way we can and to continue review of the routing permit process as it goes forward. Please advise us of any new information you acquire that affects the township.

Sincerely,
Henderson Township Supervisors



Marvin Petzel,
Chairman



HENDERSON LIONS CLUB

HENDERSON, MINNESOTA

55044

January 8, 2009

Ms. Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers
P.O. Box 68
526 Main Street
Henderson, MN

Dear Ms. Hagen:

The membership of the Henderson Lions Club has reviewed the data supplied by the CapX 2020 web site and the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone, including the video history of the area.

Lions Clubs International has long had a commitment to environmental issues and local communities. We would like our voice added to the chorus of citizens in support of the work done by Henderson Feathers and the Le Sueur/Henderson Recovery Zone.

By unanimous vote, we support your efforts to oppose the Le Sueur Crossing area as the route for the CapX 2020 Transmission Line. We agree with your assessment of both the environmental and economic impact such routing would inflict on Bucks' Lake and the immediate surrounding wildlife habitat as well as the effect on the economic objectives of the Scenic Byway Program and Henderson Feathers.

Thank you for the opportunity to add our voice to your efforts.

Sincerely,

Henderson Lions Club

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russ Arnst".

Russ Arnst,
President



Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Alliance

www.mnrivervalley.com

Tourism Information

New Ulm Chamber of Commerce
1 North Minnesota Street
PO Box 384
New Ulm MN 56073-0384
1-888-463-9856

Administrative Information

Kristi Fernholz, Byway Coordinator
Upper Minnesota Valley RDC
323 West Schlieman Ave
Appleton MN 56208
320-289-1981

Alliance Board

Ron Bolduan, Chair,
Photographer - New Ulm
Christina Hettig, Vice - Chair,
Renville Co HRA/EDA
Terri Dinesen, Secretary,
Upper Sioux Agency
State Park Manager

Terry Sveine, New Ulm Chamber
Jean Haas, LeSueur Tourism
Dave Vogel, Explore MN Tourism
Al Sobrack, Ft Ridgely State Park
Mark Anderson, MnDOT
Environmental Services
Jarrett Hubbard, MnDOT
District 8 Planner
Nancy Zempel, Ft Ridgely
Historic Site
Bert & Ivern Enestvedt,
Seed Business
Bruce Tolzman, Redwood
County Commissioner
Bob Fox, Renville County
Commissioner
Jill Wahnoutka, Renville County
Museum
Jean Hallberg, Redwood Falls
CVB/Chamber
Pat Steckman, Sibley Co.
Tourism & City of Henderson

Kristi Fernholz, UMVRDC
Staff & Byway Coordinator

To: Public Utilities Commission and interested parties

From: Ron Bolduan, Chairperson for MRVSBA

Date: March 17, 2009

Re: CAPX2020 - PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474

The Minnesota River Valley Scenic Byway Alliance would like to support the Wild and Scenic River and River Bend designations and the adherence to the rules and regulations that govern these designations.

The mission of the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway is "to encourage economic development through the promotion, preservation and protection of the intrinsic qualities of the Minnesota River Valley." The byway is proud to be a part of a nationwide network of byways that are working to promote, preserve and protect the natural, cultural, archaeological, scenic, recreational and historical qualities that can be found along America's roadways.

There are areas along the byway corridor that are fragile and need protection, as well as areas that provide resources for economic development. With prudent planning, decisions can be made to benefit both economic development and the intrinsic qualities of the byway.

For information about this project and how to become involved with the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway contact Kristi Fernholz, Byway Coordinator at 320-289-1981. For tourism information about the byway call 1-888-463-9856 or visit www.mnrivervalley.com. Information about the America's Byways program can be found at www.byways.org.


See America's Byways



February 15, 2009

Dolores Hagen
PO Box 68
526 Main St.
Henderson, Mn. 56044

Dear Dolores,

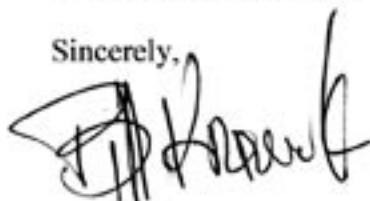
On February 9, 2009 the Le Sueur County Tyrone Township Board of Supervisors met for our monthly meeting. A lengthy discussion ensued pertaining to the proposed route of the Brooking County – Hampton transmission line project. Many of the residents of the township who would be affected by this proposed route attended the meeting.

Our township already has a 345 KVA running the full length of the township. The new proposed 345 KVA transmission line would run parallel to this existing line. It would run the full length of the township, approximately one mile north of the existing line.

The main concern at this meeting was the fact that this line would cross the Le Sueur/Henderson waterfowl flyway at Bucks Lake on the western edge of our township. It would be a real detriment to the flyway and its waterfowl inhabitants.

After listening to all of the discussion of this new proposed route of the transmission line, we three supervisors voted to request that the routing committee remove this proposed route and seek an alternative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Krenik", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Krenik
Chairman
Tyrone Township

From: Dolores <dhagen@closingthegap.com>

Date: September 21, 2010 5:56:05 PM CDT

To: capx.oah@state.mn.us

Subject: 345 kV Transmission Line-PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474

Administrative Law Judge, Richard C. Luis:

My first question is simple. Exactly what (if anything) of the Henderson Feathers materials submitted to Scott Ek and the Office of Energy Security (OES), and to you, directly, related to the Matter of the Route Permit Application for a 345 kV Transmission Line from Brookings County, South Dakota to Hampton, Minnesota PUC Docket Number: ET2/TL-08-1474, is part of the record? Are we to re-submit the materials for your NEW series of public meetings or can we rely on any of the documents, letters, petitions, etc., already submitted, as being part of an existing record?

I ask the question because it would appear the much of what has been submitted by USFWS and Henderson Feathers as it relates to the Minnesota River crossing has been ignored or at best misinterpreted. Letters from USFWS to Great River Energy as early as March 2009 to and including June 2010 clearly state the position of the USFWS responsibility to husband the ecology of the Minnesota River with their recommendations that the river crossing (if to be overhead lines) must be located in the least offensive place available, that of the Belle Plaine area where an existing power line crossing already has disrupted the river ecology. To put it as simply as possible: It makes no sense to tear another hole in the river environment by construction of a new power line crossing when one already exists... no sense at all to destroy another location.

Those simple words are mine, not those of USFWS. Thousands of man hours and hundreds of thousands of tax dollars have been spent by USFWS coming to that conclusion, following the rules of their charge - to protect the "Service trust resources that include migratory birds, Federally listed species of concern and lands owned, leased, or managed by the Service." To disregard their recommendations seems misplaced, for they are the recognized authority from Federal, State and Local entities. I find it hard to believe that more tax dollars are about to be spent rehashing the obvious.

But what do I know. It seems there will be more hearings conducted by your honor... and will I have to resubmit our hundreds of documents to make the point? Please let me know.

Respectfully yours,

Dolores Hagen
Henderson Feathers

Buck's Lake in Winter

Visual evidence of winter fish congregation occurring in the oxygen-rich water provided by the springs at the south end of Buck's Lake.

The springs at the South edge of Buck's Lake create a winter-feeding ground for eagles that is unique in the Minnesota River Valley. Does the lake freeze? Of course it does.... almost completely and that is the reason for this congregation. Because of the ice freezing deep into this shallow lake, the entire population of fish is forced to this only source of oxygen. It's why the eagles come to the lake... It's easy pick'n. Instead of flying over dozens of miles of flowing water in the river to spot lunch, they can come to Buck's Lake and pluck lunch out with little effort.



Fish swarm to the oxygen-rich water causing the liquid to appear boiling as they gather by the hundreds.



Photo by Art and Barb Straub

Eagles such as these residents use the ice of Buck's Lake as their winter feeding table.



Photo by Art and Barb Straub



Photo by Art and Barb Straub

Fresh, oxygen-rich water seeps from the springs into the lake creating open water along the south shore where eagles can access the fish with ease.



Photo by Art and Barb Straub

Buck's Lake is a winter foraging area for eagles and there is extensive video as well as still photography that can document this natural phenomenon that makes Buck's Lake such an important part of the Minnesota River Valley Flyway ecology.



Photo by Art and Barb Straub

This sign tells the story. Winter at Buck's Lake means that freezing temperatures will result in an almost complete freeze-out of the lake... making the lake one gigantic ice cube that will kill all the fish in the lake. As the ice gets thicker, DNR opens the lake to unlimited fishing. The fish are going to die from oxygen depletion so they let humans take all they can use through all legal fishing means.

Due to the springs at the south end, where the fish go for oxygen, both spear fishermen and eagles take gathering fish at will.

Submitted by:
Dolores Hagen

Representing:
Henderson Feathers, Inc.

The Birding Information Service of the Minnesota River Valley

And personally, as a citizen of the Minnesota River Valley area, a resident of Henderson, Minnesota and concerned about the overall impact of a 345 vK Transmission Line crossing the
Minnesota River at Le Sueur, Minnesota.

P.O. Box 68, □

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Roger Just [justroger@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Monday, October 04, 2010 11:05 PM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: OAH Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2 (PUC Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474)
Attachments: GoogleEarth_Image.jpg; cap2020.xlr

Dear Sir

This is the information regarding a possible alternate power line location south of Le Sueur that I agreed to furnish to you.

I am taking the liberty of sending you the original email that I sent to Craig Poorker on 8 December 2009. The attachment labeled 'GoogleEarth_Image.jpg' is a Google picture with pushpins that mark the alignment for the route I selected. Because the attachment is a picture, the pushpin locations cannot be obtained from the photo. For the latitude and longitude of the pushpins you need to look at the attachment labeled 'cap2020.xlr'.

As I stated during the hearing, the alignment shown is only approximate and needs to be field checked and modified by the CAPX2020 planning personnel to determine the best alignment for acceptance.

If you have need for further information, please contact me. My telephone number is 507 248 9632 if you wish to speak to me.

Thank you.

Roger Just

----- Original Message -----

From: [Roger Just](#)
To: [Craig Poorker](#)
Sent: Tuesday, December 08, 2009 7:15 PM
Subject: Google Earth Image

Craig

I haven't tried using Google to do things yet, so I hope the routemarkers come through. This is the route south of Le Sueur that I talked to you about last nite at Henderson after the hearing.

I don't have a good hard copy map I could send you, so if this doesn't copy, I would appreciate having you send me the map that covers the Le Sueur area, from 6 mi. west of Le Sueur to the Helena South Substation.

Thank you.

Roger Just

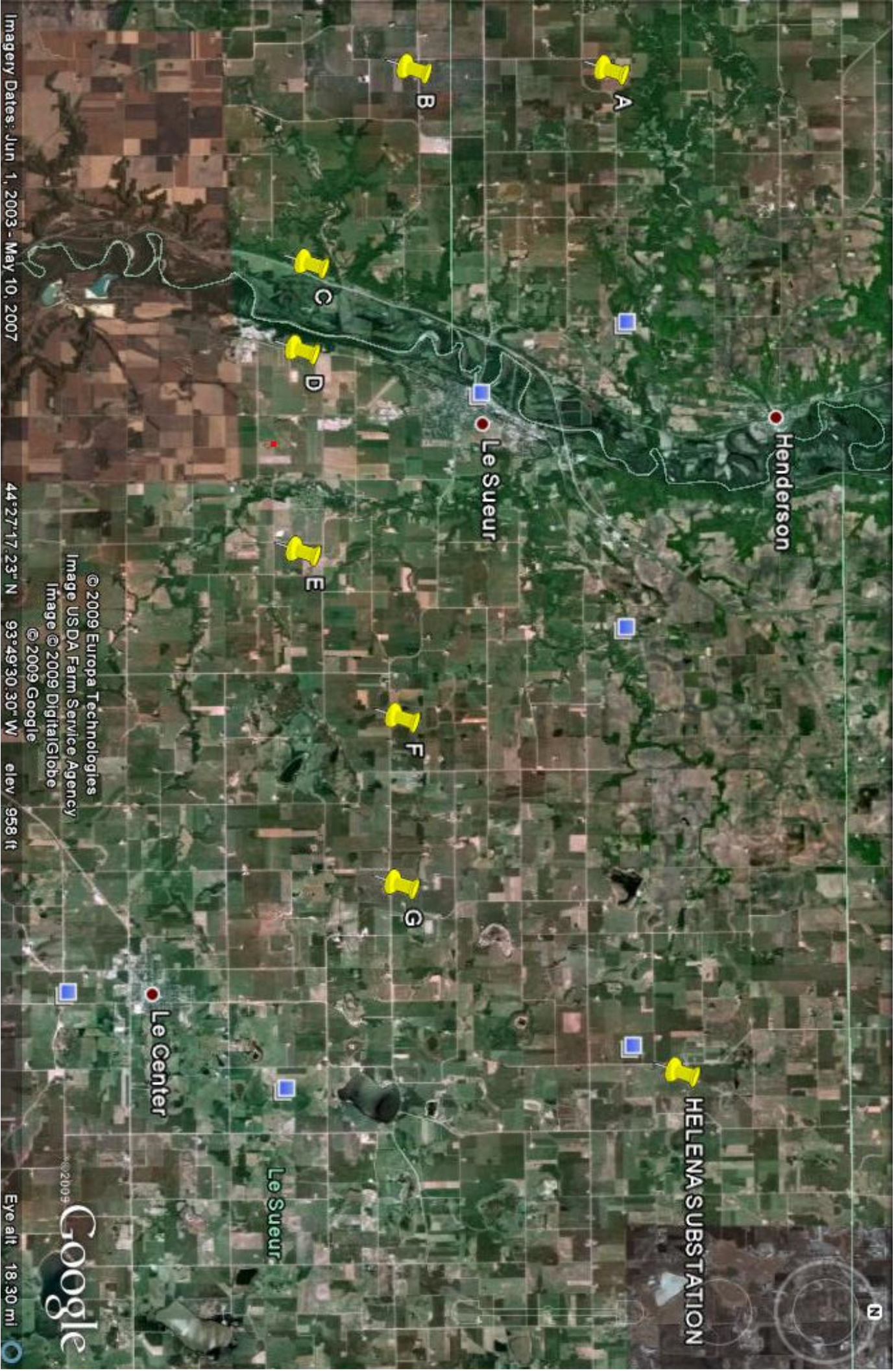
Google Earth streams the world over wired and wireless networks enabling users to virtually go anywhere on the planet and see places in photographic detail. This is not like any map you have ever seen. This is a 3D model of the real world, based on real satellite images combined with maps, guides to restaurants, hotels, entertainment, businesses and more. You can zoom from space to street level instantly and then pan or jump from place to place, city to city, even country

10/14/2010

to country.

Get Google Earth. Put the world in perspective.

(<http://earth.google.com>)



Imagery Dates: Jun 1, 2003 - May 10, 2007

44°27'17.23" N 93°49'30.30" W elev. 958 ft

© 2009 Europa Technologies
Image © 2009 DigitalGlobe
Image © 2009 Farm Service Agency
Image © 2009 Google

© 2009
Google
Eye alt 18.30 mi

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Kieser, Laura [LKieser@co.scott.mn.us]

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 10:32 AM

To: Capx Comments (OAH)

Subject: OAH Docket No.7-2500-20283-2

Attachments: Bonneville Power Administration.pdf; CDC - EMF (Electric and Magnetic Fields).pdf; EMFs In The Workplace.pdf; LADWP Electric and Magnetic Fields.pdf; OAH Docket No.7-2500-20283-2.pdf

Please see the attached letter and documents for more information. The cover letter for this information is the file titled OAH Docket No.7-2500-20283-2.

Thank you.

Laura T. Kieser
Extension Educator
Agriculture Production Systems

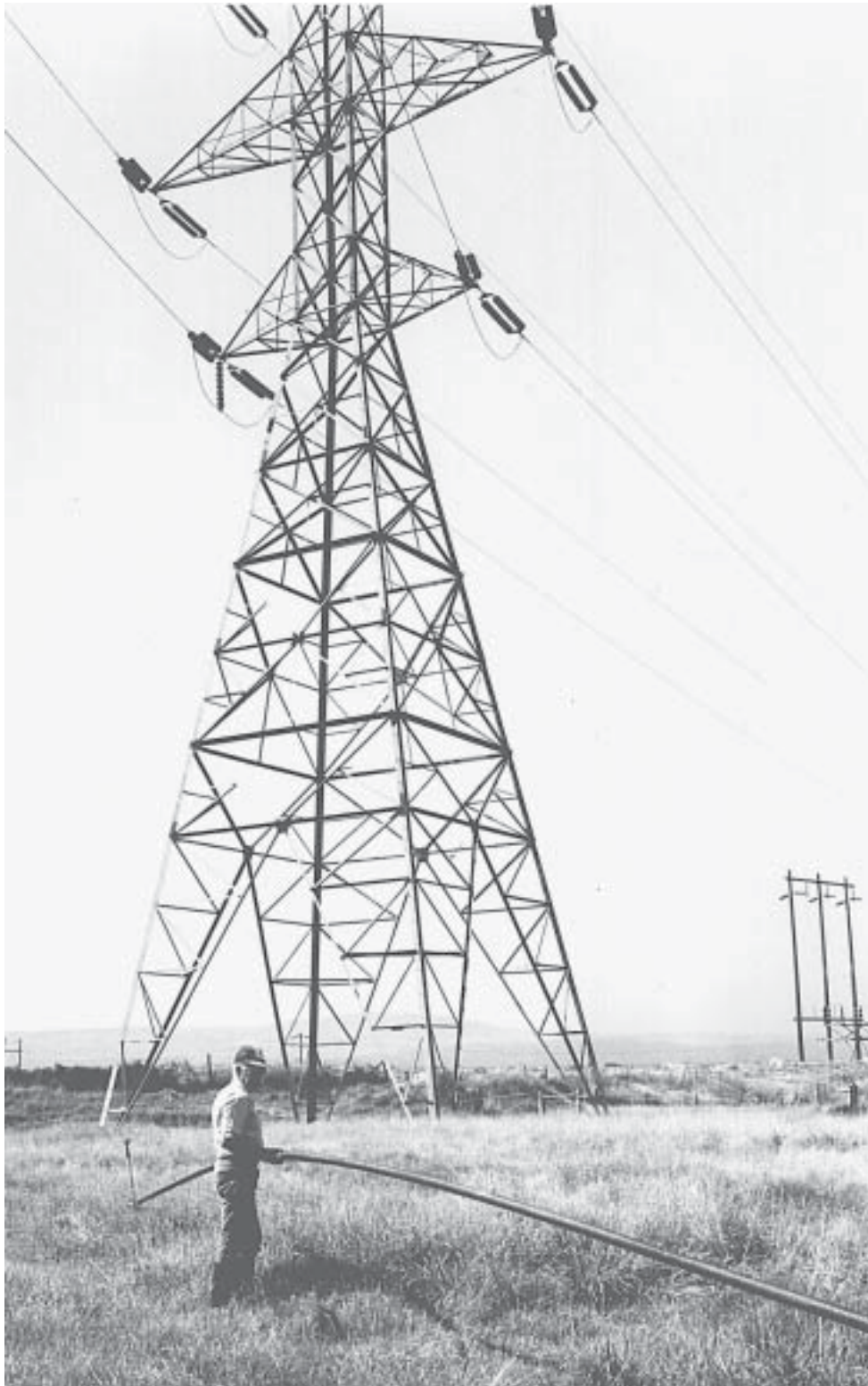
email: torb0022@umn.edu

Carver County - 952-466-5306
11360 Hwy 212 W, Ste. 4
Cologne, MN 55322
FAX: 952-466-5301

Scott County - 952-492-5386
7151 190th St W
Jordan, MN 55352
FAX: 952-492-5405

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is wrong thing and the worst thing you can do is nothing." ~Theodore Roosevelt

LIVING AND WORKING SAFELY
AROUND HIGH-VOLTAGE POWER
LINES





If you have questions about safe practices near transmission lines, call the nearest BPA office listed below.

Due to safety considerations many of the practices suggested in this booklet are restrictive. This is because they attempt to cover all possible situations, and the worst conditions are assumed. Oftentimes, the restrictions can be tempered. To determine what practices are applicable to your case, contact BPA.

SNOHOMISH REGION
914 Avenue D
Snohomish, WA 98290
(360) 568-4962

OLYMPIA REGION
5240 Trosper St. S.W.
Olympia, WA 98512-5623
(360) 704-1600

EUGENE REGION
86000 Hwy. 99 S.
Eugene, OR 97405
(541) 465-6991

REDMOND REGION
3655 W. Highway 126
Redmond, OR 97756
(541) 548-4015

WALLA WALLA REGION
6 West Rose, Suite 400
Walla Walla, WA 99362
(509) 527-6238

SPOKANE REGION
2410 E. Hawthorne Rd.
Spokane, WA 99021
(509) 358-7376

IDAHO FALLS REGION
1527 Hollipark Dr.
Idaho Falls, ID 83401
(208) 524-8770

Using the Easement

Before a transmission line is built, BPA negotiates with the landowner for the right to cross the land as required for the construction, operation and maintenance of the line. Usually, BPA acquires easement rights to construct, operate and maintain a transmission line and the right to keep the easement clear of all structures, trees, brush, fire hazards and any other vegetation that may interfere with the operation or maintenance of the line. Almost all farm crops can be grown safely under transmission lines. Crops grown on trellises require special consideration. Call BPA before installing trellises.

Call the nearest BPA transmission office if you plan to use the right-of-way for any use other than growing crops.

Ask for the "Landowner's Guide to Use of BPA Rights-of-Way," which explains how to apply for

permission to use a portion of a BPA right-of-way and easements for approved purposes.

Construction and maintenance of homes, sheds, machinery buildings or any other structures, are specifically prohibited within a right-of-way.

These arrangements also serve to eliminate possible hazards.

General Safe Practices

BPA designs and maintains its facilities to meet or exceed the rules set forth in the National Electrical Safety Code. BPA provides information on safe practices because serious accidents involving transmission lines can be avoided if simple precautions are taken. Every kind of electrical installation — from the 110-volt wiring in your home to a 500,000-volt transmission line — must be treated with respect.

The most significant risk of injury from a transmission line is the danger of electrical contact. Electrical contact between an object on the ground and an energized conductor can occur even though the two do not actually touch. In the case of high-voltage lines, electricity will arc across an air gap. The distance



Farm equipment or open large machinery 14 feet or less in height may be operated safely under all BPA lines in cultivated fields.

varies with the voltage at which the line is operated. Unlike the wiring at home, the conductors of overhead transmission lines are not enclosed by an electrical insulating material.

Injuries are more likely to result with lower voltage power lines (12,500 to 115,000 volts) than with higher voltage lines because contact is more likely. The electrical conductors of lower voltage lines are closer to the ground, smaller and less noticeable. An injury from contact with a 12,500-volt line can be just as serious as that from a 500,000-volt line.

The most important safe practice is this:

Avoid bringing yourself, or any object you are holding, too close to an overhead line.

In other words, do not lift, elevate, build or pass under a transmission line any object, implement, facility or vehicle that could become near the energized conductors.

BPA does not recommend that anyone attempt to calculate how close they can come to a transmission line. As a general precaution when under a line,

never put yourself or any object any higher than 14 feet above the ground.

The National Electrical Safety Code specifies a minimum safe clearance for each operating voltage. BPA builds its lines so that the clearance between the conductors of a line and the ground meets or exceeds the minimum set forth in the code.

The minimum clearance to ground usually occurs midway between towers because the conductors sag. The clearance is usually greatest near the towers or poles.

Vehicles and large equipment up to 14 feet in height, such as harvesting combines, cranes, derricks and booms, can be operated safely under all BPA lines that pass over roads, drive-ways, parking lots, cultivated fields or grazing lands. The operators of equipment that can be extended, such as bale wagons, stack movers or cranes, should exercise extreme care when near a power line.

The 14 feet limitation is a general standard applicable in the worst possible situations. In some instances, it can be exceeded without any problems. However, care must be taken since transmission lines sag, or droop,

when they become heated.

Having passed safely beneath a line in December with a piece of equipment higher than 14 feet does not automatically mean you can do so in July.

Instead of enumerating every situation or exception, we suggest, again, that you contact the nearest BPA transmission office or your local utility, if you need to exceed the 14-foot limitation.

Induced Voltages

Under certain conditions, a perceptible electrostatic voltage can be induced on such objects as a large vehicle, a fence, metal building or irrigation system. This can happen when the object is near a high-voltage transmission line and is insulated from the ground.

When an induced voltage is present, touching a vehicle, wire fence, metal building or irrigation system can result in a sensation similar to the shock you may receive when you cross a carpet and then touch a door-knob. The static discharge from the rug is momentary. The sensation from a voltage induced by an alternating-current power line is similar, but may continue to be felt as long as contact with the object is maintained.

The magnitude of an induced voltage depends on the voltage of the transmission line, distance from the conductor, size or length of the object, and its orientation to the line. Shocks caused by an induced voltage do not usually present a hazard; for this reason we refer to them as nuisance shocks. However, mitigation methods to remove the possibility of hazards are identified in sections of the booklet that follow.

Irrigation Systems

All types of irrigation systems have been operated safely near BPA power lines for years. Nonetheless, caution should be used in storing, handling, and installing irrigation pipe, and in operating spray irrigation systems near power lines.

Irrigation pipe should be moved in a horizontal position under and near all power lines to keep it away from conductors overhead.

Again, we stress that the one critical hazard from overhead lines is the danger of bringing an object — in this case, a length of irrigation pipe — into close proximity to a conductor. One purpose of this booklet is to repeatedly make this warning.

As a precautionary measure, equipment used to install irrigation systems should be kept away from transmission lines. If you wish to, contact one of BPA's transmission offices about your particular situation. If you are working near a line, it is wise to supplement normal precautions by assigning one person to act as a "safety watcher." This person simply stands by, watches, and warns the other workers against unsafe moves.

Great caution should be used when moving a high-pressure irrigation system under a transmission line. The small

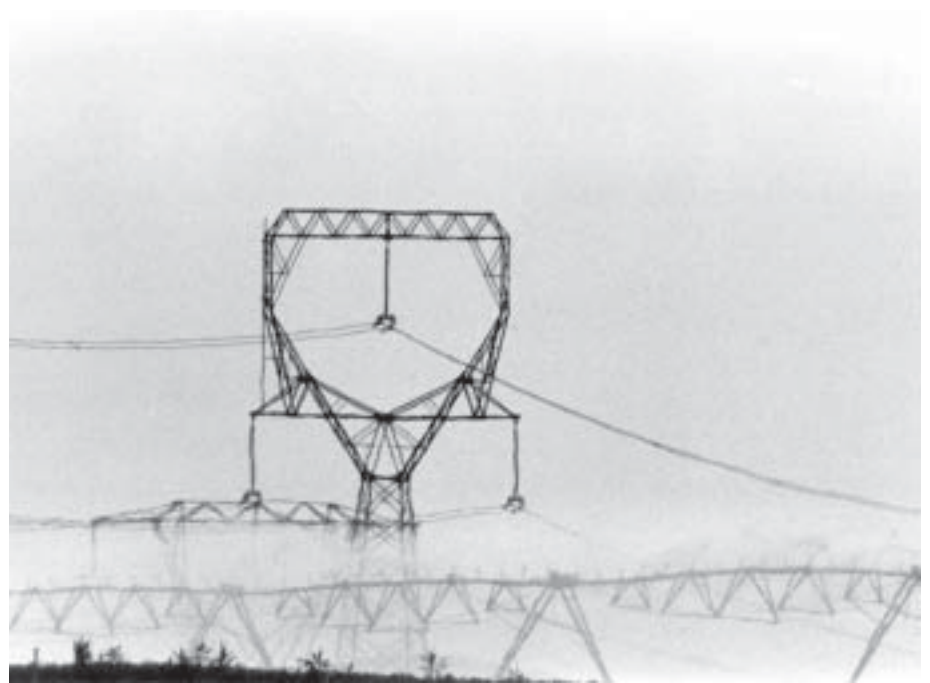


Irrigation pipe should be moved in a horizontal position under and near all power lines to keep it away from the conductors overhead.

wheel bases of some of these systems tend to make them unstable. If one should tip while under a line, its boom could be lifted into a conductor.

You may notice some nuisance shocks when unloading irrigation pipe near a transmission line. It can be reduced greatly or eliminated entirely by unloading the pipe at least 50 feet away from the line. This also tends to reduce the risk that the pipe will get too close to the conductors. Even if pipe stacked on a rubber-tired vehicle is unloaded under a transmission line, the possibility of nuisance shocks can be eliminated by grounding. The grounding is done by clipping one end of a wire to a metal rod driven into the ground and the other end to a pipe on the bottom of the stack.

All types of irrigation systems, including center pivot systems, can be operated safely near or on a right-of-way. However, irrigators should avoid situations where a solid stream of water can come in contact with a conductor, even if the possibility is remote. Should this occur, a person in contact



Irrigation around BPA lines is safe when proper precautions are taken on the rights-of-way.

with the irrigation system, or standing very near it, say 5 feet or so, may receive a severe shock. When asked, BPA will provide assistance as to the proper installation or operation of an irrigation system to avoid hazardous situations.

If a sprinkler malfunctions

and a solid stream of water reaches a conductor, turn off the water at its source — by switching off the pump — before attempting to correct the problem.

All nozzle risers in the vicinity of a transmission line should be equipped with spoilers or automatic shutoffs. This will



The possibility of nuisance shocks can be eliminated by grounding metal pipe when unloading near BPA lines.

prevent a solid stream from striking a conductor if a nozzle breaks or falls off.

Equipment with smaller diameter or fine mist spray nozzles do not usually present a problem. Ordinarily, a broken spray will not conduct a significant amount of current. However, spray containing fertilizer is much more conductive. Therefore, additional precautions should be taken to avoid spraying water with fertilizer into contact with transmission line conductors.

High-volume irrigation systems which use large nozzles and high pressure to sprinkle big areas are of special concern. Nozzle diameters vary from 3/4 inch to 1-15/16 inches and water pressures range from 80 to 100 psi. Thus, a solid stream discharged from one of these nozzles may reach heights of 30 to 35 feet and go as far as 200 feet. When such a system is in operation, a safe distance must be kept between it and a transmission line. If requested, BPA will gladly help you determine what a safe distance is for your equipment. Contact the nearest BPA office, listed on page 1, if you want help.

Nuisance shocks may be experienced when touching mobile pipe-type and wheel-type irrigation systems located near transmission lines. These shocks can occur when soil conditions are dry and there is a long section of irrigation pipe parallel to and within 50 feet of the transmission line centerline. Simple grounding procedures can prevent nuisance shocks on these types of systems. Contact BPA for assistance or information about your particular situation.

Central pivot circular irrigation systems installed near or under transmission lines can develop hazardous shock potentials during operation and maintenance. To eliminate these hazards:

- Provide a good electrical ground for the pivot point.
- Do not touch the sprinkler pipe or its supporting structures when the system is operating under or parallel to and near a transmission line.
- Perform repairs/maintenance of the system with the sprinkler pipe perpendicular to the transmission line.

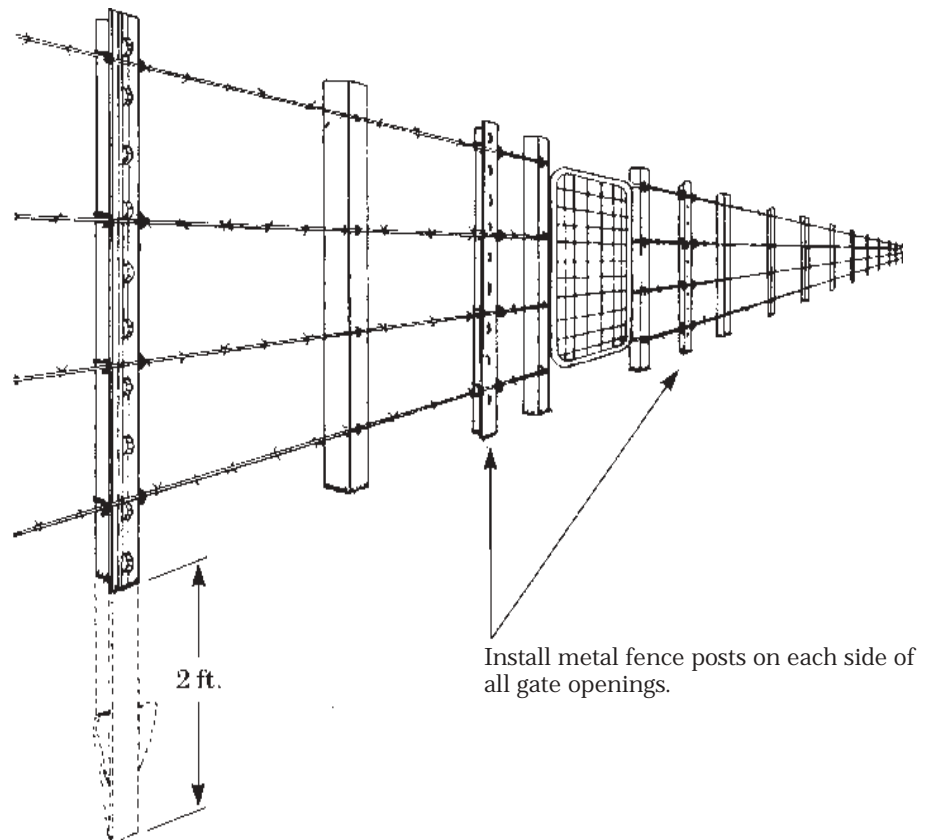
BPA has prepared a guideline for the installation and operation of irrigation systems near high-voltage transmission lines. A copy will be provided when you contact BPA for approval and assistance in safely locating, operating and maintaining irrigation systems near trans-mission lines.

Underground Pipes, Telephone Cables and Electric Cables

Underground pipes and cables are compatible with transmission lines providing installation and

maintenance are properly done. However, they should be installed at an angle of 60 degrees or more to the transmission line centerline (a perpendicular crossing is best). Normally, pipes and cables should not be installed closer than 50 feet to a BPA structure or the buried grounding system. These systems are long buried wires that are sometimes attached to the structures and can run up to 300 feet along the right-of-way. Since these grounding systems are not visible above ground they must be located by BPA. Contact BPA before installing any pipe or cable which crosses a BPA transmission line right-of-way.

Proper orientation of the line with respect to underground pipes, telephone cables and electric cables is required to prevent an accident in an extreme case when a fault on the transmission line might cause electricity to arc from the conductor to the tower and go to ground. This could produce a dangerous voltage on an underground piping or cable system.



Wire Fences

Barbed wire and woven wire fences insulated from ground on wood posts can assume an electrostatic voltage when located near transmission lines. Normally, the voltage will not be noticeable. If you are having a problem, call BPA for an investigation. The fence may need to be grounded if it:

- crosses the right-of-way;
- parallels the line within 125 feet of the outside conductor and is longer than 150 feet; or
- parallels the line 125 to 250 feet from the conductor and is longer than 6,000 feet.

These fences should be grounded at each end and every 200 feet with a metal post driven at least 2 feet into the ground. Attach all wire strands of the fence to the metal post. Install the grounding posts at least 50 feet from the nearest transmission tower. If nuisance shocks are experienced when contacting a fence or gate, or if you have any questions about the need for grounding, call BPA.

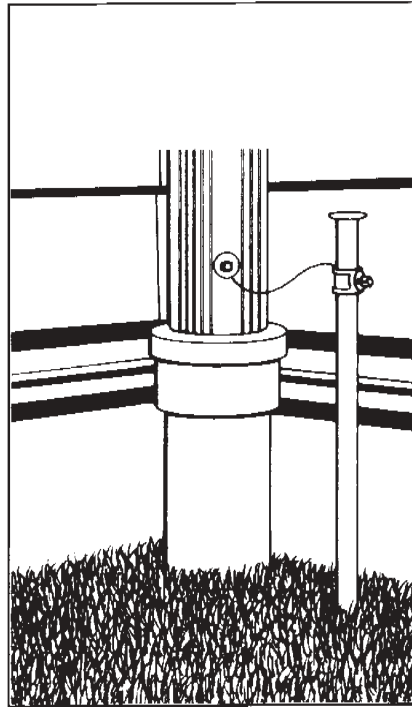
Electric Fences

In certain situations, BPA provides electric filters to ground 60-Hz voltages induced by a power line. These filters will allow the charging voltage on the fence to be effective. BPA provides these filters if the electric fence:

- crosses the right-of-way;
- parallels the line within 60 feet of the outside conductor and is longer than 1,000 feet; or
- parallels the line within 125 feet of the outside conductor and is longer than 2,500 feet.

Do not use fence chargers that are not approved by Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc. They may carry voltages and currents that are hazardous to anyone touching the

fence — even if transmission lines are not present. For more information about fences, fence chargers or filters, call the nearest BPA transmission office.



Example of grounding a metal building at a down spout.

Buildings

This section applies to buildings outside BPA's rights-of-way, since BPA prohibits buildings within a right-of-way.

Metal buildings are buildings whose frame, roof or walls consist of substantial amounts of metal. A voltage induced on a metal building is usually drained away through the building's plumbing, electrical service, metal sheeting or metal frame. Nonetheless, BPA's present practice is to ground any metal building near a 500,000-volt line when:

- it is within 100 feet of the outside conductor;
- it has more than 2,000 square feet of metal surface and is within 100 to 150 square feet of the outside conductor; or

- it is used to store flammable materials and is within 250 feet of the outside conductor.

One grounding rod is adequate for a building with less than 2,000 square feet of metal surface. Two grounding rods are used if a building's metal surface exceeds 2,000 square feet. Even if the metal surface is less than 2,000 square feet, an extra grounding rod is useful in case one is damaged or develops a high-resistance contact.

Aluminum windows, downspouts, gutters or other metal parts on buildings constructed of wood or other insulating materials may also require grounding as shown above.

Again, call BPA if you have any questions about grounding a building.

Vehicles

Under some high-voltage lines, vehicles can carry a nuisance shock. This is particularly true if the vehicle is parked on a nonconductive surface such as dry rock. You can drain the shock from your vehicle to the ground by attaching a chain that reaches the ground to the vehicle or by leaning a metal bar against your vehicle. The only way to be sure you won't get shocked is to park your car away from the power line.

Theoretically, it is possible that an electric spark from an induced voltage could ignite a gasoline vapor that is created during refueling of a vehicle. In practice, the chances for all the right conditions to exist at the same time for such an accident are remote. BPA has never had a report of a refueling accident near our lines.

However, because such an accident is theoretically possible, BPA recommends that you not refuel your vehicle in close proximity to a transmission line.

Lightning

Lightning will usually strike the highest nearby object. In rural areas, this may be a power line tower or conductor. Transmission facilities are designed to withstand lightning strikes by channeling them to ground at the tower. When lightning strikes a tower, the damage is usually much less than if a barn or tree had been hit.

Play it safe. Stay away from power lines and other tall objects during electrical storms. Lightning is dangerous if you are standing near where it enters the ground.

Fires

Smoke and hot gases from a large fire can create a conductive path for electricity. When a fire is burning under a transmission line, electricity could arc from the conductor to the ground, endangering people and objects near the arc.

Field burning and other large fires in and around transmission lines can damage transmission lines and cause power outages. Water and other chemicals used to extinguish those fires should never be directed toward a transmission line.

Kite Flying and Model Airplanes

BPA discourages anyone from flying a kite or model airplane anywhere near a power line. However, if your kite or model airplane is about to touch a power line, drop the string or handline instantly, before it touches the line. Do not try to pull the kite or airplane down or climb up after it. Call the nearest electric utility.

Vandalism and Shooting

When hunting in remote areas, do not shoot at transmission lines.

Insulators are, for the most part, made of porcelain or glass and are easily broken. Not only can broken insulators cause flashovers, an insulator string hit by gunfire could pull apart and let the conductor fall to the ground. This could be a serious hazard to anyone close to the line. It could also cause a power outage and possibly a fire in dry areas.

Unfortunately, most insulator damage from gunfire is the result of simple vandalism.

Hunters sometimes assume that the land under a transmission line belongs to the federal government and is therefore public property. This is rarely the case. Most land beneath power lines — except in national forests or on Bureau of Land Management lands — is privately owned.

Those who cause willful damage to BPA transmission facilities or property along easements can be prosecuted by the federal government, the property owner, or both.

Remember, insulators and conductors are not fair game. Do not use them for target practice. To do so is illegal and can be extremely hazardous.

Please report broken insulators and conductors, or any other damage you see, to BPA's Crime Witness program by calling 1-800-437-2744. Crime Witness allows you to report, confidentially, an illegal activity that you witness against BPA's transmission system, property or personnel. This includes:

- Shooting at power lines, transmission towers or substation equipment.
- Dumping of any waste or material on BPA property.
- Vandalism to BPA property, buildings and vehicles.
- Theft of BPA equipment, supplies, tools or materials.

The program offers rewards of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the persons causing the damage.

Metal Objects

As a precautionary practice, do not raise any metal object more than 14 feet in the air underneath a transmission line.

When you mount an antenna on a large vehicle that you plan to operate on a BPA easement, do not let it extend more than 14 feet above the ground.

Before you sail a boat on a lake or river, check the allowable clearance under any transmission line. We recommend that all masts or guy wires above the deck be connected electrically to an underwater metallic part such as the keel or centerboard. This precaution, which protects against lightning or accidental contact with a power line, may save your life.

Swimming pool skimmers should not be raised vertically under any power line. BPA strongly discourages the building of swimming pools within BPA easements because of the possibility of an accident.

Climbing

Climbing on power line poles, towers or guy wires can be extremely hazardous. Don't do it under any circumstance.

Pacemakers

Under some circumstances, voltages and currents from power lines, and household and other electrical devices may interfere with the operation of some implanted cardiac pacemakers. However, we know of no case where a BPA line has harmed a pacemaker patient.

As a precaution, persons who may have reason to be very near high-voltage facilities should consult with a physician to determine whether their particular implant may be susceptible to 60-Hz interference.

If a person with a pacemaker is in an electrical environment

and the pacemaker begins to produce a regularly spaced pulse that is not related to a normal heartbeat, the person should leave the environment and consult a physician.

Trees and Logging

No logging or tree cutting should be done within BPA's easement without first contacting the nearest BPA transmission office. In many cases BPA owns the timber within its easements. Additionally, logging near transmission lines can be very hazardous and requires special caution. Since trees conduct electricity, if one should fall into or close to a line, the current could follow the tree trunk to the ground and endanger anyone standing near its base. Here are two simple rules: If you should come upon a tree which has fallen into a power line, stay away from it. If you should accidentally cause a tree to fall into a line, run for your life! Do not go back to retrieve your saw or equipment. Call BPA or your local utility immediately.

We suggest if you have trees either on or close to the easement which need to be cut and could fall on or close to a transmission line, that you contact BPA. It may be safer to have BPA remove the trees than to do it yourself.

Since transmission line rights-of-way are usually not owned by BPA, but are acquired through easements from landowners, trees or logs stacked within or alongside them are not public property. People removing trees and logs without permission are stealing and can be prosecuted.

In addition, there are special considerations for growing Christmas trees, orchards and other tall-growing vegetation. Ask for the "Landowner's Guide to Trees and Transmission Lines" and the "Landowners Guide to Use of BPA Rights-of-Way."



Cutting trees within power line rights-of-way can be dangerous. It may be safer to have BPA do it for you.

Explosives

If you plan to detonate explosives near a BPA transmission line, notify BPA well in advance. See the list at the front of this booklet for the address and telephone number of the BPA office nearest you. BPA will tell you if any special precautionary measures must be taken at a particular blasting site.

As a general rule, do not use electric detonating devices when blasting within 1,000 feet of a power line. Nonelectric methods of detonation will avoid the

danger of accidentally discharging an electric blasting cap.

If you are blasting within 1,000 feet of a power line and there is no reasonable alternative to the use of an electronic detonating device, you must clear the layout of the electric detonation circuit with BPA.



NEVER
climb towers or poles.

Concerning Towers and Conductors

- Do not climb towers.
- Do not shoot or otherwise damage insulators.
- Never touch a fallen line.
- Do not attempt to dismantal tower steel members.
- Do not apply additional loads to tower members for temporary support of a structure or vehicle.
- Stay away from towers and lines during extreme wind storms, thunder storms, ice storms or under other extreme conditions.

Preventive measures include:

- Stay away from and report broken or damaged insulators to BPA or your nearest electrical utility.
- Stay away from and report broken, damaged or abnormally low-hanging lines to BPA or your nearest electrical utility.

Conclusion

We live in an age of electric power. Almost everything we do requires it. Consequently, high-voltage power lines have become about as commonplace as the wiring in our homes — and just as safe. Nevertheless, every year people are killed or seriously injured by power lines and wiring. In almost every case, lives could have been saved and injuries avoided if the basic safety practices outlined in this booklet had been followed. BPA and your local utilities make every effort to design and build power lines that are safe to live and work around. Ultimately, however, the safety of high-voltage lines depends upon people behaving safely around them. No line can practicably be made safe from a person who, through ignorance or foolishness, violates the basic principles of safety. So, please, take time now to learn the practices outlined in this booklet. And share your knowledge with your family, friends and colleagues. Your own life, or that of a loved one, might well hang in the balance.

Related BPA Publications

Call BPA's Public Information center at 1-800-622-4520 and ask for the following publications:

- 1) For information on using the land within a BPA right-of-way: "Landowner's Guide to Use of BPA Rights-of-Way" (DOE/BP-3025)
- 2) For information on growing trees on a BPA right-of-way: "Landowner's Guide to Trees and Transmission Lines" (DOE/BP-3076)
- 3) For information on BPA's Danger Tree Program: "Keeping the Way Clear for Better Service" (DOE/BP-2816)

Dear Neighbor,

BPA, along with your local electric utility, is continually looking for ways to improve safety awareness and practices around electrical lines and equipment. We feel our efforts are best spent in reaching people like yourself — those most likely to be living and working around high-voltage power lines.

This booklet presents safe practices for work and recreation activities near high-voltage transmission lines.

Please take this opportunity to reacquaint yourself, members of your family, and others that use or have access to your property, with these safety precautions. If you have other questions, please feel free to contact your nearest BPA office (listed on page 1), or your local utility.

Thank you for taking the time to let us share how “working smarter” near power lines can save lives — even your own.

Sincerely,



FRED JOHNSON, CHAIRPERSON
Central Safety and Health Committee
Bonneville Power Administration

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7	Lightning; Fires; Kite Flying and Model Airplanes; Vandalism and Shooting; Metal Objects; Climbing; Pacemakers
8	Trees and Logging; Explosives
9	Concerning Towers and Conductors; Conclusion; Related Publications

Preface

High-voltage transmission lines can be just as safe as the electrical wiring in our homes — or just as dangerous. The crucial factor is ourselves: we must learn to behave safely around them.

This booklet is a basic safety guide for those who live and work around power lines. It deals primarily with nuisance shocks due to induced voltages, and with potential electric shock hazards from contact with high-voltage lines.

In preparing this booklet, the Bonneville Power Administration has drawn on more than 60 years of experience with high-voltage transmission. BPA operates one of the world's largest networks of long-distance, high-voltage lines. This system has more than 300 substations and more than 15,000 miles of transmission lines, almost 4,400 miles of which are operated at 500,000 volts.

BPA's lines make up the main electrical grid for the Pacific Northwest. The grid delivers large blocks of power to substations located near load centers. Public and investor-owned utilities and rural cooperatives take delivery of the power at these points and deliver it to the ultimate customers.

BPA's lines cross all types of property: residential, agricultural, industrial, commercial and recreational. They traverse hundreds of miles of irrigated and non-irrigated farmlands.

Bonneville Power Administra-
tion

PO Box 3621 Portland, Oregon 97208-
3621

DOE/BP-1821 JUNE 2001 3M

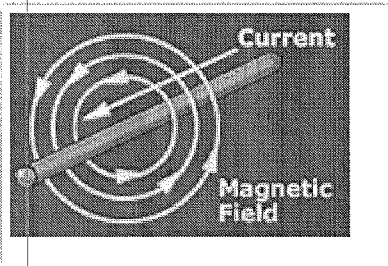
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Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Your Online Source for Credible Health Information

EMF (ELECTRIC AND MAGNETIC FIELDS)



NIOSH research on protecting workers from proven and possible EMF health risks focuses on:

- RF (radio frequencies)—including broadcast antennas, induction heaters, and cell telephones
- ELF (extremely low frequencies)—including AC electricity and video display terminals (VDTs)
- Static Magnetic Fields—including DC electricity.

CDC/NIOSH Publications on EMF

Frequently Asked Questions about Cell Phones and Your Health [PDF - 94 KB]

This CDC fact sheet answers questions about possible health effects from the radiation emitted by cellular phones. (2005)

Manual for Measuring Occupational Electric and Magnetic Field Exposures

NIOSH Publication No. 98-154 (1998)

This technical document is a reference manual for industrial hygienists and researchers who measure occupational exposures to static and ELF EMF.

NIOSH Publication on Video Display Terminals

NIOSH Publication No. 99-135 (3rd ed., 1999)

This publication is a collection of NIOSH studies and statements on all kinds of health effects from working with VDTs, including studies which found no link between their EMF emissions and reproductive effects.

RF Fields

Frequently Asked Questions about Cell Phones and Your Health

[PDF - 94 KB]

This CDC fact sheet answers questions about possible health effects from the radiation emitted by cellular phones. (2005)

OSHA: Radiofrequency/Microwave Radiation

Information on the recognition, evaluation, and control of RF/MW radiation.

Federal Communications Commission (FCC): Radio Frequency Safety

Information and health standards for consumers and broadcasters on wireless communications, including cellular telephones and amateur radios.

Esta página en
Español

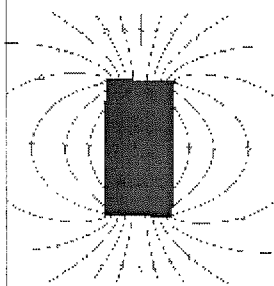
NIOSH Fact Sheet



EMFs In The Workplace

Everyone in our modern society is exposed to the electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) that surround all electric devices. Recently, scientific studies have raised questions about the possible health effects of EMFs. This fact sheet answers frequently asked questions about EMFs in the workplace. You can use this information to help identify EMF sources at work and to take simple steps for reducing exposures. However, you cannot use this information to judge the safety of your exposures, since the scientific evidence does not yet show whether EMF exposures are hazardous.

What are EMFs?



*Static magnetic field
around a bar magnet.*

EMFs are invisible lines of force created whenever electricity is generated or used. EMFs are produced by power lines, electric wiring, and electric equipment and appliances. The frequency of EMFs is measured in hertz (Hz, or cycles per second). People are exposed to both electric and magnetic fields, but scientists are most concerned about magnetic fields. This fact sheet deals only with magnetic fields that have frequencies near 60 Hz the frequency of electric power in North America.

What do we know about workplace exposures to EMFs?

Workers may be exposed to high magnetic fields if they work near electrical systems that use large amounts of electric power (for example, large electric motors, generators, or the power supply or electric cables of a building). High magnetic fields are also found near power saws, drills, copy machines, electric pencil sharpeners, and other small electric appliances. The strength of the magnetic field depends on equipment design and current flow not on equipment size, complexity, or voltage. Though some electric equipment produces EMFs of other frequencies, most health research has considered only frequencies near 60 Hz.


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Electric and Magnetic Fields

- [EMF Position Statement](#)
- [EMF Mission Statement](#)

Understanding EMF Electric and Magnetic Fields

[LADWP Position Statement on EMF](#)
[Team Mission Statement on EMF](#)
[Links](#)

During recent years, questions have been raised about the possible health effects of 60-hertz (power frequency) electric and magnetic fields (EMF), which are found wherever you have electricity. This webpage contains easy-to-read information that will help you understand the EMF issue, plus practical tips you can use if you want to reduce your exposure at home and at work.

Can EMF Harm Your Health?

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are present wherever electricity flows - around appliances, power lines, in offices, schools and homes. Many researchers believe that if there is a risk of adverse health effects from EMF, it is probably low but warrants further investigation. Most, but not all, childhood studies have reported a weak association between estimates, but not direct measures, of residential magnetic field exposure and certain types of childhood cancer. Worker studies have shown mixed results. Laboratory experiments have shown that magnetic fields can cause changes in living cells. It is not clear whether these changes suggest any risk to human health.

Given the uncertainty of the issue, the medical and scientific communities have been unable to determine that EMF causes health effects or to establish any standard or level of exposure that is known to be either safe or harmful.

The Two Types of Fields

60-HERTZ MAGNETIC FIELDS

Can pass through most objects.

Get weaker with distance.

Are created by the current - or flow of electricity - through a wire, such as when an appliance is turned on.

60-HERTZ ELECTRIC FIELDS

Can be blocked or partially shielded.

Get weaker with distance.

Are produced by the voltage - or electrical "pressure" - in a wire, such as when an appliance is plugged in (but not turned on).

Magnetic Field Measurements

Magnetic Fields in the Home
 Measurements are in milligauss (mG)

Home Appliances at	1.2" away	12" away	39" away
Microwave Oven	750 to 4,000	40 to 80	3 to 8

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UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

EXTENSION

Scott County

Scott County Extension &
Conservation Center
7151 190th Street W, Suite 100
Jordan, MN 55352-2104

PHONE
(952) 492-5410

FAX
(952) 492-5405

EMAIL
mnext-scott@umn.edu

WEB
www.extension.umn.edu

*Located on the
Scott County Fairgrounds*

October 14, 2010

To Judge Richard Luis,

I was contacted by dairy farmers in Scott County who requested that I provide information about the effects of large transmission lines being next to or around dairy farms. This is in response to OAH Docket No.7-2500-20283-2. As a local agriculture extension educator I cover a broad spectrum of topics, and I am not an expert in stray voltage or electromagnetic fields. It is part of my job however to provide resources on various topics. To that end, I have tried to assemble what information I could find on electromagnetic fields in this letter.

I have contacted two University of Minnesota Extension specialists. Dr. Kevin Janni in the Dept. of Biosystems & Agriculture Engineering (612-625-3108) and Dr. Jeff Reneau in the Department of Animal Science(612-624-9791). Other individuals who have expertise in this area include:

- Doug Reinemann at University of Wisconsin-Madison - 608-262-0223
- Robert (Bob) Gustafson at the Ohio State University - 614-292-0573

Power lines can induce electrostatic voltages in metal stored or kept near power lines (ex. metal farm equipment, irrigation pipe, underground pipes and cables, fences, and buildings). The key mitigation is to ground the metal object. The 12-page Bonneville Power Administration fact sheet entitled Living and Working Safely Around High-Voltage Power Lines summarizes these points (<http://transmission.bpa.gov/NewsEv/pdfs/LivingAndWorking.pdf>).

Much of the information about electric and magnetic fields is reporting on the emissions from common household or work place electrical devices and wiring and they focus on human health and children. We did not find an article on the effects of EMF on dairy cattle. It will take additional time to continue a literature search to see if there is anything published specific to dairy cattle.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power has one web page that gives info about magnetic fields produced by appliances and power lines. This site also points out the difference between magnetic fields and electrical fields. The website is <http://www.ladwp.com/ladwp/cms/ladwp004154.jsp> They conclude "Given the uncertainty of the issue, the medical and scientific communities have been unable to determine that EMF causes health effects or to establish any standard or level of exposure that is known to be either safe or harmful."

A NIOSH fact sheet states that "the scientific evidence does not yet show whether EMF exposures are hazardous". (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/emf2.html>) This again

is related to human health and primarily cancer. There are many more articles at the NIOSH EMF website <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/emf/>.

I have included the PDF file mentioned above as well as the first page of each of the web links listed in this letter for a frame of reference. If I can be of further assistance please feel free to call me in at 952-492-5386 or email torb0022@umn.edu.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura T. Kieser".

Laura T. Kieser
Extension Educator
Agriculture Production Systems

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Jim Koonst [stierbus@frontiernet.net]
Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 3:49 PM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Cc: Boyd, David C (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); Pugh, Tom (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)
Subject: OAH Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2

October 13, 2010

The Honorable Richard Luis
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, Minnesota 55164

RE: Docket No. ET2/TL-08-1474
Brookings-Hampton 345 kV Transmission Line

Judge Luis:

After attending the Tuesday, October 5, 2010 Public Hearing in Belle Plaine and listening to all of the different sworn testimony, I couldn't help but believe that the infamous June 10th, 2010 letter by the USFWS signed by Mr. Tony Sullins was written prematurely. Although Mr. Sullins must have formulated his opinion based on the information he had at that time, additional information about avian life has surfaced and is now entered into testimony for review along the Belle Plaine crossing and the MN River Valley as a whole. How can a recommendation from the USFWS like this be based on incomplete data?

There lies the issue. If the USFWS had done a "Complete Scientific Study", in an unbiased way, without regard to special interests, and gathered all of the facts; then the true facts about avian life in the MN River Valley would be revealed. Then, and only then would it be possible to achieve the best possible recommendation from the USFWS. The USFWS has failed miserably in their research whereby needing an opportunity to redeem themselves by doing a scientific study.

So I am requesting you and / or the PUC to consider ordering a "Very Complete Scientific Study" on the MN River Valley at the crossings areas and beyond.

Thank You for all your time and effort in this matter.

Sincerely,

James S. Koonst

Owner / Operator - Stier Transportation Service Co., Inc.
406 South Meridian Street
Belle Plaine, MN 56011
(952) 873-2362 - Office
(952) 873-6499 - Fax
(952) 292-2762 - Cell

10/14/2010

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: leonard1016@frontier.com
Sent: Thursday, October 07, 2010 2:02 PM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: CAP-X 2020 Power Line Crossing In Belle Plaine

Attachments: CAPX.doc



CAPX.doc (30
KB)

Attached, please find a copy of the letter read by myself at the October 5th meeting in Belle Plaine.

Thank you,
Sarah Leonard

Good Afternoon,

On behalf of Koepp Dairy Farm and each person and animal impacted by the CapX 2020 power line, I thank you for your time and hope that you sincerely consider the impact the placement in Belle Plaine will have on each of us. My name is Sarah Leonard and I am the daughter of Wayne and Kerry Koepp, owners of Koepp Dairy Farm located on German Road here in Belle Plaine. I grew up on this farm and appreciate each of the experiences had and the lessons learned throughout the years. The farm does not only provide an income for the family, it provides each of us, our friends, and relatives with knowledge that we would not otherwise receive. Koepp Dairy Farm is home to about 375 cows, calves, and steers as well as many other animals. It is a business that takes pride in shipping high quality milk and has received many awards during the last three generations of farming. There are few family dairy farms still in existence and my family and I are determined to remain one of them. It has been concluded that the lives of a few protected eagles outweighs the disadvantages of using the alternate route west of Belle Plaine, but lets really examine those cons and survey the severity of ignoring them. Although eagles have been spotted by the Fish and Wildlife Service in LeSueur, on our farm, we too see bald eagles, especially in the winter when they are searching for food. These eagles perch in the tree line that separates our farm from Mark and Deb Koepp's hog farm and routinely soar above our land. Using this alternative route in Belle Plaine will affect eagles as well. Placement of the power line will greatly impact our herd and our ability to remain the high quality functioning farm that we currently live for. The United States Department of Agriculture defines stray voltage as "a difference in voltage between two surfaces that may be contacted simultaneously by an animal." On our dairy farm, the cows will experience a small shock or tingle, as they complete the circuit. The USDA has found that this can increase stress, cause health problems, negatively impact behaviors, and significantly decrease milk production. Reduced feed intake and water consumption has been a well documented symptom of stray voltage in beef and dairy cattle, as well as swine and poultry. This one effect severely impacts the quality, as well as the amount of milk production. Stray voltage alters animal behavior and greatly impacts the production of milk, the quality of the milk produced, and the safety of those working with the animals. Each of the effects of stray voltage will negatively impact our herd of cows and will diminish our ability to manage and maintain a high quality functioning dairy farm. Significant research has also displayed the impact of long term exposure to stray voltage in humans. When making a decision regarding the placement of this power line, do not fail to consider the number of children who will be exposed to the stray voltage on a daily basis. Do we want to put our children, grandchildren, and the future of this great community in danger? Clearly, the best option is not to use the alternate route which places the line in Belle Plaine, an area that houses children, provides dairy products for families, and is home to as much wildlife and protected species as in the preferred route in LeSueur. Please remember the impact that the power line placement will have on me, my family, the entire herd of animals on the dairy farm, and each of the many individuals who will be affected, especially those innocent children attending school at Oak Crest Elementary, when making a final decision.

Thank you

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: DAVID MUCHOW [dmuchow@means.net]

Sent: Wednesday, October 13, 2010 6:18 PM

To: Capx Comments (OAH)

Subject: Power line placement

I own land in section 15 of Transit township that has been in my family for nearly 158 years. My great, great grandfather was the first homesteader in sibley co. This farm has the designation of Sesquicentennial farm by the state of Mn. I recently saw on a satelite map that if the crossover is placed near Gibbon, the power line would be placed along the west side of my farm, over my driveway and not far from my house east of it. Needless to say I dont want this, nor would my ancestors. If raptors at Belle plaine, and archaeological sites are exempt, why cant my heritage be given consideration????? There is plenty of opportunity to put it accross bare land. Please consider this. Land and homes with this history should be exempt. thank you. David Muchow,,,, dmuchow@means.net.

October 14, 2010

The Honorable Judge Richard C. Luis
Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
P.O. Box 64620
St. Paul, MN 55164-0620

Re: CapX2020 Project – Brookings, SD to Hampton, MN 345kV Transmission Line
Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number: 7-2500-20283-2

Dear Judge Luis:

As a concerned citizen and property owner located in Arlington Township, Section 5, Sibley County, Minnesota, I submit the following additional comments concerning the final route determination for the Brookings, South Dakota – Hampton, Minnesota Transmission Power Line crossing of the Minnesota River.

- 1) It is disconcerting that, again, the public notification process did not work as intended. I, as an affected landowner, was not notified of dates/locations of public hearings on the Minnesota River crossing issue.
- 2) I am in favor of and strongly support the selection of the original Preferred Route as it transverses Sibley County.
- 3) I strongly oppose the connector route referred to as the “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service/Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Alternative Route.”

The above are based on the following important facts.

I understand there is focus being placed on selecting a Minnesota River crossing at either Le Sueur or Belle Plaine. By default, however, the decision also affects a very large number of landowners located west of these two sites. I am unsure as to whether these peoples’ concerns are also being heard in the process.

The original preferred route, after years of research was considered the most cost effective route and offers the least amount of conflict to public and private landowners.

The original alternate route, which now has become the current preferred route, is called the Arlington Corridor (Arlington Enterprise, October 7, 2010). This route is north of Arlington and within a few hundred yards of Silver Lake in Sibley County and near several U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) restored wetlands.

In 1989, the FWS began restoring wetlands and purchased land to improve wildlife habitat for the public in Sibley County. Silver Lake which is about two miles south of this area, also has large restored tracts of land by the FWS. Eagles frequent Silver Lake for feeding and nesting. The "Arlington Corridor" is situated close to these areas.

The FWS needs to make public their reasons for the alternate route over the original preferred route. There is significant lack of transparency in FWS's decision favoring a Belle Plaine crossing over a Le Sueur crossing. There are numerous and significant areas important to migratory birds (including eagles) along and near to the Minnesota River. What "threshold" for decision-making did the FWS use to determine the Belle Plaine crossing would have less adverse impact than the Le Sueur crossing? Factors such as type (e.g., nesting, roosting, feeding), timing (e.g. migration, winter) and density (e.g., number of breeding pairs of eagles) of bird use should have been articulated in the determination. If this type of information was indeed determined, how was it evaluated in the decision-making process?

Thank you for taking into consideration the above information.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Mueller", with a stylized, flowing script.

Alvin R. Mueller

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Karen Ruehling [KarenR@co.sibley.mn.us]
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 8:52 AM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: Ref: Office of Admin. Hearings Docket #7-2500-202832

Docket #7-2500-20283-2

In reference to the CAPX2020 Transition Line going thru Sibley County. This transmission line would not directly go by my residence so I feel I can make a rather unbiased statement:

First of all the words Preferred and Alternate - definitions below:

Preferred: To select in preference to others, value more highly, to promote, to give priority.
Alternate: Second choice.

Neither other routes were given the same opportunity to gather their information - such as counting eagles, etc. and that doesn't seem right. I feel the two most important items to help make a decision would be number of people affected and cost.

In reading the local newspapers, it appears there may be another option - the Gibbon route would be less expensive than the others, have less turns, etc.; although, it would still have to cross the river. I wonder why this route wasn't looked at sooner?

Going by or through people's homes always brings controversy and makes for a hard decision to be made; hopefully, the best one will be made.

Thank you.

Karen Ruehling
Administrative Assistant
Sibley County Deputy Auditor
400 Court Avenue
P.O. Box 171
Gaylord, MN 55334-0171
Phone: 1-507-237-4070
Fax: 1-507-237-4073
Email: KarenR@co.sibley.mn.us

Sibley County License Center
Deputy Registrar No. 094
Driver's License Agent No. 672
Special ELS(Tier I & II) License Agent No. 072001
Phone: 1-507-237-4068
Fax: 1-507-237-4073
Email: depreg94@co.sibley.mn.us

DRIVE SAFE & WEAR YOUR SEATBELT

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10/14/2010

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Jaclyn Smith [jaclyn7@frontier.com]

Sent: Sunday, October 03, 2010 6:57 AM

To: Capx Comments (OAH)

Subject: Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number 7-2500-20283-2

To: Administrative Law Judge, Richard C. Luis

Re: Office of Administrative Hearings Docket Number 7-2500-20283-2

Your Honor,

We have the privilege of hosting one of the Minnesota River valley's bald eagle nests on our river bottom property. The area is relatively inaccessible in winter due to steep hillsides and deep drifts of snow, but over the 37 years that we have lived in this location we have trekked through the area several times a year during all seasons including winter.

Since we also act as caretakers for neighboring property our treks have included the Fuller land (just east of our property, and closer to the proposed CapX power line crossing). Approximately 15 years ago we planted watercress on the Fuller land in one of the larger hillside springs. That watercress still thrives to this day, indicating that the stream runs year-round. In fact, during our trips through the area, we always encounter several springs and believe that two or three of them on our and Fuller's property continue to flow all winter, thus providing open water for the eagles who nest nearby.

The springs flow into a lake formed by beaver dams. This lake remains at the same level throughout the year, with seasonal water level increases only when the river floods the area. The eagle nest is located near this lake, and we see one or more eagles almost every time we travel through the area.

We will be glad to further discuss our sightings with you, or a representative from CapX or the USFWS at any time.

Sincerely,
Gerald and Jaclyn Smith
28118 Scenic Byway Road (Sibley County Road 6)
Belle Plaine, MN 56011
952-873-6409

10/14/2010

Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: estherstoppelman@frontiernet.net
Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 9:26 AM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: oah Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2

My concern about the CapX2020 line which will run across the Mn. river and up the hill - the whole length of my farm through all my plow land- which is my living. It's a farm that some of the land my father received from his father & the rest he bought, and now I, his son is running. It's a shame to see this property destroyed because of a power line running through such a narrow place with 15 homes. Is it not possible to find an area that is more open. And what about all the trees that will be destroyed in my woods - aren't we suppose to save the trees?? Also the lack of information to the people in our area was BAD, after the meeting about 18 months ago when it sounded like the line was going the proposed route we never heard anymore until about 2 months ago. The reason - Eagles. I wonder what about all the eagles in our area, I can sit in my yard & watch eagles in the sky-What a Sight!! Have ever seen an eagles swoop down in front of you & pick up a rabbit?? It's awesome!! There evidently wasn't much- if any- research done in this area. How the open water was missed, & the nests, & seeing the eagles themselves doesn't make sense to me. I feel that there must be more work done before a final decision is made. Get people who know what their doing to check out some of the things before making a decision. Someone is getting paid for a job that their not doing -- did you think our neighbor was stupid? I sure hope that a RIGHT decision can be made that will not affect so many farmers and home owners. Look at our area - all the turns and twists to avoid homes - doesn't that cost money?? There must be a more open area where lines can run straight. From listening to some of the officials speak, I wondered if they even knew anything about the B.P. river crossing or Stoppelmann Blvd.?? Thanks for your time & I hope the right decision will be made without destroying too many lives & farm operations.

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Lewis, Mike (OAH)

From: Lyle Wiste [lylew@co.sibley.mn.us]
Sent: Friday, October 08, 2010 8:05 AM
To: Capx Comments (OAH)
Subject: OAH Docket No. 7-2500-20283-2

After attending the meeting in Belle Plaine Tuesday night, and hearing the testimony about large amounts of eagles in the area, I think the only thing to do in this situation is to pass this back to the US Fish & Wildlife. They obviously haven't done their homework as to the Belle Plaine eagle population. Instead, they have chosen to base their decision on the reports from a small group that obviously is biased, without allowing the proper study of the situation. At best, their letter is premature, and quite likely inaccurate it's in conclusions.

If the Belle Plaine route had been chosen as the Preferred route, the citizens affected would have had plenty of time to organize their response and data to back their position. This last minute, after the deadline letter does not afford them that. As far as that goes, what use where the prior deadlines when the power companies submitted information after they were due, and the US Fish & Wildlife letter was later yet.

If the LeSueur route was the choice prior to this letter, and if studying the issue determines that the Belle Plaine has as many or more eagles and open water habitat, I would think that the LeSueur crossing should once again be the preferred route.

If after going thru this process and the Belle Plaine crossing is chosen, I would request that the crossover routes be given additional study. The new GIBBON crossing wasn't even dreamt of during the earlier meetings (at least if it was, it certainly wasn't mentioned), and many of the alternate route property owners are unaware of what's going on.

I would hope you give all these thoughts consideration, and remember it's not your job to make it easier for the power companies to build. It's your job to do make a recommendation on what's the best route.

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