

# STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION



# STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

	Date: 5/10/2011		
Public Comments Received Commission for week ending	·	Docket Number 10-56	

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

From:

Joe Magedanz [joe.magedanz@hotmail.com]

Sent:

Monday, May 09, 2011 10:34 PM

To:

#PUC\_Public Comments

Subject:

MPUC Docket ET-2, E002/TL-09-1056: Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project

To: Public Utilities Commission

Re: MPUC Docket ET-2, E002/TL-09-1056: Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding this project. First of all, communication around the proposed routes has been unclear and misleading. If we had better communication about the process for chosing the routes, we would have been more involved from the beginning. To choose a route because it is the least resisted by the individuals living along that route is not sufficient enough reason to choose that route. The route that is chosen should be chosen because of the supporting facts.

I was just recently been informed that the proposed route is now "Route G". I own land along this route and would be directly affected by this transmission line.

I oppose Route G for the following specific reasons:

- 1. My land is on both sides of the Sauk River. I am concerned about the wild life which will be disturbed by both the construction and placement of the big towers along this route. There are rare species of birds which inhabit the river bottom. We also see bald eagles and other wild life on a regular basis by the river. I fear that this wild life will be forced out of their natural habitat because of the distrubance during contraction and the destruction of foliage.
- 2. The long term effects of having a strong electromagnetic field in close proximity of my residence. There have not been enough studies to conclude the long term effects and the documentation provided does not suggest how strong the electromagnetic field is. I also understand there will be a second line added in the future; possibly doubling the effects of the line.
- 3. There are many dairy farmers in this area. The stray voltage is problematic to the cows and will directly affect production of milk which is critical to the dairy farmers to survive in this area.

The route that should be taken is along the freeway similar to what they are doing from St. Cloud to Monticello. If that route isn't feasible, then the route should go north of the freeway so that St. Johns and Avon Hills areas are not affected. The original "Applicant Preferred Route" would be the best route for all involved.

Sincerely,

Joe Magedanz

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Sent: terra o'neil [neilski24@hotmail.com] Monday, May 09, 2011 4:10 PM

To:

**#PUC Public Comments** 

Attachments:

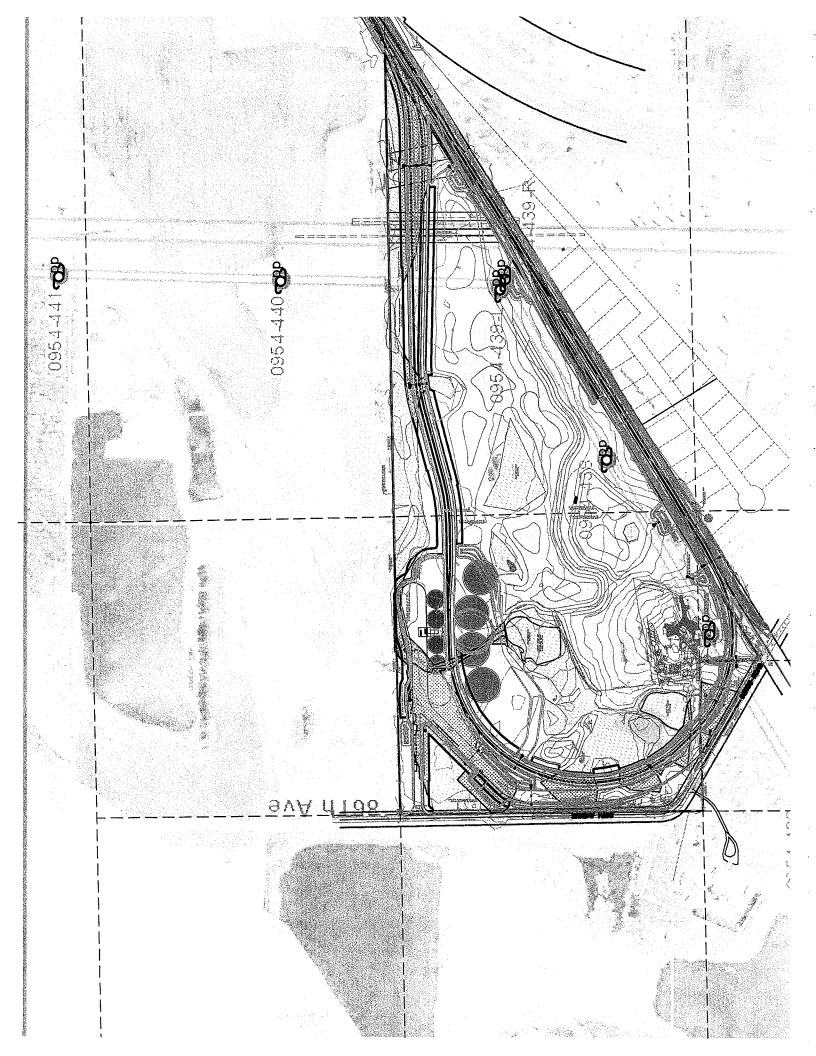
10390 EX37-Power Pole locations.pdf

Please see the attached photo/map. My property is in the lower left within the white lines close to the 0954-436 numbers. Although my findings and input has been stated along with my neighbors, I wanted to show you just what our property in up against with imagery. We recently had Hardrive aggregate company buy and start mining out of the 400 acres behind and to the one side of us. Recently St. Joseph and Waite Park joint committee passed the application of a conditional use permit for ADM company to put in their state of the art corn/soy bean operation including a new rail system on the other side of us. Now the 345 lines a fixed to enclose us and take the only scenery and trees we have left.

We feel that a mistake was made putting the Quarry sub station in prematurely to the final decision of the St. Cloud to Fargo line. As did many, we are sure that Xcel thought the line would follow the preferred route and go north out of the sub station. Due to the decision of the administrative judge, not only is the line costing everyone more due to back tracking, it is making our neighborhood live with the burden of Xcels mistake.

We ask that you take a serious look at what this line is doing to our property and its valuesand consider a corrective measure of using the cheaper route (E-5) that would work just as well.

thank you, Terra O'Neil





Dear Burl Haar and all concerned:

We are writing to you concerning the power line that is supposed to run through our area. As a farmer on this line, we are worried about the impact it might have on our livlihood Milking cows is our way of life and our income. If stray voltage runs through our farm, that may be the end of our farming career and maybe for our neighbors as well. Roger has 2 brothers on this route that will also be affected. That's 3 in one family. Also there are lots of children on our route, including ours-5 young girls. We are worried about the impact it might have on their health in the future. We do not want to move, but if we were forced to, it may not even be an option, for no one wants to buy a farm under a powerline. We know personally of a farmer that lost his farm to stray voltage and another that had to sell their whole herd. Our farm is located right next to the road where the power line is supposed to go. There is a very good chance it could harm our animals, or worse, our health.

Included in this letter are a few ideas for options you might try.

1) Stay on I-94. Eliminate route E & G from Freeport to Albany and continue on I-94. Then get off the freeway after Albany onto that route E around the Avon Hills and Lakes.

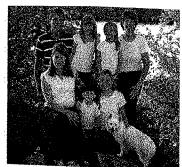
Stay on I-94. By crisscrossing the interstate through Freeport, it looks like there would be enough on the there would be space for placing power lines without impacting any farmers. We have heard that the community center might be a problem, but have also heard that you tear down buildings and reconstruct them elsewhere. Couldn't that be one way to solve the problem through Freeport? It certainly would be more cost effective for you considering what you pay each farmer to construct a pole on his land and it would shorten the route and save you time as well. The town would still have a community center and we could keep our farms also we could ke

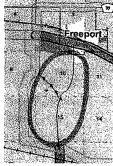
Stay on I-94. We don't know if you have talked to any homeowners, but maybe during this recession, they might be willing to sell their homes - still cheaper for you than paying all these farmers for power poles on their land. There couldn't be more than 3 houses in the path of construction. We actually didn't see a need to tear down any if we calculated the 1000ft needed between poles to 1000ft needed between poles.

Stay on I-94. Maybe you could go underground through Freeport. Again, it may be more cost effective for you, considering how many farmers are on the route all the way out to Cold Spring and back to I-94.

If Avon and that area are a problem, stay on I-94 until then. Don't go off already by us unnecessarily.

- 2) Take route past new Munich. There are only 3 farmers affected along that route and less corners to contend with compared with Freeport's Route E.
- 3) As a last resort, if you must go off by Freeport, there is a way to protect 8 places on Route E by cutting through the fields to county road 11 onto route G. If all land owners agree, it would shorten your route. We have included a map for that option below.







Please reconsider this route for the power lines to a place without so many farms. It will impact 8 places on our road, when there are alternatives that wont affect so many. Thank you for your time and consideration. Feel free to copy and send this letter to anyone else you think may help our situation.

Again .. THANK YOU for considering our request.

Respectfully yours, Sue and Roger Funk and Family. Freeport, MN (Rt.E) везресшину устан

## Dear Burl Haar,

My name is Roger Funk. I live at 36475 Rimcrest Rd Freeport MN 56331 with my wife and five daughters. We have a dairy farm close to Rimcrest Road where Cap X is proposing to build a power line. This could affect our farming operation and our way of life. We depend on this dairy farm to support our way of life. We also have a lake close to the power line. Have all other options been considered? Perhaps keeping the power line in the I-94 corridor from Freeport to Albany and then going South on Route E. This would save a lot of farms. Enclosed is a map of our Route Idea. Please take this idea into consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Funk

Please take the highlighted Part of Route Ex Route & out of consideration Followarrows instant melrose Koute Follow arrows instead.



Docket #09-1056

Dear Burl Haar,

and the state of t

We are writing this letter to ask you to please reconsider running the power line through our neighborhood. As parents of 5 young girls (ages5-13), we are concerned about how the stray voltage from the towers would affect the health of our family and the somatic cell of our cows. (Especially since they have lowered the required acceptable count.) We know of two instances where people that we know were forced out of milking because of voltage running through their herds. It is our livlihood and if stray voltage forces us to sell our herd, it could really impact our family. Not to mention the other health issues it might cause our children and ourselves.

Another problem that is going to arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from these poles is that we can no longer do *ariel* we are the arise from a superior arise from the arise from

Lastly, we have noticed that many people on our route were not properly notified. We ourselves hadn't received any mailings for a year and a half. The first notice some of the route Garagine as a people ever had was after the northern route failed. Some route E people as well. Their routes were not in our original book as an option. Everyone should have ample time to research the power lines affect on their family, farm, or home. Our group was not prepared because we had been told the line was going North as a people as a people as a people as well.

In our neighborhood, there are many in the same situation. To our west our neighbors have 4 young children. Our neighbors to the south have 3 young children. The next place south, they also have 4 young children. Then there is us with 5 little girls. Two of the farms affected are brothers to my husband. That makes 3 farms out of the same family that would be affected. We are all real people. We are all very close to the road and are hoping that you have the compassion to understand our predicament. Our families have been established here. The kids are all in good schools and have good friends and close family and we do not want to move. And probably couldn't sell our farms if we wanted to, with the power lines overhead. Can you please help us out by considering another route or revising this one to go further off the road for everyones sake? (Back to I-94 until Albany would be best!- perhaps underground past towns. It probably wouldn't cost much more considering how much is paid our per pole to farmers. It wouldn't hurt anyones land. The freeway is already condemned land.)

At any rate, we do not want a ploe in our yard or near any buildings for the health of our animals and ourselves. Wont you please consider our request and seek other options. We have an idea you would allow cutting across fields It could save 8 farms and houses. We will mail it to David Birkholz.

Thank you for your time and consideration!! And the Respectfully yours,

Respectfully yours, Sue and Roger Funk

I Switz March Landing Francisco



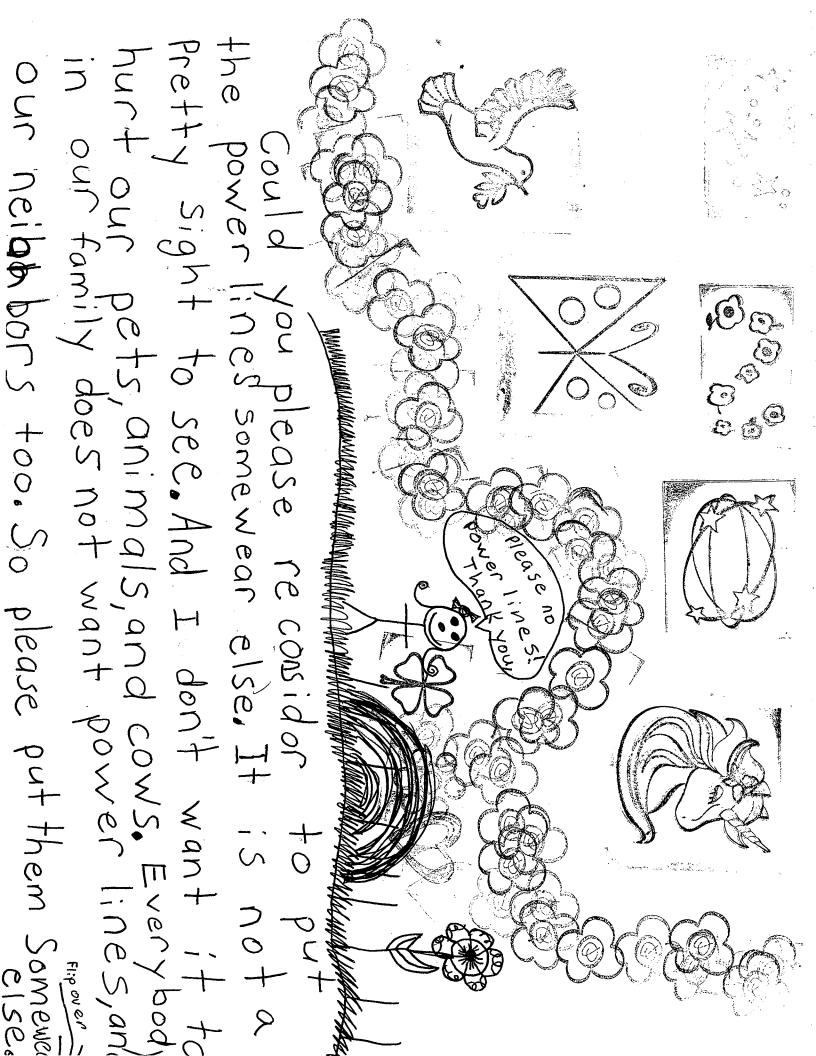
# Dear Burl Haar,

My name is Alexis Funk and I am writing this letter to you to ask that you reconsider putting the power lines up along Freeport Route - E. I live on a dairy farm by Rimcreas. Road and I help raise our calins. The power lines and really nurt or lead and of our other animals. Not only would they be really our animals but my neighbors too. Stay on I-94, where it won't do any harm to our animals, land, heighbors, or ourselves. I love where I live and I don't want this to affect it in any way. Thank You for your time.

Sincerly,

Alexis Funk.

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rake the highlighted CONSIDENCE 700 Thank Please

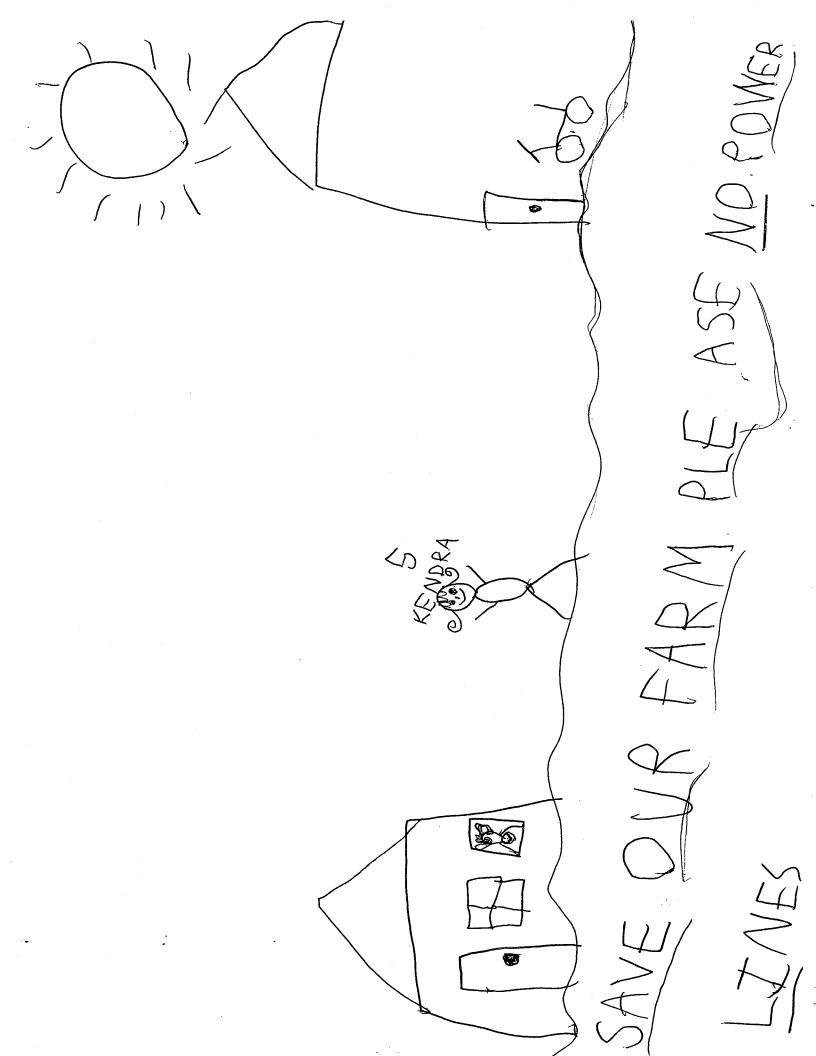
Follow the arrows instead.

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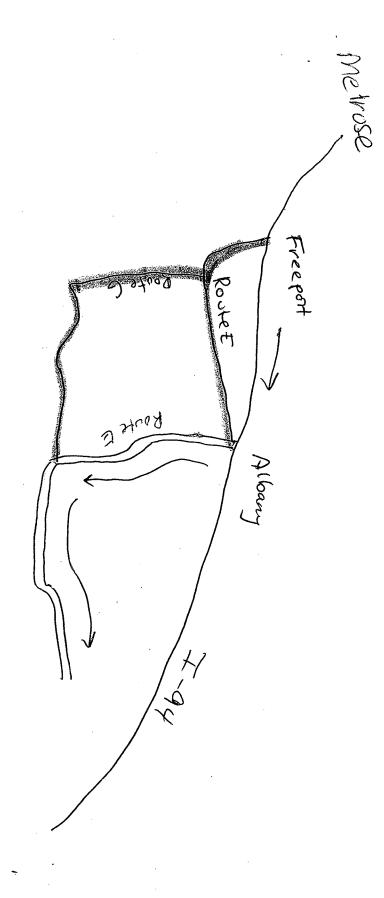
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Freezent \* Please take the highlighted Albany Tollow the acrows instead.



WAY STAIS WAY



\* Please take the highlighted part of route E & Route G out of Consideration. Follow arrows instead

Robert Harren 28691 Co. Rd. 30 Freeport, MN 56331 MAY 09 2011

MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

May 4, 2011

Dear Mr. Burl Haar,

I am writing in regards to the Capx2020 project Docket #09-1056. I have been a faithful follower of this project for two and a half years. I know and understand that these power lines need to be put in place, however, I do not think you have looked at all possible options. I am deeply saddened that the health and welfare of the wildlife seems to have taken priority over the health and welfare of human beings and the dairy industry.

My wife and I have four small children. The projected route places wires right across the road from our house. While this concerns us about possible health issues for our children we are equally concerned about the health of our dairy cattle. We have noticed the placement of these poles have all been along roadways, and understand that this was in part to lessen the number of poles that would need to be tilled around. While no one would look forward to losing field land and tillable acres, we do believe farmers would be more willing to work around these poles if they were not placed right next to their barns and houses and causing possible harm to their livelihood.

I love farming. Ten years ago I sold my herd of cows and went to work in town. I missed it so much that my wife and I started looking for another farm within a couple of years. We ended up looking for a farm for five years before finding our current home. Farming is our life. It is what we get up to do everyday. It is why people have food on their tables and some forms of gas in their cars and heat in their homes. By placing these poles so close to our homestead you not only endanger our health, our four children's health, and our animals' health, but you endanger our future as dairy farmers and what we work so hard for.

The nation is considering new somatic cell count guidelines for dairy farmers within the next two years. If these wires cause any extra stress on dairy cows these projected somatic cell count requirements will be impossible to meet, then making our milk not purchasable by Minnesota milk plants. The dairy industry continues to struggle in our state. By adding one more obstacle I think you are overlooking the additional challenges you are putting on the dairy industry and the general economy of our area. Stearns County is known for it's dairy industry, and the route chosen by the administrative judge cuts right through it's heart! With the use of route E and G it will affect 9+ dairy farmers, while route H has considerably less. We do not feel that this was taken into account when the judge made her recommendation. For us it is not a job you are putting in danger, it is our way of life.

In conclusion, please take time to consider all possibilities for the Capx2020 project. Make it known that you are a group who looks out for the welfare of all people. Please protect our children, and assure the future of the dairy industry. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Joe & Beth Vielaus 13529-115th Ave OSAKIS MU 56360 May 7, 2011

Executive Secretary of the PUC 350 Metro Square Bldg. 121 Swerth Place East. St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

RE: In the Matter of the application for a HUTL Runte fermit for the fargo to St. Claud 345KV Transmission Ine Project: MPUL Docket ET-2, E002/ Transmission Ine Project: MPUL Docket ET-2, E002/ TL-09-1056

We are asking that the above-discribed power line project NOT be allowed to go power line project NOT be allowed to go on an property. If it does, it will be in an property ord-new close to our home - for noise issues, appearance, and possible adverse health issues because of Close proximity, we request that your locate power line elsewhere.

Society; Joe+ Beth Mechaus

Dear Mr. Staar, Late last summer was the first info (map) we received that could indicate a route somewhere near us. Roads were not marked and no specific details where the route was going. Seaple on some router have howe to get how if for years and had time to get an attorney present an attorney and have their attorney present at a meeting. Last fall at a meeting (the last public meeting) was the first time I saw a detailed map showing spartly where route I was going, Our route never had a chance to have an attorney represent us at a public meeting. Beople on the route got Together and the light concern was lack of the same information, Some got maps, others got information. phoposed country areas which includes almost all of stearns county, it was made in 2007, some why wasn't it sent at that time? Some got more notices of meetings than others. Today we got a letter from State of Mr. Buhlie Utilities Commission. I lælled several people on our route and neither one of them got the letter. Why is not everyone on the route getting the same information? you already have a letter that I sent with stating some concerns. I also turned in some pictures at the meeting last fall I don't know if you have them or Judge of eyelinger. Blease review that information. What happens to the homeowners that are too close to the line and what pappens to the irrigation systems that will be under the

MAY 09 2011

MINNESOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

wires.

Sincerely Alice S. Doubek 27950 Co. Rd 113 Albany, Mr. 56307 Public Utilities Commission Attention: Burl Haar 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101



Dear Mr. Haar:

I am writing to voice my family's concern over the construction of Docket #09-1056 along County Road 11. Having a high-voltage electrical wire next to our home is alarming to our family and community.

Our family hobby is raising pigeons. Raising and racing homing pigeons is a source of enjoyment for our family. The pigeons fly around the yard and are capable of coming home from hundreds of miles. The risk of our pigeons killing themselves by hitting multiple wires is extremely high. Homing pigeons are killed by flying into normal telephone wires; needless to say having a multiple wire system built so close to our home would have a catastrophic influence on our pigeons. In addition to the hazard of colliding with wires, the Electrical and Magnetic Fields (EMF) may possibly hinder a homing pigeon's ability to navigate its way home. According to CapX2020.com, "These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther away you are from the source, the less EMF reaches your body. EMF exposure from transmission lines, which are high in the air and outside the negotiated easement, is minimal." [Italics mine].

Aside from homing pigeons, we raise another flying breed of pigeon called, Birmingham Rollers. These pigeons perform a rolling action while flying in the air. Rollers are in jeopardy of rolling into telephone and electrical wires. Once our pigeons are tangled in dangerous wires, it is too late.

Our home is only one hundred feet from the road. Building the power line would seriously impact our property and we could be forced to relocate. A power line in our yard completely destroys our property value. Our lives will be drastically changed if this electrical line is built.

The time taken to hear our apprehensions regarding Docket #09-1056 is appreciated. A major power line would force our family to give up having pigeons. Our kids love their birds, have invested many hours and dollars into their pigeons, and would be devastated to have them killed by power wires. We hope that a different route will be considered for constructing the power line.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Michelle Sabrowsky

29035 County Road 11 Freeport, MN 56331

DECEIVED Attention: MAY 09 2011 L Brat E Kner MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Mike Kuluzniak We are writing in reference to Docket 69-1056 The following reasons are why Route G should NOT follow County Route 177. 1. Concur about health for our farm families! 2. Concern about animal health. Koute G includes dairy and beef industries! 3. The form land along Koute 6 is sandy and needs cringation. The huge poles will hinder the much neided yearly moisture for crops: 4. Farming is our livelyhood! 5. There is much wildlife along the Sank River, with a potential Bird Watching trail being planned. 6. The high cost of Letring the route from I 94. 1. We will lose well Loved neighbors because they will need to move away from being under weres! We are pleading for a different route than the one purposed as Koute G, so we can healthfully Continue Dir. Samily farming life

Please reread the above reasons carefully! Thank You
Robert L. and Kines
Katchoff
25404 C.R. 177

mol 5630: Albany MN 56307 320- 548-3560 P.S. We would appreciate an honest responses!

May 4, 2011

## **Dear Commission members:**



We are writing to you today voicing concern and dissatisfaction over the imposing CapX2020 line that could potentially run through our land (Docket #09-1056).

We realize everyone has valid concerns...nobody wants this in their backyard, but the proposed line will negatively affect many animals and humans as well as the dwellings that shelter them and the fields that feed them. Our friends and neighbors are scared for their children and spouses, many of whom work, play and farm on the very spots where the line is proposed. We are well aware that the line could have travelled north, but there was a concern to preserve trees in a swampy area. We fully agree with protecting the environment, but never at the expense of the health and safety of human life and the crops and animals that nourish it. We are also aware the line could have headed south further west of Freeport and follow existing lines (between Sauk Centre and Melrose). If preservation is such a concern, why not use land that is already geared towards hauling energy? If it has to be, it has to be...but you can't just plunk a line down in farm family country to appease environmentalists. This proposal is demeaning to the people it will affect; it is taking advantage of the rural residents' Minnesota Nice. Just because we aren't screaming "NO" the loudest, doesn't make it right to shove this into our laps.

Years ago I94 cut through the heart of Minnesota, thus creating a prime path between Fargo and the Twin Cities to accompany other industrial and utility projects. CapX2020 is the perfect partner for the freeway, utilizing an already impacted area mostly free of homesteads and environmentally sensitive areas. Readjusting countless people's lives and posing a possible risk to their livelihoods, homes, health and families causes far more of a negative impact than forking out extra money to do the right thing. Although not popular with those pushing this line, the Group 1 – Alternative 1 (keeping it on the freeway with three underground areas) was by far the number one choice of the Freeport to St. Cloud impact study committee (which consisted of area residents and town officials that met several times and was hosted by CapX2020 officials; Peter was on this committee).

In this new age of being "green" we all have to forfeit for things that help us be more eco-friendly (more expensive light bulbs and investing in alternative energies). We implore you to explore and pursue the most environmentally and people friendly approach for this tricky, controversial stretch of line and that is to keep it along I94...even if it means a financial sacrifice for the greater good.

If you travel County Road 11 south of Freeport, where the proposed line may run, you will find the farm where Garrison Keillor lived as he developed Lake Wobegon. Oak Township consists of towering oaks, miles of fertile farmland, wildlife, livestock and families. Nearby is the city of Freeport, inspiration for the Lake Wobegon stories. Freeport consists of quiet, neat homes, an iconic water tower and a picturesque downtown. A line through the heart of Oak Township affecting the livelihood, homes and health of the residents should be a case in itself, but the proposal is also threatening to plaster the postcard for Lake Wobegon with miles of imposing, steel giants.

We know that this decision will be a hard one and there is no way to please everyone. We pray for patience, understanding and wisdom to all that are involved in the final process. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anne K. & Peter J. Welle

Anne K. Welle

Anne K. Welle

28093  $7^{th}$  SW, Freeport, MN 56331

320.836.2936

annewelle@hotmail.com

#### **Executive Secretary of the PUC**



Re: Project Transmission Line from Fargo to St. Cloud

My husband and I have lived on our 10 acre hobby farm on County Road 3 since 1974. It originally belonged to my husband's great grandfather. Then to his grandparents and we hope to give it to our son, which would be 5 generations. I feel that we must protect this piece of land for future generations.

I think that the power line would have a negative impact on the environment.

- 1. The area around County Road 3 has wetlands, wildlife and rich farmland. The aerial spraying would kill not only vegetation, but wildlife and farm animals and possibly affect our health through the food chain.
- 2. The power line itself would have a negative affect on the environment. I believe that the line is not Minnesota Environmentally safe.

Why can't we compromise? Why can't the line follow I-94? In the areas, such as wayside rests and lakes or other key areas that follow I-94, possibly go around or underground? I think, financially, it would be better to go underground or short bypasses rather than go miles and miles from I-94. Also, I think some of the funds for the underground line should be paid by the ones who most profit from the line, not excluding out of state.

Please don't destroy our scenic byways, farmlands, and wetlands.

Sincerely,

**Christine Morgel** 

37313 County Road 3

Avon, MN 56310

Public Utilities Commission

Attention; Burl Haar

Dear Mr. Haar,



Docket #09-1056

We just found out that route G is the preferred route for the CAPX 2020 project. If this route was a consideration we should have been informed earlier. In March of 2007 we got a map of suggested areas for the proposed line. Our property in Oak Township was not to be affected. Then last year. May 13, 2010, we got the map of several new routes.

We were sure you would look at five or six others before thinking of G. Everyone north of Freeport and along the freeway had four more years to object to the line crossing there land. We are farmers and a 7:00 meeting is impossible to attend. Our nieghbors are farmers as well, and that is why this route had the least amount of opposition. But you should have looked at more than how many people attend the meetings. Just because we don't have the money to hire lawyers to object on our behalf, we should not be taken advantage of.

If there are health issues related to this power line, why would you want to take a longer route to get from Alexandria to St. Cloud and risk exposing more people to it? County Rd.

11 has many farms and homes close to the road. An electrical line overhead could be hazardous. This is where we not only live, but it is where we work and spend most of our time.

I think the first suggested route should be the one to go with. If this line would follow the I-94 corridor as much as possible, it would be the shortest and least exposed route.

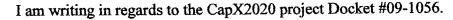
While the poles may look nice and neat, trying to farm around them will be tedious and time consuming. We are just poor farmers and because we haven't shouted the loudest big business thinks they can walk all over us.

Please reconsider your proposed route for the CAPX 2020 project.

Thank You,

Don & Judy Moubel

To whom it may concern,





I am greatly disappointed in the fact that this has been decided without prior and proper information to the residents affected by the decision. Each mailing that was received at my address was a small post card without this route clearly marked. If it had been more clearly marked, there would have been much more opposition, much earlier, from the residents concerned. However, I feel that was the goal of this whole thing.

I am also very concerned about the unknown health risks not only to our livestock, but especially to our families and children.

It is my understanding that you wish to have suggestions as to an alternate route. I, cannot, in good faith suggest an alternate route for the reasons I have listed above. I do not wish upon anyone those upon anyone else. However, what I will suggest is to continue along the I-94 corridor (the preferred route) and go underground through St John's and other areas that were under consideration down I-94 previously.

Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely

Tania Gerade

To whom it may concern,





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Thank you for your consideration of this.

Sincerely Donall N Derosh

**Donald Gerads** 

		•
Cap	X2020	Concern



# Docket #09-1056

to Mike Kuluziak or Bret Eknes

although I was aware of the Project FTalked with a Cap X Rep. at one of The Farm Shows and Told Him I was on Roote G 5 mi South of Freegort, He assured Me It would not be coming our Way So I Did not Worry about it, until now I here different, Out Son is Building a New Home along CR 12 in 2012 and along With Many other Concerns, Please Reconsider Keeping it along The Interstate 94

Thank You

Dennis & Sheila Thull 28767 330 th ST Freeport Mn 56331

May 3, 2011

Public Utilities Commission Attn: Burl Haar 127 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350 St. Paul, MN 55101



Dear Mr. Haar:

We are writing in regards to the latest recommended route of the Fargo to St. Cloud CapX 2020 high-voltage transmission line (Route G), Docket No.09-1056.

From our understanding this has been a long process but to the best of our knowledge Route G was never mentioned until May 2010. It may seem there wasn't a lot of opposition to Route G but we know that was largely due to some miscommunication; many of us believed that the list of possible routes was listed in an order of preference (i.e. Preferred route, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H). Knowing what we know now we wish we would have been more involved and informed of the process. We have only had a few months to oppose this route whereas other routes have had years to voice their opinions.

The idea of a high-voltage transmission line running through some beautiful countryside is very disappointing to us. However, even more than that we are saddened by the willingness to install such potentially dangerous lines so close to homes and residences with little regard for human health.

We moved from the city of Freeport in Fall of 2009 to raise our children in a country environment, surrounded by nature and away from pollution/dangers. At the time we had no idea that we were moving into an area where high-voltage transmission lines were possibly going to be installed. As children we both were raised on family farms and valued that lifestyle and hoped for something similar for our children. Now we fear that placing the high-voltage transmission lines on our property would destroy that and possibly cause great health concerns for our children. Our home is only 225 feet from the center line of County Road 11 (32304 County Road 11, Freeport). Our children would now be playing outdoors for prolonged periods of time in the shadows of these towers, exposing them to the dangerous electro-magnetic fields. In the future when the second set of lines is added the dangerous electro-magnetic fields will reach even further, putting additional people in danger.

It is proven that these high-voltage transmission lines create electro-magnetic fields. We find it interesting that a document printed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency states that "much of the research about power lines and potential health effects is inconclusive" and a cause and effect relationship cannot be proven but it also cannot be dismissed. According to the EPA, people concerned about possible health risks from power lines can reduce their exposure by "increasing the distance between you and the source" and "limiting the time spent around the source". Moving a high-voltage

transmission line into our yard makes that quite impossible. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences recommends continued education on practical ways of reducing exposures to EMFs; again if the lines are in our yard there is not much we can do to reduce our exposure.

When moving the transmission lines underground we understand they are harder to maintain and repair but burying the lines would prevent the potentially dangerous electromagnetic fields. Has this underground option been fully investigated? We would like this option to be further explored in areas where over-head lines are endangering human health.

We have spent endless hours trying to establish a windbreak on our land for energy conservation, planting close to 500 trees and shrubs in the spring of 2009. Now we fear that our trees/shrubs will be demolished with little regard for the environment. All of our hard work, time and money will be completely wasted.

There is also at least one error in your calculations of homes within 75 feet of the proposed alignment of Route G. According to the published chart in the route recommendation published by the administrative law judge there are 0 homes within this range but we know of at least one located at (XXXXX County Road 11, Freeport). Robert and Karen Hoffmann have a residence at 150 feet from the center line of County Road 11 but currently have no mailing address at that location.

We know no one wants to see 175 foot towers on their land but it seems that running the transmission lines along the I-94 corridor (as it has been done in other sections of the state) would involve the least amount of private property, thus reducing the disturbances to people's lives and the livelihood of the farmers in the area. Does it really make sense to run the line 44 extra miles through the countryside?

In the end all things considered we would support the Modified Preferred Route (with minimal underground installation where hard to navigate overhead lines) or Route D but with some reservations because of the proximity of homes.

Sincerely,

Tony and Nicole Reuter

Dear Sir: Docket # 09-1056

My Name is michael Funk white 2011 i am 46 years old and live discounting a dairy farm that i own and operate in section 9 of Oak township in Steams county. I am writing this letter out of concern for the proposed power line Docket # 09-1056 which would follow rimcrest road near my farmsite.

My 1st concern is the health of myself and my neighbors, what are the long term health effects of living near these power lines how much research has been done on this topic, i don't want to get cancer from these lines or other health problems.

My 2nd concern is the effects
that it may have on my 70 cow dairy
herd which is my primary source of
income, milking cows is a hard enough
job without the problems of a high
somatic cell count, mastitis and other
health problems, there are many
dairy farmers on this proposed route
in which milking cows is there only
major source of income.

I have enclosed a map of the land just south of I-94 near Freeport, the proposed route follows rimcrest road south then it should leave rimcrest road and go southeast across a farmfield and pasture for approximatly a 12 mile to county Road II then south a 12 mile on II till it conects to the proposed route this shoutcut would bypass and miss 8 houses and farmyards and would be a shorter Route to construct.

Please take the time to examine this shorter route as it would effect less peoples lives.

Thank you

michael Funk

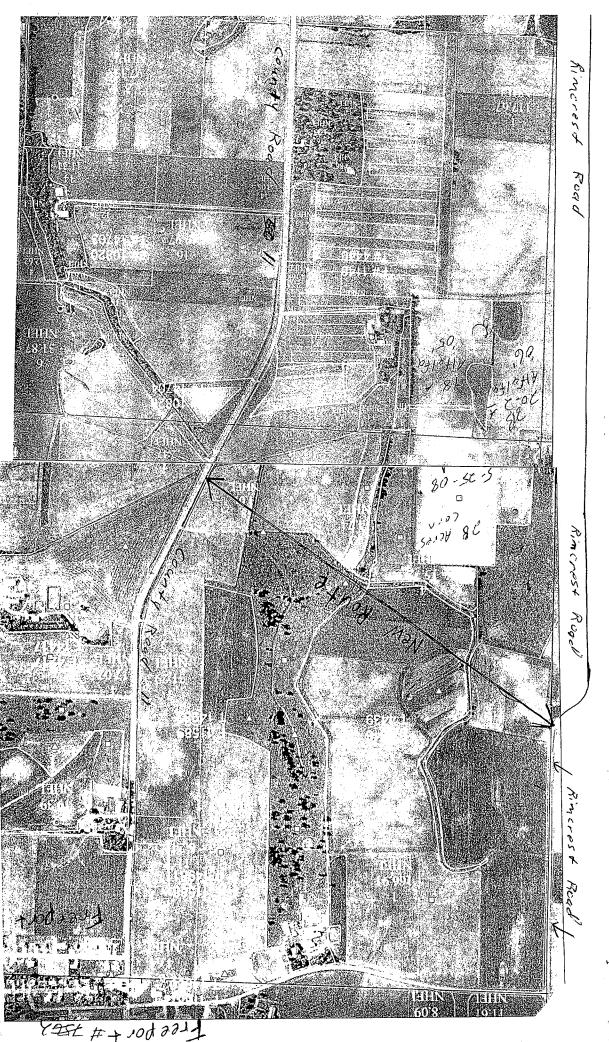
T-125-N

See Page 169-171 For Additional Names.

Martin

な

STEARNS CO., MN



MAY 09 2011

MINNESOTA PUBLIC

UTILITIES COMMISSION

Dear Sir:

I am writing this letter in response to the proposed power line bocket # 09-1056 which will run along rincrest road in oak township stearns county, i Farm and live along rincrest road.

I have Enclosed a map of the land near I-94 just south of Freeport, the route follows rimerest road south then it should leave the proposed route and go southeast across a farmfield and fasture, which this farmer has OK and permitted, for approximatly a 12 mile to county road 11, then go south 12 mile on 11 till it conects to the proposed route. This shoutcut immed would by pass and miss & house on vimond and farm sites and would be a shorter route to construct.

Please take the time to examine this shorter route as it will effect for less people.

Thank You michael Funk May 5, 2011

Public Utilities Commission Attention: Burl Haar 121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East Suite 350

St. Paul MN 55101

RE: Docket #09-1056

Dear Mr. Haar,



With regards to the recommendation of Route G by the Administrative Law Judge, we feel absolutely blindsided and railroaded. We knew there were a few public forums but were never contacted with regards that we were even in the running for the final recommendation.

The first communication we received from CAPX2020 was in 2007. Attached to the letter was a map and we were not even considered as a route by the Applicants. In May 2010, we received notice that Route G had been added, however, we were still under the impression that the modified preferred route was the most "prudent and feasible." Being letter G meant number 7 in line to us and being given no label of "preferred route" left us with a false sense of security that we were not in the running. Then in April 2011, we learned that Route G had been recommended by reading an article in the St. Cloud Times! Why weren't we notified? How did we go from not even being a route to being the recommended route in less than one year? Now we only have one week to protest our new recommended status.

It seems the state of Minnesota will choose wildlife habitats over farmer's livelihoods. Of course, farmers believe preservation of our natural resources is important. We personally have planted hundreds of trees on our land, have dozens of wood duck and bluebird houses and have gone above and beyond any state requirements to maintain our farmyard. But if a choice needs to be made between our wood duck houses and our daughter/granddaughter's health, our daughter/granddaughter would win every time.

We find it extremely absurd that the recommendation would say "Since farming can continue within the rights-of-way, transmission line construction will have less permanent impact to natural resources than construction in wetlands and especially in forested areas." If there is less impact to farming then why the recommendation on the CAPX2020 website advising farmers to put chains on their tractors to avoid electric shock when farming by power lines? THAT should be considered a permanent impact. Wildlife and vegetation will return in wetlands and woodlands after the construction of the power lines is complete. But farming will have to work around the power lines forever. So the real problem comes down to an eyesore issue for some people. And how disturbing is that to pick aesthetics over farmers.

While we do sympathize with everyone on every route, we feel the direct I-94 corridor is the most "prudent and feasible" route. People who have chosen to build homes and businesses along the

interstate always have the possibility of expansion and change disruptions. It comes with the territory. We, on the other hand, have chosen rural life. And we pay the price in many ways, but possible harmful power lines should not be part of this price.

We are not placing greater value on our families vs. all other families on other routes. We are all concerned about harmful effects of EMF on our families, but farmers have the extra worry of harmful effects on our livestock...our livelihood. Most business owners and families along I-94 would not be exposed to EMF all day. Our livestock would be exposed to harmful effects 24 hours a day, every day. We chose to invest money on larger parcels of land away from city life to farm for our community. Just because we have less families affected does not mean we are a more "prudent" choice. Again, people have chosen city life along the interstate for convenience of location, city water, sewer, utilities, etc. When the inevitable updates and improvements need to be made it is not "prudent" to push the burden to the rural areas. Our area was the last to get wanted high speed Internet but will be the first to get UNWANTED high voltage power lines?

Furthermore, Route G was not even created by the Applicants. A task force consisting of preferred route city officials created Route G to push the project away from routes affecting their communities. It would be much more "prudent" to choose a route created with the Applicants, not by a biased task force.

Please help stop this constant attack of the farming community in Minnesota. Our natural setting plays an important role in fulfilling our mission as dedicated farmers of Minnesota. Where is the sustainability and stewardship planning for the future? If our government keeps pushing farmers out of land and endangering our operations, there won't be food for anyone in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Route G was never the preferred route by the Applicants and should not be so now. The interstate corridor with possible exceptions of going underground when absolutely necessary (not for aesthetic reasons) is by far the most "prudent and feasible" choice. We pray you will consider the livelihood of the farming population along Route G and choose a different route as your final decision.

We would appreciate a reply to this matter in writing. We will await your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Maythpre M Hoppe

33122 280<sup>th</sup> Ave

Freeport MN 56331

320-837-5272

Ron and Jan Hoppe

33002 280<sup>th</sup> Ave

Freeport MN 56331

320-837-5220

From:

Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC)

Sent:

Wednesday, May 04, 2011 8:00 AM

To:

Reuter, Nicole

Cc:

Eknes, Bret (PUC); #PUC Public Comments

Subject:

RE: CapX2020: Docket No. 09-1056

Hello -

Bret Eknes is the staff lead on this project, I've forwarded him a copy of your email.

Regards,

----Original Message----

From: Reuter, Nicole [mailto:NReuter@CSBSJU.EDU]

Sent: Tuesday, May 03, 2011 10:31 PM

To: Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC)

Subject: CapX2020: Docket No. 09-1056

May 3, 2011

Mr. Mike Kuluzniak Energy Facility Planner 651-201-2257 mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us<mailto:mike.kaluzniak@state.mn.us>

Dear Mr. Kuluzniak:

We are writing in regards to the latest recommended route of the Fargo to St. Cloud CapX 2020 high-voltage transmission line (Route G), Docket No.09-1056.

From our understanding this has been a long process but to the best of our knowledge Route G was never mentioned until May 2010. It may seem there wasn't a lot of opposition to Route G but we know that was largely due to some miscommunication; many of us believed that the list of possible routes was listed in an order of preference (i.e. Preferred route, A, B, C, D, E, F, G, and H). Knowing what we know now we wish we would have been more involved and informed of the process. We have only had a few months to oppose this route whereas other routes have had years to voice their opinions.

The idea of a high-voltage transmission line running through some beautiful countryside is very disappointing to us. However, even more than that we are saddened by the willingness to install such potentially dangerous lines so close to homes and residences with little regard for human health.

We moved from the city of Freeport in Fall of 2009 to raise our children in a country environment, surrounded by nature and away from pollution/dangers. At the time we had no idea that we were moving into an area where high-voltage transmission lines were possibly going to be installed. As children we both were raised on family farms and valued that lifestyle and hoped for something similar for our children. Now we fear that placing the high-voltage transmission lines on our property would destroy that and possibly cause great health concerns for our children. Our home is only 225 feet from the center line of County Road 11 (32304 County Road 11, Freeport). Our children would now be playing outdoors for prolonged periods of time in the shadows of these towers, exposing them to the dangerous

electro-magnetic fields. In the future when the second set of lines is added the dangerous electro-magnetic fields will reach even further, putting additional people in danger.

It is proven that these high-voltage transmission lines create electro-magnetic fields. We find it interesting that a document printed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency states that "much of the research about power lines and potential health effects is inconclusive" and a cause and effect relationship cannot be proven but it also cannot be dismissed. According to the EPA, people concerned about possible health risks from power lines can reduce their exposure by "increasing the distance between you and the source" and "limiting the time spent around the source". Moving a high-voltage transmission line into our yard makes that quite impossible. The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences recommends continued education on practical ways of reducing exposures to EMFs; again if the lines are in our yard there is not much we can do to reduce our exposure.

When moving the transmission lines underground we understand they are harder to maintain and repair but burying the lines would prevent the potentially dangerous electromagnetic fields. Has this underground option been fully investigated? We would like this option to be further explored in areas where over-head lines are endangering human health.

We have spent endless hours trying to establish a windbreak on our land for energy conservation, planting close to 500 trees and shrubs in the spring of 2009. Now we fear that our trees/shrubs will be demolished with little regard for the environment. All of our hard work, time and money will be completely wasted.

There is also at least one error in your calculations of homes within 75 feet of the proposed alignment of Route G. According to the published chart in the route recommendation published by the administrative law judge there are 0 homes within this range but we know of at least one located at (XXXXX County Road 11, Freeport). Robert and Karen Hoffmann have a residence at 150 feet from the center line of County Road 11 but currently have no mailing address at that location.

We know no one wants to see 175 foot towers on their land but it seems that running the transmission lines along the I-94 corridor (as it has been done in other sections of the state) would involve the least amount of private property, thus reducing the disturbances to people's lives and the livelihood of the farmers in the area. Does it really make sense to run the line 44 extra miles through the countryside?

In the end all things considered we would support the Modified Preferred Route (with minimal underground installation where hard to navigate overhead lines) or Route D but with some reservations because of the proximity of homes.

Sincerely,

Tony and Nicole Reuter

PC 09-1056

### Rice, Robin (PUC)

From: Sent:

Tess Koltes [ktkolt8719@clearwire.net] Thursday, May 05, 2011 2:04 AM

To:

#PUC\_Public Comments

Subject:

response to judge's ruling on Fargo to St. Cloud line

### To Whom it May Concern:

In this day and age when humanity is worried about "green" and saving the environment, I find it ironic that the route from St. Cloud to Fargo does not follow already existing public lines that have been created and are followed by our transportation system of Interstate 94. St. John's University did not hesitate to clear acreage when it came to their solar panel farm. However, now there is concern about power lines passing by them on the freeway. This makes no sense. The university has the perfect opportunity to provide some solar energy to all people with their new system, which they did major publicity on last year. Instead of putting lines on virgin farmland, preexisting routes should be considered. Thank you for allowing us to voice our opinions.

Sincerely,

Tess Koltes

From: Sent:

Robert Harren [bkharren@albanytel.com]

Thursday, May 05, 2011 9:55 PM

To:

#PUC\_Public Comments

Subject:

Docket #09-1056

Robert Harren

28691 Co. Rd. 30

Freeport, MN 56331

May 5, 2011

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in regards to the Capx2020 project Docket #09-1056. I have been a faithful follower of this project for two and a half years. I know and understand that these power lines need to be put in place, however, I do not think you have looked at all possible options. I am deeply saddened that the health and welfare of the wildlife seems to have taken priority over the health and welfare of human beings and the dairy industry.

My wife and I have four small children. The projected route places wires right across the road from our house. While this concerns us about possible health issues for our children we are equally concerned about the health of our dairy cattle. We have noticed the placement of these poles have all been along roadways, and understand that this was in part to lessen the number of poles that would need to be tilled around. While no one would look forward to losing field land and tillable acres, we do believe farmers would be more willing to work around these poles if they were not placed right next to their barns and houses and causing possible harm to their livelihood.

I love farming. Ten years ago I sold my herd of cows and went to work in town. I missed it so much that my wife and I started looking for another farm within a couple of years. We ended up looking for a farm for five years before finding our current home. Farming is our life. It is what we get up to do everyday. It is why people have food on their tables and some forms of gas in their cars and heat in their homes. By placing these poles so close to our homestead you not only endanger our health, our four children's health, and our animals' health, but you endanger our future as dairy farmers and what we work so hard for.

The nation is considering new somatic cell count guidelines for dairy farmers within the next two years. If these wires cause any extra stress on dairy cows these projected somatic cell count requirements will be impossible to meet, then making our milk not purchasable by Minnesota milk plants. The dairy industry continues to struggle in our state. By adding one more obstacle I think you are overlooking the additional challenges you are putting on the dairy industry and the general economy of our area. Stearns County is known for it's dairy industry, and the route chosen by the administrative judge cuts right through it's heart! With the use of route E and G it will affect 9+ dairy farmers, while route H has considerably less. We do not feel that this was taken into account when the judge made her recommendation. For us it is not a job you are putting in danger, it is our way of life.

In conclusion, please take time to consider all possibilities for the Capx2020 project. Make it known that you are a group who looks out for the welfare of all people. Please protect our children, and assure the future of the dairy industry. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Robert & Kristie Harren

From: Sent:

Mary Hoppe [goobeam@yahoo.com]

Friday, May 06, 2011 7:09 AM #PUC Public Comments

To: Subject:

Docket #09-1056

May 6, 2011

RE: Docket #09-1056

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

With regards to the recommendation of Route G by the Administrative Law Judge, we feel absolutely blindsided and railroaded. We knew there were a few public forums but were never contacted with regards that we were even in the running for the final recommendation.

The first communication we received from CAPX2020 was in 2007. Attached to the letter was a map and we were not even considered as a route by the Applicants. In May 2010, we received notice that Route G had been added, however, we were still under the impression that the modified preferred route was the most "prudent and feasible." Being letter G meant number 7 in line to us and being given no label of "preferred route" left us with a false sense of security that we were not in the running. Then in April 2011, we learned that Route G had been recommended by reading an article in the St. Cloud Times! Why weren't we notified? How did we go from not even being a route to being the recommended route in less than one year? Now we only have one week to protest our new recommended status.

It seems the state of Minnesota will choose wildlife habitats over farmer's livelihoods. Of course, farmers believe preservation of our natural resources is important. We personally have planted hundreds of trees on our land, have dozens of wood duck and bluebird houses and have gone above and beyond any state requirements to maintain our farmyard. But if a choice needs to be made between our wood duck houses and our daughter/granddaughter's health, our daughter/granddaughter would win every time.

We find it extremely absurd that the recommendation would say "Since farming can continue within the rights-of-way, transmission line construction will have less permanent impact to natural resources than construction in wetlands and especially in forested areas." If there is less impact to farming then why the recommendation on the CAPX2020 website advising farmers to put chains on their tractors to avoid electric shock when farming by power lines? THAT should be considered a permanent impact. Wildlife and vegetation will return in wetlands and woodlands after the construction of the power lines is complete. But farming will have to work around the power lines forever. So the real problem comes down to an eyesore issue for some people. And how disturbing is that to pick aesthetics over farmers.

While we do sympathize with everyone on every route, we feel the direct I-94 corridor is the most "prudent and feasible" route. People who have chosen to build homes and businesses along the interstate always have the possibility of expansion and change disruptions. It comes with the territory. We, on the other hand, have chosen rural life. And we pay the price in many ways, but possible harmful power lines should not be part of this price.

We are not placing greater value on our families vs. all other families on other routes. We are all concerned about harmful effects of EMF on our families, but farmers have the extra worry of harmful effects on our livestock…our livelihood. Most business owners and families along I-94 would not be exposed to EMF all day. Our livestock would be exposed to harmful effects 24 hours a day, every day. We chose to invest money on larger parcels of land away from city life to farm for our community. Just because we have less families affected does

not mean we are a more "prudent" choice. Again, people have chosen city life along the interstate for convenience of location, city water, sewer, utilities, etc. When the inevitable updates and improvements need to be made it is not "prudent" to push the burden to the rural areas. Our area was the last to get wanted high speed Internet but will be the first to get UNWANTED high voltage power lines?

Furthermore, Route G was not even created by the Applicants. A task force consisting of preferred route city officials created Route G to push the project away from routes affecting their communities. It would be much more "prudent" to choose a route created with the Applicants, not by a biased task force.

Please help stop this constant attack of the farming community in Minnesota. Our natural setting plays an important role in fulfilling our mission as dedicated farmers of Minnesota. Where is the sustainability and stewardship planning for the future? If our government keeps pushing farmers out of land and endangering our operations, there won't be food for anyone in the future.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Route G was never the preferred route by the Applicants and should not be so now. The interstate corridor with possible exceptions of going underground when absolutely necessary (not for aesthetic reasons) is by far the most "prudent and feasible" choice. We pray you will consider the livelihood of the farming population along Route G and choose a different route as your final decision.

We would appreciate a reply to this matter in writing. We will await your response. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeff and Mary Hoppe 33122 280th Ave Freeport MN 56331 320-837-5272

Ron and Jan Hoppe 33002 280th Ave Freeport MN 56331 320-837-5220



Concerns Capx 2020-

The proposed route which 15 South o Freepart. We make our living in daily. We think having it Run past our place will affect our Roboetie milleng. Also there are Children and homes alose to the proposed lines We have families of lagles which we enjoy watching.

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take the "Less cost" nonte, which

is straight down the interstate,

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# CapX2020: docket no. 09-1056

Georgine Nathe [g\_nathe@yahoo.com]

Sent: Sunday, May 08, 2011 8:36 PM

To: Eknes, Bret (PUC)
Cc: #PUC\_Public Comments

May 8, 2011

Dear Mr. Eknes:

We are writing in regards to the latest recommended route of the Fargo to St. Cloud CapX2020 high-voltage transmission line (Route G), Docket No.09-1056.

We were very surprised to learn this was the judge's recommendation. From what we had believed route G was added much later and not a real possibility until the other routes were fully investigated. Original documents produced at the beginning of this project showed the area south of Freeport not to be included in the areas affected. What happened to change this? If this was not a possible/viable area, why was this area now recommended by the judge?

Stearns County is the number one dairy producing county in the state of Minnesota and number 16 in the United States; it concerns us to have these power lines run through the heart of Stearns County. The dairy industry has an economic impact on the state and to destroy this industry seems to be a dangerous mistake.

We know there has been some research done to investigate the effects of emf on dairy cattle and there is evidence showing the emf causes biological responses in the cattle. There is the possibility of decreased milk production in these cattle. With the new regulations of lower somatic cell counts in milk being implemented in 2012 these power lines could make it impossible for local dairy farmers to meet this regulation forcing them out of the dairy industry. These power lines must not be installed too close to dairy farms.

No one wants these lines on their land as they will take up much needed land to produce crops when at a time the world doesn't have enough land to keep up already. It seems running the power lines through multiple farms all along route G could take numerous valuable acres out of production. The construction process with large construction equipment will cause soil compaction and will cause reduced yields in these areas for years to come. These lines will also interfere with our ability to spray our crops from the air, there are times when ground spraying is not an option (crops too large, ground too wet or to reduce soil compaction further).

Please consider running these lines in areas along the I-94 corridor (Modified Preferred Route). This route would take less farmland out of production and reduce the impact on the local economy. There are fewer dairy farms along the I-94 corridor and more non-agricultural land. It seems like using an existing corridor makes the most sense and it is just plain practical to use the shortest route!

Sincerely,

William and Georgine Nathe 32548 County Road 11 Freeport, MN 56331

#### **Public Comment Form**

HTL Route Permit for the Fargo to St. Cloud 345 kV Transmission Line Project: MPUC Docket No. E002, ET2, E-002/TL-09-1056

Attn: Bret Eknes, Mike Kuluzniak, Burl Haar

This is in regards to the decision of Administrative Law Judge Beverly Jones Heydinger regarding proposed power line Route E (Rimcrest Road) and Route G (County Road 30 & County Road 11). We understand that there is no route that will satisfy everyone, but why are we taking a route that strictly consists of dairy farms and prime agricultural land. My husband and I feel that the route the Judge Heydinger is proposing would be devastating to dairy farmers. High voltage power lines have been proven to cause stray voltage on dairy farms and stray voltage is very harmful to our dairy animals. It causes our animals to not breed, it causes high Somatic Cell Counts (SCC) in our dairy animals, which causes major health issues to the animals, which in turn affects the quality of our milk product. If our SCC counts climb to certain levels in our milk product we are subject to loose our Grade A status and possible not able to sell our product at all which in turn will put us out of the dairy business. This is our livelihood, who will compensate for our loss due to this power line? Who will guarantee our farming operation will still be as functional as it is at the present time? Also, if it can cause health issues in animals that weigh any where from 100 lbs to 2000 lbs. what will it do to the human body, which is also another major concern of ours.

Our farm is located in Section 15 & 16 of Oak Township in Stearns County. We purchased our farm back in 1989 from a local realtor with no help from anyone other that our friendly banker. When we first started farming we found out first hand what stray voltage can do to our animals and how costly it can be. We had major veterinary bills and health issues with our cattle until we were told to have our farm checked for stray voltage and yes that was the major issue. We currently have a blocker on our line to send the voltage back out to the main line. Without this we probably would no longer be farming. We have our son who is very much interested in farming and decided not to go on to college and has farmed with us since he graduated from high school in 1999 and would like to purchase the farm and continue farming. This may not be possible if we have a power line in our back yard and stray voltage that may be the cause of discontinuing our dairy operation. At prior meetings we attended we did ask about stray voltage and were told if everything is properly installed there should be no issue. We asked if he could guarantee this and he again stated if everything is properly installed there should be no issue. We would also like to share that our land is used to raise the crops for our animals. If the land is disturbed for the power line it usually ends up with the good soil destroyed and the gravel on top. We need our good land to raise our crops. If we need to buy the crops we are once again loosing profit on the other end and we would loose profit in our dairy if we end up with the stray voltage. In closing we would like to say it has been our dream to dairy and we hope that our livelihood will not be destroyed due to a power line that will be installed on our property when it could have been put down I-94 and does not disturb the productive soil and our farming operation in which we raise food to feed the people of the world.

Section 15 & 16 Oak Township

Respectfully Submitted Arthur and Sharon Salzer 35564 Rimcrest Road Freeport, MN 56331

From:

Georgine Nathe [g\_nathe@yahoo.com]

Sent: To: Sunday, May 08, 2011 8:36 PM

Cc:

Eknes, Bret (PUC) #PUC Public Comments

Subject:

CapX2020: docket no. 09-1056

May 8, 2011

Dear Mr. Eknes:

We are writing in regards to the latest recommended route of the Fargo to St. Cloud CapX2020 high-voltage transmission line (Route G), Docket No.09-1056.

We were very surprised to learn this was the judge's recommendation. From what we had believed route G was added much later and not a real possibility until the other routes were fully investigated. Original documents produced at the beginning of this project showed the area south of Freeport not to be included in the areas affected. What happened to change this? If this was not a possible/viable area, why was this area now recommended by the judge?

Stearns County is the number one dairy producing county in the state of Minnesota and number 16 in the United States; it concerns us to have these power lines run through the heart of Stearns County. The dairy industry has an economic impact on the state and to destroy this industry seems to be a dangerous mistake.

We know there has been some research done to investigate the effects of emf on dairy cattle and there is evidence showing the emf causes biological responses in the cattle. There is the possibility of decreased milk production in these cattle. With the new regulations of lower somatic cell counts in milk being implemented in 2012 these power lines could make it impossible for local dairy farmers to meet this regulation forcing them out of the dairy industry. These power lines must not be installed too close to dairy farms.

No one wants these lines on their land as they will take up much needed land to produce crops when at a time the world doesn't have enough land to keep up already. It seems running the power lines through multiple farms all along route G could take numerous valuable acres out of production. The construction process with large construction equipment will cause soil compaction and will cause reduced yields in these areas for years to come. These lines will also interfere with our ability to spray our crops from the air, there are times when ground spraying is not an option (crops too large, ground too wet or to reduce soil compaction further).

Please consider running these lines in areas along the I-94 corridor (Modified Preferred Route). This route would take less farmland out of production and reduce the impact on the local economy. There are fewer dairy farms along the I-94 corridor and more non-agricultural land. It seems like using an existing corridor makes the most sense and it is just plain practical to use the shortest route!

Sincerely,

William and Georgine Nathe 32548 County Road 11

From: Sent: Mary Hoppe [goobeam@yahoo.com] Monday, May 09, 2011 10:58 AM

To:

#PUC Public Comments

Subject:

Docket #09-1056

Attachments:

May9-2011.pdf

Re: Docket #09-1056

Dear Public Utilities Commission:

Attached you will find a scanned image of the handmade Mother's Day card I received from our nine year old daughter yesterday. I urge you to strongly consider choosing a route such as the I-94 corridor instead of Route G which comes directly through working farmland. Please do not take away our daughter's chance to farm for future generations by placing potentially dangerous power lines on our land.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Hoppe 33122 280th Ave Freeport MN 56331 I'm Soglad to have a Mom jast like you, and live On a farm with cows that say: Moo! Have a wonderful Mothers Day!

Love Suna Chove You Month