

09-1448

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020  
**Attachments:** Dr. Boyd.docx; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX2020

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jodi Hart <jhart.seasons@me.com>  
**Date:** April 19, 2012 10:47:24 AM CDT  
**To:** "david.c.boyd@state.mn.us" <david.c.boyd@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** CapX2020

Dear Commissioner  
Please review attachment.  
Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give in this matter.  
Jodi Hart

April 19, 2012

Dr. David C. Boyd, Commissioner  
Dept of Chemistry  
2115 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Dr. Boyd:

I am very concerned with the decision that was made on April 12, regarding the route of the CapX2020.

I am a Mom, Wife, landowner and homeowner of a farm in the area that will be affected by the CapX2020 route change. Our daughter attends Pine Island School and we love the area in the country that we have, it is peaceful and rural. I don't want my daughter to grow up with large power lines overhead where we spend our entire day. I understand that a Christian Day Camp is in route for the Lake Zumbro route but that is just a few weeks a year that people attend this Camp, we live in the Oronoco Township route all year and hopefully many healthy years to come. The affects of these power lines on people's health are unknown.

I ask that you reconsider what and who this involves the Lake Zumbro route does affect many trees and nature, which I don't like as well, but the Oronoco Township crossing affects people and the well being of generations to come.

Please reconsider your decision and review all the findings presented to the Administrative Law Judge.

Sincerely,

Jodi Hart  
12513 County Road 18 NW  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960  
507-251-6023

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020  
**Attachments:** Dear Dr.docx; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 11:03 AM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX2020

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Randy Hart <[oronocohart@aol.com](mailto:oronocohart@aol.com)>  
**Date:** April 19, 2012 9:05:52 AM CDT  
**To:** <[David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** CapX2020

April 18, 2012

Dear Dr. Boyd,

I am a homeowner and farmer who will be affected by the CapX2020 route change made on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The change will affect my wife and daughter for generations as we have built a farm business on our land. My 9 year old daughter will be standing under this line every morning as she waits for the school bus.

I cannot understand how an informed board can go against the recommendations of its own staff and the Administrative Law Judge's findings. A far greater number of farms, homes, businesses, and families will be affected by your change to the White Bridge route.

At the meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>, opponents of the power dam crossing were given the opportunity to voice their concerns. After viewing the video, it seems apparent that they helped sway your decision. I would have welcomed the chance to give you my story. Mr. Norman got to state his case, why not our side?

Tom Hillstrom , project routing lead, states that the goal of the decision process is to identify the route with the least impact on people. Was that done? Not if you read the findings of the AL Judge. I have lived in this area my whole life and know the topography of both routes well. The White Bridge route affects more people in their day to day activities far more.

People's lives are more important than trees. Please consider that we have to live with this line 24/7, 365 days a year, compared to running thru the woods that are not used every day.

I am asking the Commissioners to please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Randy Hart  
12513 County Road 18 NW  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
507-251-5882

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 3:39 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX Letter  
**Attachments:** Capx 2020 Letter Word Doc.pages; ATT00001.htm

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hampton/LaX. NOTE: I was not able to open the attachment.

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 18, 2012 3:24 PM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX Letter

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Staci Kinsley <[skchildcare@hotmail.com](mailto:skchildcare@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 18, 2012 2:49:26 PM CDT  
**To:** <[david.c.boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:david.c.boyd@state.mn.us)>, <[phyllis.reha@state.mn.us](mailto:phyllis.reha@state.mn.us)>, <[dennis.obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:dennis.obrien@state.mn.us)>, <[betsy.wergin@state.mn.us](mailto:betsy.wergin@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** CapX Letter

Attached you will find a letter requesting your reconsideration of the Cap route.

Thank you for your time.

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 12:15 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020  
**Attachments:** Dr. Boyd.docx; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 11:01 AM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX2020

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Jodi Hart <jhart.seasons@me.com>  
**Date:** April 19, 2012 10:47:24 AM CDT  
**To:** "david.c.boyd@state.mn.us" <david.c.boyd@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** CapX2020

Dear Commissioner  
Please review attachment.  
Thank you in advance for any assistance you can give in this matter.  
Jodi Hart

April 19, 2012

Dr. David C. Boyd, Commissioner  
Dept of Chemistry  
2115 Summit Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55105

Dear Dr. Boyd:

I am very concerned with the decision that was made on April 12, regarding the route of the CapX2020.

I am a Mom, Wife, landowner and homeowner of a farm in the area that will be affected by the CapX2020 route change. Our daughter attends Pine Island School and we love the area in the country that we have, it is peaceful and rural. I don't want my daughter to grow up with large power lines overhead where we spend our entire day. I understand that a Christian Day Camp is in route for the Lake Zumbro route but that is just a few weeks a year that people attend this Camp, we live in the Oronoco Township route all year and hopefully many healthy years to come. The affects of these power lines on people's health are unknown.

I ask that you reconsider what and who this involves the Lake Zumbro route does affect many trees and nature, which I don't like as well, but the Oronoco Township crossing affects people and the well being of generations to come.

Please reconsider your decision and review all the findings presented to the Administrative Law Judge.

Sincerely,

Jodi Hart  
12513 County Road 18 NW  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960  
507-251-6023

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 8:36 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx

Hampton/LaX

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC); Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: Document1

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**From:** Greg and Karen [2pepins@kmwb.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** Document1



My husband and I of Oronoco Township feel terrible that we did not attend your last meeting. We were not there because we felt that we no longer had to worry about the Power line going by our home. No one had filed an exception to the determination of the Administrative Law Judge that the alternative Power Dam Crossing should be used. If someone had filed an exception and your own staff from the Commerce Department had not recommended the Power Dam Crossing, we would have been at the hearing. Your staff concluded in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Power Dam Crossing has the least environmental impact of all the alternatives. We feel that families and farm livelihoods should bear greater consideration than minimal impact on the forest in the Power Dam route alternative. Because of the population density in the White Bridge Crossing alternative, more individual properties will be subject to condemnation and resulting law suits as Xcel Energy acquires them for this project. As the Administrative Law Judge stated, Oronoco Township (White Bridge Crossing) is much more densely populated and prone to future development because it is in the Rochester School District. We respectfully implore you reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Department of Commerce. Thank you, Greg and Karen Pepin

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Haar, Burl (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 12:43 PM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing  
**Attachments:** Cap X 2020.docx

Hampton/LaX

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**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC); Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing

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**From:** Adam Rucker [<mailto:ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 29, 2012 9:29 PM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Subject:** White Bridge Crossing

As a livestock producer of beef and hogs I am concerned for the safety of our livestock and the livestock of the neighboring farms. As a young farmer just getting established in the farming industry I am concerned the White Bridge Rd route will negatively impact our livestock and our business. There are few young farmers that are willing or have the opportunity to take on the role of operating a family farm and with the proposed route I am concerned for the livelihood of our family farm. With fewer young farmers in the country we need to be protected so we can continue to produce safe and quality food for the population. We feel the PUC has made a terrible mistake when they went against their own staff recommendations and chose the White Bridge Rd route.

Here are some things that we are concerned with:

- Static electricity that can build up on cattle and hog waters resulting in a shock to the animal when they go to get a drink. When this occurs that animals will not receive enough water and will become dehydrated.
- With the advance in the agriculture and GPS high voltage lines can interrupt the signal used for planting, spraying and product application. When this occurs products can be over applied and cause potential runoff and pollution concerns.
- With young children living very close to the proposed route static electricity has been known to cause childhood leukemia and other health concerns with prolonged exposure.
- Static electricity can also cause certain cancers, premature aging, headaches, dizziness, Alzheimer's disease, depression, insomnia, or other nervous oddities.

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Javon Bea <jbea98@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 18, 2012 5:03 PM  
**To:** staff, cao (PUC)  
**Subject:** Ms. Motz Letter Regarding Oronoco - PUC  
**Attachments:** Oronono\_-\_letter\_to\_Motz\_(148526-2)[1]-1.doc

Dear Ms. Motz,

Attached is a letter representing the people of Oronoco, MN and related parties in response to your letter of May 17, 2012.

Sincerely,

Javon R. Bea  
Appointed Representative - PUC Routing  
Oronoco Township  
Member Oronoco Planning & Zoning Board

May 18, 2012

Deborah Motz, Manager  
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission  
Consumer Affairs Office  
1217 Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147  
[consumer.puc@state.mn.us](mailto:consumer.puc@state.mn.us)

Re: Power Dam Crossing

Dear Ms. Motz:

Thank you very much for taking the time to respond to our concerns. I am a member of the Oronoco Planning and Zoning Board and I am the appointed representative for the citizens of Oronoco regarding this PUC issue. Rather than have you receive a similar letter from all of those who received your response, I thought it would be more efficient if I responded on behalf of all of the Oronoco citizens and related parties.

I would like to address our understanding of why our attorney advised us that there would not be **new** testimony or evidence allowed at the April 12, 2012 commission meeting. The notice of that meeting you referenced stated as follows: "Persons associated with one of the formal parties ... should expect their positions will be presented during earlier oral arguments by their representative." (Citizens of Oronoco was a party.)

In addition, Chair Reha reiterated that point at the April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting by stating that the commission "...would hear some summary, limited comment, **from persons who are not affiliated with one of the formal parties** in this matter." You will find that statement in the hearing transcript at page 83 starting at line 9. I hope you can understand that the reading of the Notice provision, reinforced by Chair Reha at the meeting itself, would make very clear to an average citizen of Oronoco that they would not be allowed to present evidence or testimony at the April 12<sup>th</sup> PUC meeting. Our citizens complied with the rules to our detriment and are committed to doing whatever we have to do in order to make right this unfortunate initial decision by the PUC which was based at least in part on inaccurate and erroneous information from four individuals (two of whom are married) – "Power Dam Group" who misled the Commissioners at the April 12<sup>th</sup> PUC meeting.

Commissioner Reha's statement above indicated that there would be "limited comment." In fact, the Commission accepted these four individuals' "comments" as evidence (after the record had been closed) and talked about that "evidence" when they deliberated this decision. The problem was that the information given the Commissioners by the four people who spoke against the Power Dam Route was false and misleading. The Power Dam Route was supported by the citizens of Oronoco, the Olmstead County Board of Commissioners, recommended by the administrative law judge and supported by the Department of Commerce. Supporting our conclusion that the Commission clearly considered the statements of these four people as evidence, to which the citizens of Oronoco had no opportunity to respond, we would point to the comments made by Chair Reha, who said:

Deborah Motz, Manager  
May 18, 2012  
Page 2

“But I’m concerned about some of the testimony that was presented here, in terms of the camps in the area and the virgin hardwood forest and the bluffs that are involved with the easterly portion of the dam site.

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There were no exceptions filed to the dam crossing, but we certainly heard a lot of objection today from the members of the public.”

You will find this at page 167 of the transcript starting on line 12 and again on line 25.

None of these people who gave what Chair Reha characterized as “testimony” were parties to the contested hearing. Therefore, they were allowed to show up and say whatever they wanted without an opportunity by the people of Oronoco, or any other party or person affiliated with a party, to respond or rebut their last minute comments which were inaccurate and erroneous. The citizens of Oronoco participated in this entire multi-year process at great expense. Dozens of us were present at numerous meetings and hearings and presented expert testimony and our attorneys were present at all times during this process.

What is the point of engaging in a multi-year process if someone can simply show up at the last minute and present demonstrably false statements that no party has an opportunity to rebut, which the Commission members then accept as true? Apparently, we should have skipped all the meetings and hearings, all the examinations of witnesses, reviewing the environmental impact statement, and all the other things that we did over the past two years and do instead what these four, last-minute speakers did. Like them, we should have simply showed up on April 12<sup>th</sup>, and make comments (true or false didn’t seem to matter) and influenced the Commission as those four people (two of whom were married) did.

I hope you can understand just how frustrated we are, given all the citizens of Oronoco did to help create the mammoth record that was relied upon by the administrative law judge, and supported by the Department of Commerce, and have it all be for naught. We will be submitting a petition for reconsideration once the Commission issues a written decision. Our petition will address the false information the four individuals presented to mislead the Commissioners. What happened to us is really unfair. We do not understand how the Commission can make informed decisions based on last-minute statements that are not even true.

Sincerely,

Javon R. Bea  
11123 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue NW  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
Cell (507)254-9745  
[Jbea98@aol.com](mailto:Jbea98@aol.com)

cc: Citizens of Oronoco and Related Parties

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

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**From:** Milo Christensen Jr <mbchris7@redred.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 14, 2012 1:19 AM  
**To:** dlesher@GREnergy.com  
**Cc:** charles.enter@co.brown.mn.us; rep.paul.torkelson@house.mn; whensel@benco.org; #PUC\_Public Comments; Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC); bjchris49@yahoo.com; garmarsch@sleepyeyetel.net; carsch2@yahoo.com; rschroeder@frandsenbank.com  
**Subject:** Re : Support of Randy Schroeder's May 7 and May 10 emails  
**Attachments:** Schroeder5-9-12.pdf

Dear Mr. Leshner:

I am writing to you in regards to the approved power line path in Brown County that runs alongside a drainage ditch and also past Randy and Carol Schroeder's house within little more than 500 ft. I am surprised that a power company such as yours would be so willing to make themselves look bad by having little (if any) consideration for the citizens who must put up with the power line on their property and by their homes for 50-60 years or more.

In your May 9 letter to Randy Schroeder; you state that there was ample opportunity during the public process for all landowners on potential project routes to submit comments to representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Administrative Law Judge who presided over the public hearings, and directly to the Public Utilities Commission. I was at all the public meetings in Redwood Falls as well as one in Marshall and two in Henderson.

I am sure that your memory still contains the incident from I believe it was early 2010 when the projected path past Steve Prah's house was suddenly moved to going alongside the dredge ditch and on past Randy and Carol's house. The PUC- approved route would be on approximately 1 ¾ miles of property owned by my wife and myself, our son Wayne and my parents, Milo, Sr. and Arlene. Why did none of us receive a mailing about the route change but rather had to learn of it from other neighbors who located it on the internet? At the public hearing with the Administrative Law Judge I specifically informed Scott Eck of the Office of Energy Security that the path past the dredge ditch was not acceptable because of maintenance issues. He quickly agreed with me and had his assistant make a note of our conclusion. I spoke with Judge Richard Luis after the hearing and expressed my thoughts about the impossibility of performing proper maintenance to the dredge ditch to him. His answer to me was that I should have expressed my opinion during the hearing. My answer was that the judge's instructions at the beginning of the hearing were for citizens with comments should express them during the hearing or talk to him after the meeting or we could send him comments by e-mail or U.S. mail. My wife and I and the Schroeders were at the PUC meeting in July, 2010 when the route was eventually approved and I expressed my concerns of the power line being near the dredge ditch. When I of the 5 commissioners showed concern, Chairman Boyd said that the PUC would consider changes in the path, because the petitioners could not foresee all the problems. I am told the line could be moved further from the ditch to allow for maintenance. That would place poles in our field, an issue that CapX2020 promised to avoid. And since I would be the one requesting to move the line away from the ditch to allow for maintenance, I would receive no compensation for the poles being in my field. I have also expressed my negative concerns about the route many, many times to you, Dan. I questioned your judgment several times when the path was going passed Steve Prah's house. You knew that it was an unacceptable route but did nothing to correct it, even though you had ample time to do so. You stated in your May 9th letter to Randy Schroeder that there was ample opportunity for all landowners on potential project routes to submit comments to the proper authorities, however not one of authorities would offer to correct the problem.

I recall having discussions with CapX 2020 personnel at the public meetings who insisted the 75 ft. distance from Steve Prah's house to the proposed power line was a safe distance. It is quite evident that there was very poor judgement involved in the decision to place the route directly past Steve's house.

Months later, when the route was moved to go past Randy and Carol's house, you said that power officials insisted that the line had to be at least 500 ft. from an occupied dwelling. Why then was the route directly north of the Minnesota

River crossing going out of the valley on Renville County road 3 approved by CapX 2020 as it went out of the valley between 2 occupied sites? This path would be far less than 500 ft. from Marilyn Hale's house and under 500 ft. from Clint Gronau's house. (You may recall at the Administrative Law Judge hearing, Clint Gronau was the individual who questioned Dr.

Valberg's validity in his research of EMF health effects on human beings living near high voltage transmission lines. Clint lives not far from an existing power line with less than 345 KW. Even with lower voltage, he mentioned of headaches when being near this line and asked Dr. Valberg how this new proposed line would affect him. Dr.

Valberg could not answer Clint's question.) Instead of you moving the line to the newly required 500 ft. minimum, Mrs. Hale and the Gronau's had to negotiate a route change with a CapX2020 Right of Way Agent.

I also notice in your May 9 letter to Randy S. you highlight 12 Regulatory and public involvement comment meetings. In the first 6 notifications, you emphasize 23,000 landowners were mailed notices.

But in the last 6 notifications starting with Jan. 2009 you only state that landowners were mailed notifications. You don't say all landowners. I believe it was during late 2009 that the route was moved to the dredge ditch and near the Schroeder home. How convenient the timing was for you to discontinue sending 23,000 notices.

You may recall or have already heard from your older peers of the power line confrontations of the late 1970's. A transmission line from Underwood, ND to Elk River, MN being constructed ran into huge opposition while attempting construction through Stearns County, MN.

The national attention that the power company and the State of MN received was certainly embarrassing for Minnesota residents and I would have thought the power companies would have learned something from this incident. Rather than use your authority and be the Goliath who just tramps in and draws a path where he wishes, why not be route friendly and not just listen to landowners concerns, but actually make route changes to keep the line landowner friendly. You should easily understand by now that if the line goes past the Schroeder's house by about 500 feet, you are telling Randy and Carol that they can either relocate or risk further disability, undoubtedly leading to nursing home care. I am very much in support of Randy and Carol Schroeders request to have the route go north of their place. I don't feel that the Schroeders are out of line in requesting CapX2020 to take some of the money they would save by a shortened route and present it to Steve Prah as compensation for the line to be 1/4 mile east of his house.

That is the same distance from his house as one of the 4 routes that Steve and his attorney had submitted to CapX2020 in late 2009, in hopes of changing it from the original path over his house. This diagonal path was one of the first alternatives proposed by Paul Storm, subject to Steve Prah's approval. Randy has talked with Steve, and Steve is open to this path, but will probably demand extra compensation.

You may also remember the route that Randy Schroeder designed for you in 2010; the one that is near the western edge of Brown County; the one with far less corners; the one that would only affect 4 people in comparison to the present one which affects nearly 20 people. Randy S. also submitted a copy of this route to the PUC. We were told that this western route could no longer be introduced because it would be beyond the corridor which was narrowed down to include us and not them. If you go back only a short time, the corridor was 12 miles wide which would easily have included western Brown County. Since there are only two things that are for sure in life, the people of Brown County should not be surprised if a new route change would come about to include them. You may still have a copy of this most friendly route in your file. The only negative issue you could find with this route was interference with a wetland issue in the valley.

I discussed this briefly with a DNR official who said in that area the issue would be considered minimal effect; in other words, no problem.

You may also recall, back during the routing process, there were two basic possible routes, proposed by CapX 2020. The route south of Redwood Falls and south of Franklin being one route and a proposed second route north of Morton and north of Franklin being the other route; both routes going west to east. When the route south of Redwood Falls and south of Franklin was chosen and the north route was discarded, a landowner from north of Morton, (Mr. Richard Scheffler) asked you at an informational meeting if the northern route was, indeed, discarded and if those people could be assured of not having to deal with power line issues any longer. Your reply to him was that until the transmission line is actually built, no one is assured of not having the line on their property. This should be all the more reason why the western Brown County route should still be used, right?

In your May 9 letter to Randy S. you mention a certain time frame which you would like to keep in order to complete the project on time.



The Brown County residents have all been in Brown County since your attorney advised the PUC to decline our request of reconsideration.

Why did you wait so long to begin these easement discussions?

If the time frame for completion is not met, it will be your fault and not that of Brown County residents as you have had nearly 1 1/2 years to get the route correct. Brown County residents have tried to work with you, now you must work with us.

In your May 9 letter to Randy S. you state that 75% of the residents in Renville and Brown County have signed easements. If you separate the two counties, my guess is it would be more like 50% or less for Brown County as the "right of way" agent told me that Renville County was nearly complete. I don't feel that the Schroeders need to be labeled as the ones who are impossible. I would say that only 50% signing would indicate a definite problem exists. With a 2015 proposed completion date, you still have ample time to be kind, considerate, and negotiable with the Brown County people. It is time to review all of the information that Randy Schroeder, Paul Torkelson, and I have submitted to you and make the path landowner friendly.

Even though the Schroeders and Christensens could tolerate the route to go north of the Schroeder home, the Schroeders, Christensens, and several neighbors who have not yet signed an easement contract, would greatly support the western Brown County route, the one which should be used.

Thank You

Milo A, Jr. and Barbara J. Christensen

Wayne C. Christensen



Delivering electricity you can rely on

[www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com)

12300 Elm Creek Blvd, Maple Grove, MN 55369

May 9, 2012

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

We received your email last week and thank you for contacting us. We understand your disagreement with the route approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, but we are obligated to move forward with the approved, permitted route and construct the transmission line as routed.

The CapX2020 utilities have worked incredibly hard to address potential route options, including having our engineering team design and review four separate route options that would move the line behind your farmhouse and place it through fields and away from the property divisions, as specified by the PUC-approved route. There are a number of concerns with the proposed re-routes, the most serious concern is that any re-route would impact other landowners, and there is no consensus among them; because of this we have no option but to proceed with the originally approved route.

At this point the CapX2020 utilities have had a great deal of success with landowners in Brown and Renville Counties, signing 75% of easements using fair and consistent payments that make landowners whole. We intend to use the same process with your property as we have throughout the project.

We received information regarding your concerns about the transmission line's potential health impacts. Dr. Peter Vallberg, a Harvard University instructor and recognized expert in research regarding electric and magnetic fields (EMF), searched medical publication databases on our behalf for information regarding EMF and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Vallberg did not find any published studies that indicated any increased risk of living in the vicinity of a transmission line.

Finally, as you're aware, there was ample opportunity during the public process for all landowners on potential project routes to submit comments to representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Administrative Law Judge who presided over the public hearings, and directly to the Public Utilities Commission.

Landowners were mailed notice of open houses held during the route development process beginning in July 2007 through December 2008 when the Route Permit application was filed. Those opportunities were voluntarily coordinated by the CapX2020 utilities and above and beyond what is required by state law.

During the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), 47 route alternatives were suggested by interested stakeholders, as allowed by the state process, many of which were adopted by the MN PUC, including the route eventually approved in Brown County. Landowners were notified by the Department of Commerce of the new route options, and CapX2020 notified landowners of public meetings and hearings held in late 2009. We have confirmed that your property is on the mailing list and was notified of those public comment opportunities.

Direct Dial (763) 445-5975

E-Mail [dlesher@greenergy.com](mailto:dlesher@greenergy.com)

FAX (763) 445-6775

Mr. Schroeder  
May 9, 2012  
Page Two

As the process has clearly followed all Minnesota rules regarding the process to site and build the transmission line, the CapX2020 utilities have evaluated many possibilities for re-routing the line (none meeting full consensus of all impacted landowners), and because CapX2020 is required by a Certificate of Need and Route Permit granted by the MN PUC to build the line in the current, approved route within a certain timeframe, we plan to proceed with the land acquisition and construction of the project.

Regards,



Dan Leshner, ROW Lead  
CapX2020 Brookings Project

c: Rep. Paul Torkelson  
Charles Enter, Brown County Administrator  
Brown County Rural Electric Association  
Filed with Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

#### **Regulatory and public involvement timeline**

- July 2007: Certificate of Need filed with MN PUC; 23,000 landowners mailed notice; newspaper ads placed and news release announcing filing distributed
- August 2007: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of first round of open houses to develop route options; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- December 2007: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of environmental report hearings (part of Certificate of Need proceeding); newspaper ads placed announcing meetings
- March/April 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of second round of open houses to refine route options; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- June/July 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of Certificate of Need public hearings; newspaper ads placed announcing hearings
- August 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of third round of open houses; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- January 2009: Route permit filed with MN PUC; newspaper ads placed, landowners on routes mailed notice
- April 2009: Draft EIS meetings held by Department of Commerce; landowners mailed notification, newspaper ads; 47 suggested route options were accepted by Department of Commerce.
- September 2009: Landowners along additional route options notified by Department of Commerce.
- October 2009: Landowners along all project route options notified of meetings regarding Draft EIS, and notified of public hearings; newspaper ads placed; DEIS meetings held.
- November/December 2009: Public hearings held.
- July 2010: MN PUC unanimously approved majority of Route Permit, including area in Brown County; final segment approved February 2011.

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Randy Schroeder <rschroeder@frandsenbank.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 10, 2012 3:13 PM  
**To:** Leshner, Dan GRE-MG  
**Cc:** charles enter; Paul Torkelson; Wade R. Hensel; #PUC\_Public Comments; Kaluzniak, Mike (PUC); Bob.Cupit@state.mn.us; BJ CHRISTENSEN; Schroeder; Carol Schroeder  
**Subject:** FW: CapX could save over \$600,000 and keep landowners happy by slightly revising path  
**Attachments:** Schroeder5-9-12.pdf

May 10, 2012

To Dan Leshner  
Great River Energy

Dear Mr. Leshner:

In your May 9 letter to me, you indicated that we had ample opportunity during the public process to submit our concerns about the route, and at the end of your letter you list a dozen such opportunities for public involvement between July 2007 and July 2010. The obvious item that you did not mention is that for 11 of these 12 dates, until early 2010, **the path presented at those meetings was not the path that we are faced with today.** How could we voice our opposition to a path that was not even mentioned at these meetings? The path discussed at all the meetings would have put the line on the north edge of our land, at least 1000' from our home. Like 75% of landowners who you mentioned have already consented to easements, we probably would have accepted the power line along that path and granted an easement also.

But the path was changed in early 2010, and we did not receive notice of that change, other than finding out on the internet. Milo Christensen, Gary Schroeder, and Allen Mathiowetz also indicated that they did not receive notice when the path changed, even though the change also affected their properties. We collectively found out about the change from neighbors who discovered it on your internet site, and they brought it to our attention. While we did not receive a notice of the change, we had previously received multiple notices from CapX inviting us to attend the informational meetings through late 2009. We attended these meetings and heard and saw that the planned path was on the north side of our farm at the time of those meetings.

After the public meetings were over and we became aware that the path had changed, we expressed our disapproval in every way we could. We made phone calls and sent letters and emails to everyone we felt might have influence. We gathered signatures from almost everyone in the neighborhood on a letter identifying the problems of the path and asking for a new route. We contacted you many times, and you came to our home, acknowledged our concerns, and promised to look into a possible revision of the route. We went to the PUC twice to attend their meetings and attempted to voice our concerns. For me that meant taking two days of vacation from work, waking at 3:30 a.m. to get a handicapped spouse ready, and travelling 2 ½ hours to make it to downtown St. Paul by 8:00, and sit through meetings for most of those two days. The PUC approved the path as CapX requested, but we heard PUC Chairman Boyd say that the PUC would be open to consider modifications in the path even after their approval.

When it became clear that you were not making any attempt to address our concerns, and in fact were blocking all our efforts to change the path, we brought the issue to the Brown County Commissioners on two separate occasions, and to Rep. Paul Torkelson. We hired an attorney to help us with our formal request for

reconsideration. I even brought up the issue to Great River Energy's "customer", the Brown County REA. We eventually received a copy of a letter from the attorney for CapX, specifically asking the PUC to reject our request for a reconsideration. I don't know what more we could have done to express our disapproval of the path and try to affect a change.

Even now, a diagonal path through Section 5 and 32 could still be acceptable to all landowners, and would save CapX two poles and over 2000' of line. If a small portion of CapX's savings would be distributed to land owners, an agreement could come quickly. It is not that there is no consensus among landowners as you say. The problem is that 80% of \$7500 per acre plus \$1000 for a pole in the middle of the field is not sufficient compensation, especially for the neighboring landowner who is not impacted by the current path but is sympathetic to our dilemma. I visited with him less than a week ago, on May 4, and he is willing to discuss financial compensation with CapX in exchange for an agreement to the diagonal path. I would think that we could all agree now to this obviously better path, and let a third party decide later how the involved landowners should be compensated, based on the reduction to the value of their property. CapX, however, has insisted that it will offer no compensation other than the meager amount mentioned above, the same as it has offered to property owners who have the line on one edge of their property, far from their homes. That is what is killing the possibility of a diagonal path.

With regard to the health risks of long term exposure, 24-hours per day, 7 days per week for a person like Carol with frail health and many susceptibilities, none of us will know the actual affect until it is too late. If you were to Google "electromagnetic field health risk", you would find volumes of studies and personal testimonials that make a compelling connection between electromagnetic fields (especially from transmission lines) and various neurological and other health problems. You will also find articles accusing power companies of concealing the known health risks. Even if the chance of a detrimental health affect is minimal, for a person who has only one functioning limb remaining (her left arm and hand), the consequences are too great to take the risk of further loss of function. Our doctor has told us clearly that the risk to Carol's health is too great to take the chance of living next to this power line. I hate to move from the farm that has been in my family for 102 years, and where I have lived nearly all my life. Moving our personal, medical, household, farm, and yard property with a disabled spouse will be overwhelming, and we really don't know where we can move that will accommodate Carol's disability and otherwise meet our needs. But what would anyone else do when faced with this health risk and the incredibly high consequences of further disability?

It is not too late to come to an amicable solution that will be better for everyone, but yes, it will involve paying landowners more than the "normal" easement payment.

Randy Schroeder  
33763 327<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Morgan, MN 56266

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**From:** Leshner, Dan GRE-MG [mailto:dlesher@GREnergy.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2012 2:53 PM  
**To:** Randy Schroeder  
**Subject:** RE: CapX could save over \$600,000 and keep landowners happy by slightly revising path

Randy – Thanks for your email. Please find the attached letter.

Dan

---

**From:** Randy Schroeder [mailto:rschroeder@frandsenbank.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 07, 2012 7:49 AM  
**To:** Leshner, Dan GRE-MG

**Cc:** Paul Torkelson; charles enter; Hensel, Wade COOP-BENCO; PublicComments.Puc@state.mn.us  
**Subject:** CapX could save over \$600,000 and keep landowners happy by slightly revising path

To: Dan Leshner, Great River Energy

Good morning, Dan:

As you are well aware, the five mile path of the CapX transmission line in Brown County has been problematic from the start. The path discussed at all the public information meetings showed the line essentially over my neighbor's house, a fatal flaw that should have been recognized by CapX planners before they recommended it. After all the public information meetings were over, and without formal notice to affected land owners, the path was changed to avoid my neighbor's house, but instead ran along an open drainage ditch, and cornered our house on the south and east sides (the only two exposed sides of almost any farm site), approximately 500' from our house and 300' from our yard. Carol's doctor has told us (you have a copy of his letter) that Carol must avoid proximity to this power line or risk worsening her neurological condition and making her further disabled. The currently approved path also makes three right angle turns in that five mile stretch, which makes aerial spraying in those corner fields nearly impossible.

The Eden Township Board of Supervisors, the Brown County Commissioners, and Rep. Paul Torkelson all acknowledged the unusually harsh consequences of this path in Brown County, and fully supported the request of 21 Eden Township landowners for a reconsideration of the approval by the PUC. Some of us made two trips to the PUC in St. Paul to voice our objections, and we expressed our concerns about this path to you and other authorities. CapX, however, asked the PUC to deny our request for reconsideration, and the PUC sided with CapX.

Since that time, during dozens of discussions with affected neighbors, it has become clear to my neighbors and me that we will indeed have the power line on our land, but that **there could be a less damaging path to our properties that would also save CapX at least two poles and over 2000' of line** as compared to the currently approved path: a diagonal path through Sections 5 and 32 of Eden Township. CapX's website estimates the cost of the line at \$1.5 to \$2 million per mile, so the reduction of over 2000' of line (and two poles) should save CapX between \$600,000 and \$800,000. The diagonal path would also eliminate the three right angle turns, which would further benefit CapX and adjacent landowners.

It is clear that all affected landowners (including a landowner in Section 31-32 not impacted by the current path) **would agree to this diagonal path if they were fairly compensated for the reduction to the value of their property.** However, the negotiator representing Great River Energy and CapX has indicated that affected landowners would be paid no more than what CapX has offered to other landowners: 80% of \$7500 per acre for the narrow strip of land needed for the easement, plus **\$1000 for each pole in the middle of a field.** Any farmer will agree that \$1000 is not even close to fair compensation for perpetually farming around a pole in the middle of a field, generally six times per year.

**So it seems that the only barrier to a path acceptable to all landowners that will also save CapX \$600,000 to \$800,000 is CapX's unwillingness to pay fair compensation to affected landowners.** And that unwillingness to pay fair compensation is based on the amount CapX has been offering to absentee landowners and other landowners whose properties are far less severely impacted. It is not surprising that such landowners would accept the modest payment offered by CapX when they have only a straight line path on the edge of their property, far from their homes.

Please don't waste the opportunity to settle this issue amicably and fairly with all affected landowners, letting a disabled person and her family stay living in their century farm, and saving CapX \$600,000 to \$800,000 of

project costs. Please work with affected landowners to revise the path, and compensate them fairly for the damages to their property.

Sincerely,

Randy Schroeder  
33763 327<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Morgan, MN 56266

Direct phone during the day: 507-233-4797  
Home phone: 507-249-3988  
Cell phone: 507-766-3300

CC:  
Rep. Paul Torkelson  
Charles Enter for Brown County Commissioners  
Wade Hensel for Brown County REA  
[PublicComments.Puc@state.mn.us](mailto:PublicComments.Puc@state.mn.us)

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Delivering electricity you can rely on

[www.capx2020.com](http://www.capx2020.com)

12300 Elm Creek Blvd, Maple Grove, MN 55369

May 9, 2012

Dear Mr. Schroeder:

We received your email last week and thank you for contacting us. We understand your disagreement with the route approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, but we are obligated to move forward with the approved, permitted route and construct the transmission line as routed.

The CapX2020 utilities have worked incredibly hard to address potential route options, including having our engineering team design and review four separate route options that would move the line behind your farmhouse and place it through fields and away from the property divisions, as specified by the PUC-approved route. There are a number of concerns with the proposed re-routes, the most serious concern is that any re-route would impact other landowners, and there is no consensus among them; because of this we have no option but to proceed with the originally approved route.

At this point the CapX2020 utilities have had a great deal of success with landowners in Brown and Renville Counties, signing 75% of easements using fair and consistent payments that make landowners whole. We intend to use the same process with your property as we have throughout the project.

We received information regarding your concerns about the transmission line's potential health impacts. Dr. Peter Vallberg, a Harvard University instructor and recognized expert in research regarding electric and magnetic fields (EMF), searched medical publication databases on our behalf for information regarding EMF and multiple sclerosis. Dr. Vallberg did not find any published studies that indicated any increased risk of living in the vicinity of a transmission line.

Finally, as you're aware, there was ample opportunity during the public process for all landowners on potential project routes to submit comments to representatives of the Department of Commerce, the Administrative Law Judge who presided over the public hearings, and directly to the Public Utilities Commission.

Landowners were mailed notice of open houses held during the route development process beginning in July 2007 through December 2008 when the Route Permit application was filed. Those opportunities were voluntarily coordinated by the CapX2020 utilities and above and beyond what is required by state law.

During the development of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), 47 route alternatives were suggested by interested stakeholders, as allowed by the state process, many of which were adopted by the MN PUC, including the route eventually approved in Brown County. Landowners were notified by the Department of Commerce of the new route options, and CapX2020 notified landowners of public meetings and hearings held in late 2009. We have confirmed that your property is on the mailing list and was notified of those public comment opportunities.

Direct Dial (763) 445-5975

E-Mail [dlesher@grenergy.com](mailto:dlesher@grenergy.com)

FAX (763) 445-6775



Mr. Schroeder  
May 9, 2012  
Page Two

As the process has clearly followed all Minnesota rules regarding the process to site and build the transmission line, the CapX2020 utilities have evaluated many possibilities for re-routing the line (none meeting full consensus of all impacted landowners), and because CapX2020 is required by a Certificate of Need and Route Permit granted by the MN PUC to build the line in the current, approved route within a certain timeframe, we plan to proceed with the land acquisition and construction of the project.

Regards,



Dan Leshner, ROW Lead  
CapX2020 Brookings Project

c: Rep. Paul Torkelson  
Charles Enter, Brown County Administrator  
Brown County Rural Electric Association  
Filed with Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

#### **Regulatory and public involvement timeline**

- July 2007: Certificate of Need filed with MN PUC; 23,000 landowners mailed notice; newspaper ads placed and news release announcing filing distributed
- August 2007: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of first round of open houses to develop route options; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- December 2007: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of environmental report hearings (part of Certificate of Need proceeding); newspaper ads placed announcing meetings
- March/April 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of second round of open houses to refine route options; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- June/July 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of Certificate of Need public hearings; newspaper ads placed announcing hearings
- August 2008: 23,000 landowners mailed notice of third round of open houses; newspaper ads placed announcing open houses
- January 2009: Route permit filed with MN PUC; newspaper ads placed, landowners on routes mailed notice
- April 2009: Draft EIS meetings held by Department of Commerce; landowners mailed notification, newspaper ads; 47 suggested route options were accepted by Department of Commerce.
- September 2009: Landowners along additional route options notified by Department of Commerce.
- October 2009: Landowners along all project route options notified of meetings regarding Draft EIS, and notified of public hearings; newspaper ads placed; DEIS meetings held.
- November/December 2009: Public hearings held.
- July 2010: MN PUC unanimously approved majority of Route Permit, including area in Brown County; final segment approved February 2011.

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020  
**Attachments:** Dear Phyllis.docx

Received 4/19

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**From:** Randy Hart [<mailto:oronocohart@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 9:09 AM  
**To:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Subject:** CapX2020

Dear Vice Chair;  
Please read the attached letter regarding the CapX2020 decision.  
Thank you for your time in this matter.  
Randy Hart

April 18, 2012

Dear Phyllis Reha:

I am a homeowner and farmer who will be affected by the CapX2020 route change made on April 12<sup>th</sup>. The change will affect my wife and daughter for generations as we have built a farm business on our land. My 9 year old daughter will be standing under this line every morning as she waits for the school bus.

I cannot understand how an informed board can go against the recommendations of its own staff and the Administrative Law Judge's findings. A far greater number of farms, homes, businesses, and families will be affected by your change to the White Bridge route.

At the meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup> opponents of the power dam crossing were given the opportunity to voice their concerns. After viewing the video, it seems apparent that they helped sway your decision. I would have welcomed the chance to give you my story. Mr. Norman got to state his case, why not our side?

Tom Hillstrom, project routing lead, states that the goal of the decision process is to identify the route with the least impact on people. Was that done? Not if you read the findings of the AL Judge. I have lived in this area my whole life and know the topography of both routes well. The White Bridge route affects more people in their day to day activities far more.

People's lives are more important than trees. Please consider that we have to live with this line 24/7, 365 days a year, compared to running thru the woods that are not used every day.

I am asking the Commissioners to please reconsider your decision.

Sincerely,

Randy Hart  
12513 County Road 18 NW  
Oronoco, MN 55960  
507-251-5882

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

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**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 19, 2012 10:37 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 Letter  
**Attachments:** image2012-04-17-135504.pdf

Received 4/17

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

From: CenturyLink Customer [<mailto:ottmans@centurylink.net>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 9:07 PM  
To: Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
Subject: CapX2020 Letter

Commissioner Reha,

Please find the attached letter as an email courtesy. Our family appreciates any consideration given. Thank you, Jason, Sara, Jack and Jonah Ottman

----- Forwarded Message -----

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

From: [LexmarkMFP@wellsfargo.com](mailto:LexmarkMFP@wellsfargo.com) [<mailto:LexmarkMFP@wellsfargo.com>]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 3:56 PM  
To: Ottman, Sara E.; [LexmarkMFP@wellsfargo.com](mailto:LexmarkMFP@wellsfargo.com)  
Subject: Scanned Document/Image from the Lexmark MFD

This message is confidential. If you are not the addressee or authorized to receive for the addressee, do not use, copy, disclose, or take action based on this message. Please advise the sender by reply email and delete this message.

April 17, 2012

Phyllis Reha, Vice Chair  
121 7<sup>th</sup> Place East, Suite 350  
St. Paul, MN 55101

RE: CapX2020 Hampton-Rochester-La Crosse 345kV and 161kV Transmission Line Project (PUC  
Docket No. E002/TL-09-1448) RECONSIDERATION OF WHITE BRIDGE RD ROUTE DECISION

Dear Commissioner Reha,

The surprising outcome of the decision by the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) on Thursday, April 12, 2012 has prompted us to write this letter and ask for your reconsideration of the Zumbro River Crossing of the transmission line. Our dream home and 35 acres lie on White Bridge Road, about a mile east of the Zumbro River Crossing. We're raising twin boys in our home that are seven years old. Our family spends countless hours on our property enjoying the outdoors. Our property has been listed on a route alternative since the beginning of CapX2020. We've spent countless hours and several years attending meetings, writing letters, reading correspondence, presenting route alternatives that avoid homes and families like ours and have done literally everything we've been told to do as facilitated by the process. When the Administrative Law Judge, the Department of Commerce, the Applicant (Xcel Energy) and your own staff (the people whom we've worked with all along the way) all recommended or did not oppose the Power Dam crossing at the Zumbro River, we chose not attend the meeting last Thursday. This is an issue that affects our entire livelihood. We haven't slept easy in our home for several years since CapX entered our lives. We anxiously awaited the PUC's ruling to finally put an end to our worry and suffering regarding our home. We streamed the decision on the internet and the nonchalant nature of deliberations and "no real preference" comments were not only unprofessional, but hurtful--when this decision meant so much to so many affected.

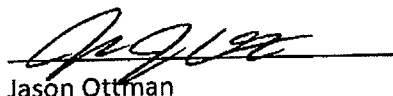
The people who know the most about the project, the routes, the alternatives and the environmental aspects made the right decisions in their recommendations to the PUC. Based on the hearing, we believe that the PUC missed pertinent facts presented to it by the experts on the routes and made a decision based on emotion and testimony from very few people on one day (most of whom did NOT spend the last two years legitimately being part of the "process to be heard").

Had we thought that the 3-P route would have been considered during the hearing, we would have again presented the case that's on the record for the area just east of the Zumbro River Crossing at White Bridge Road. As the PUC, you are required by statute to consider the various alternatives. As the PUC has decided the route of the line, it crosses the yards of 6 families in our direct vicinity. A very simple alternative would be to cross to the South side of County Road 12 and run the line across an open field, affecting only bare farmland, two landowners and NO families. We presented this route

(route 3P-007) as an alternative to the 3-P route. Had the Administrative Law Judge chosen the White Bridge Road route as the appropriate one in the first place (which she didn't), we are absolutely sure that this alternative would have been considered in her recommendation. When we presented it, Tom Hillstrom with Xcel Energy agreed, Matthew Langan with the Department of Commerce agreed and we were commended for bringing a logical alternative to the table. We chose not to sit at *your* table and beg *you*, but rather felt we were represented by our own written and oral testimony (over what has seemed to be an eternity) and the experts who presented testimony to you in factual and written form that the best alternative was to cross at the Power Dam, not White Bridge Road.

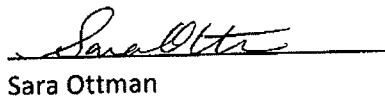
Please reconsider your choice of White Bridge Road for the route of CapX2020 and move the transmission line north to the less- populated route crossing at the Power Dam. Please consider this in the effort to destroy fewer people, families and ways of life instead of fewer trees, biodiversity and those children who spend a day or a week affected by a transmission line at summer camp. The decision to place the line on White Bridge Road forces our children and the children of our neighbors to be affected by the line every single day.

Thank you for your consideration,



Jason Ottman

1485 White Bridge Rd NE  
Rochester, MN 55906  
Oronoco Township  
507-753-9912



Sara Ottman

Cc: Dr. David C. Boyd, Commissioner  
J. Dennis O'Brien, Commissioner  
Betsy Wergin, Commissioner

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 10:33 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor  
**Attachments:** P[1].doc

Please file

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**From:** [Stolpie@aol.com](mailto:Stolpie@aol.com) [<mailto:Stolpie@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 4:54 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** CapX2020 from township supervisor

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

P.U.C. letter, commisioners

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

From the first public meetings of the CapX2020 project we learned that this power line would avoid people. Yet on April 12 the White Bridge Route was approved and not the Zumbro Dam crossing. This places the power line in a township of over 2400 people and bypasses townships of only a few hundred.

As a fourth generation farmer [farm settled in 1887], township supervisor, parent, and grandparent I find this decision by the P.U.C. very troubling. There are many children that will have to live next to this power line 24 hours a day. This is not just a week or two camp issue. I am the fourth generation living on this farm. The fifth has joined me, and of course the 6<sup>th</sup> generation are my three grandchildren. My concerns are many for families like mine in Oronoco Township.

You voted contrary to the Administrative Law Judges findings and conclusions. The D.N.R. and Xcel Energy said the forest issue could be mitigated by moving the line to the north. The Energy Facility Permitting section of the Mn. Dept. of Commerce supported the Zumbro Dam crossing. Your own staff recommended the Zumbro Dam Crossing. No exceptions were filed to the Administrative Law Judge findings. And finally we were not heard.

We are families, we have mortgages, we vote, and we are a large tax base. To ignore finding of facts and put trees, your religious beliefs, or a week or two at camp on a higher priority than the people of Oronoco Township would seem to have been a decision that you would care to reconsider.



Please reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Dept. of Commerce.

Thank you,

Neil M. Stolp

Section 8

Supervisor, Oronoco Township

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor  
**Attachments:** P[1].doc

Please file.

---

**From:** [Stolpie@aol.com](mailto:Stolpie@aol.com) [<mailto:Stolpie@aol.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 4:54 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** CapX2020 from township supervisor

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Please reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Dept. of Commerce.

Thank you,

Neil M. Stolp

Section 8

Supervisor, Oronoco Township

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:34 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing  
**Attachments:** Cap X 2020.docx

Please file

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**From:** Adam Rucker [<mailto:ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 29, 2012 9:31 PM  
**To:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Subject:** White Bridge Crossing

As a livestock producer of beef and hogs I am concerned for the safety of our livestock and the livestock of the neighboring farms. As a young farmer just getting established in the farming industry I am concerned the White Bridge Rd route will negatively impact our livestock and our business. There are few young farmers that are willing or have the opportunity to take on the role of operating a family farm and with the proposed route I am concerned for the livelihood of our family farm. With fewer young farmers in the country we need to be protected so we can continue to produce safe and quality food for the population. We feel the PUC has made a terrible mistake when they went against their own staff recommendations and chose the White Bridge Rd route.

Here are some things that we are concerned with:

- Static electricity that can build up on cattle and hog waters resulting in a shock to the animal when they go to get a drink. When this occurs that animals will not receive enough water and will become dehydrated.
- With the advance in the agriculture and GPS high voltage lines can interrupt the signal used for planting, spraying and product application. When this occurs products can be over applied and cause potential runoff and pollution concerns.
- With young children living very close to the proposed route static electricity has been known to cause childhood leukemia and other health concerns with prolonged exposure.
- Static electricity can also cause certain cancers, premature aging, headaches, dizziness, Alzheimer's disease, depression, insomnia, or other nervous oddities.

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Reha, Phyllis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 01, 2012 10:36 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx

Please file.

---

**From:** Greg and Karen [<mailto:2pepins@kmwb.net>]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** Document1

My husband and I of Oronoco Township feel terrible that we did not attend your last meeting. We were not there because we felt that we no longer had to worry about the Power line going by our home. No one had filed an exception to the determination of the Administrative Law Judge that the alternative Power Dam Crossing should be used. If someone had filed an exception and your own staff from the Commerce Department had not recommended the Power Dam Crossing, we would have been at the hearing. Your staff concluded in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Power Dam Crossing has the least environmental impact of all the alternatives. We feel that families and farm livelihoods should bear greater consideration than minimal impact on the forest in the Power Dam route alternative. Because of the population density in the White Bridge Crossing alternative, more individual properties will be subject to condemnation and resulting law suits as Xcel Energy acquires them for this project. As the Administrative Law Judge stated, Oronoco Township (White Bridge Crossing) is much more densely populated and prone to future development because it is in the Rochester School District. We respectfully implore you reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Department of Commerce. Thank you, Greg and Karen Pepin



**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 9:50 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor  
**Attachments:** P[1].doc

---

**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 9:28 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor

---

**From:** [Stolpie@aol.com](mailto:Stolpie@aol.com) [Stolpie@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 4:54 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** CapX2020 from township supervisor

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

P.U.C. letter, commisioners

Note: To protect against computer viruses, e-mail programs may prevent sending or receiving certain types of file attachments. Check your e-mail security settings to determine how attachments are handled.

From the first public meetings of the CapX2020 project we learned that this power line would avoid people. Yet on April 12 the White Bridge Route was approved and not the Zumbro Dam crossing. This places the power line in a township of over 2400 people and bypasses townships of only a few hundred.

As a fourth generation farmer [farm settled in 1887], township supervisor, parent, and grandparent I find this decision by the P.U.C. very troubling. There are many children that will have to live next to this power line 24 hours a day. This is not just a week or two camp issue. I am the fourth generation living on this farm. The fifth has joined me, and of course the 6<sup>th</sup> generation are my three grandchildren. My concerns are many for families like mine in Oronoco Township.

You voted contrary to the Administrative Law Judges findings and conclusions. The D.N.R. and Xcel Energy said the forest issue could be mitigated by moving the line to the north. The Energy Facility Permitting section of the Mn. Dept. of Commerce supported the Zumbro Dam crossing. Your own staff recommended the Zumbro Dam Crossing. No exceptions were filed to the Administrative Law Judge findings. And finally we were not heard.

We are families, we have mortgages, we vote, and we are a large tax base. To ignore finding of facts and put trees, your religious beliefs, or a week or two at camp on a higher priority than the people of Oronoco Township would seem to have been a decision that you would care to reconsider.

Please reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Dept. of Commerce.

Thank you,

Neil M. Stolp

Section 8

Supervisor, Oronoco Township

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 9:51 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor  
**Attachments:** P[1].doc; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX2020 from township supervisor

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <[Stolpie@aol.com](mailto:Stolpie@aol.com)>  
**Date:** April 22, 2012 4:54:05 AM CDT  
**To:** <[David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us)>, <[Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us](mailto:Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us)>,  
<[Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us)>, <[Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us](mailto:Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** CapX2020 from township supervisor

Your message is ready to be sent with the following file or link attachments:

P.U.C. letter, commisioners

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Thank you,

Neil M. Stolp

Section 8

Supervisor, Oronoco Township

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 23, 2012 9:51 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX2020 from township supervisor  
**Attachments:** P[1].doc; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 22, 2012 1:38 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX2020 from township supervisor

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** <Stolpie@aol.com>  
**Date:** April 22, 2012 4:54:05 AM CDT  
**To:** <David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us>, <Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us>,  
<Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us>, <Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** CapX2020 from township supervisor

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Please reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Dept. of Commerce.

Thank you,

Neil M. Stolp

Section 8

Supervisor, Oronoco Township

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

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**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:30 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx; ATT00001.htm

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**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:44 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Document1

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Greg and Karen <[2pepins@kmwb.net](mailto:2pepins@kmwb.net)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2012 11:22:02 AM CDT  
**To:** <[David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us)>, <[Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us)>, <[Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us](mailto:Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us)>, <[Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us](mailto:Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Document1

My husband and I of

Oronoco Township feel terrible that we did not attend your last meeting. We were not there because we felt that we no longer had to worry about the Power line going by our home. No one had filed an exception to the determination of the Administrative Law Judge that the alternative Power Dam Crossing should be used. If someone had filed an exception and your own staff from the Commerce Department had not recommended the Power Dam Crossing, we would have been at the hearing. Your staff concluded in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Power Dam Crossing has the least environmental impact of all the alternatives. We feel that families and farm livelihoods should bear greater consideration than minimal impact on the forest in the Power Dam route alternative. Because of the population density in the White Bridge Crossing alternative, more individual properties will be subject to condemnation and resulting law suits as Xcel Energy acquires them for this project. As the Administrative Law Judge stated, Oronoco Township (White Bridge Crossing) is much more densely populated and prone to future development because it is in the Rochester School District. We respectfully implore you reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Department of Commerce. Thank you, Greg and Karen Pepin

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:31 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx

---

**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 3:01 PM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC); Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: Document1

---

**From:** Greg and Karen [2pepins@kmwb.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** Document1

My husband and I of

Oronoco Township feel terrible that we did not attend your last meeting. We were not there because we felt that we no longer had to worry about the Power line going by our home. No one had filed an exception to the determination of the Administrative Law Judge that the alternative Power Dam Crossing should be used. If someone had filed an exception and your own staff from the Commerce Department had not recommended the Power Dam Crossing, we would have been at the hearing. Your staff concluded in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Power Dam Crossing has the least environmental impact of all the alternatives. We feel that families and farm livelihoods should bear greater consideration than minimal impact on the forest in the Power Dam route alternative. Because of the population density in the White Bridge Crossing alternative, more individual properties will be subject to condemnation and resulting law suits as Xcel Energy acquires them for this project. As the Administrative Law Judge stated, Oronoco Township (White Bridge Crossing) is much more densely populated and prone to future development because it is in the Rochester School District. We respectfully implore you reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Department of Commerce. Thank you, Greg and Karen Pepin

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing  
**Attachments:** Cap X 2020.docx; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: White Bridge Crossing

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Adam Rucker <[ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com)>  
**Date:** April 29, 2012 9:34:14 PM CDT  
**To:** "Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us" <[Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** White Bridge Crossing  
**Reply-To:** Adam Rucker <[ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com](mailto:ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com)>

As a livestock producer of beef and hogs I am concerned for the safety of our livestock and the livestock of the neighboring farms. As a young farmer just getting established in the farming industry I am concerned the White Bridge Rd route will negatively our livestock and our business. There are few young farmers that are willing or have the opportunity to take on the role of operating a family farm and with the proposed route I am concerned for the lively hood of our family farm. With fewer young farmers in the country we need to be protected so we can continue to produce safe and quality food for the population. We feel the PUC has made a terrible mistake when they went against their own staff recommendations and chose the White Bridge Rd route.

Here are some things that we are concerned with:

- Static electricity that can build up on cattle and hog waters resulting in a shock to the animal when they go to get a drink. When this occurs that animals will not receive enough water and will become dehydrated.
- With the advance in the agriculture and GPS high voltage lines can interrupt the signal used for planting, spraying and product application. When this occurs products can be over applied and cause potential runoff and pollution concerns.
- With young children living very close to the proposed route static electricity has been known to cause childhood leukemia and other health concerns with prolonged exposure.
- Static electricity can also cause certain cancers, premature aging, headaches, dizziness, Alzheimer's disease, depression, insomnia, or other nervous oddities.

**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:58 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 8:10 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Document1

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Greg and Karen <[2pepins@kmwb.net](mailto:2pepins@kmwb.net)>  
**Date:** April 28, 2012 11:22:02 AM CDT  
**To:** <[David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:David.C.Boyd@state.mn.us)>, <[Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:Dennis.Obrien@state.mn.us)>, <[Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us](mailto:Phyllis.Reha@state.mn.us)>, <[Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us](mailto:Betsy.Wergin@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** Document1



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## **Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing  
**Attachments:** Cap X 2020.docx

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**From:** Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:04 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing

---

**From:** Adam Rucker [ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 29, 2012 9:38 PM  
**To:** Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** White Bridge Crossing

As a livestock producer of beef and hogs I am concerned for the safety of our livestock and the livestock of the neighboring farms. As a young farmer just getting established in the farming industry I am concerned the White Bridge Rd route will negatively our livestock and our business. There are few young farmers that are willing or have the opportunity to take on the role of operating a family farm and with the proposed route I am concerned for the lively hood of our family farm. With fewer young farmers in the country we need to be protected so we can continue to produce safe and quality food for the population. We feel the PUC has made a terrible mistake when they went against their own staff recommendations and chose the White Bridge Rd route.

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**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:59 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: Document1  
**Attachments:** Doc1.docx

---

**From:** Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 9:05 AM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: Document1

---

**From:** Greg and Karen [2pepins@kmwb.net]  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 28, 2012 11:22 AM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC); OBrien, Dennis (PUC); Reha, Phyllis (PUC); Wergin, Betsy (PUC)  
**Subject:** Document1

My husband and I of

Oronoco Township feel terrible that we did not attend your last meeting. We were not there because we felt that we no longer had to worry about the Power line going by our home. No one had filed an exception to the determination of the Administrative Law Judge that the alternative Power Dam Crossing should be used. If someone had filed an exception and your own staff from the Commerce Department had not recommended the Power Dam Crossing, we would have been at the hearing. Your staff concluded in the Environmental Impact Statement that the Power Dam Crossing has the least environmental impact of all the alternatives. We feel that families and farm livelihoods should bear greater consideration than minimal impact on the forest in the Power Dam route alternative. Because of the population density in the White Bridge Crossing alternative, more individual properties will be subject to condemnation and resulting law suits as Xcel Energy acquires them for this project. As the Administrative Law Judge stated, Oronoco Township (White Bridge Crossing) is much more densely populated and prone to future development because it is in the Rochester School District. We respectfully implore you reconsider your determination and follow the recommendations of the Administrative Law Judge and your staff from the Department of Commerce. Thank you, Greg and Karen Pepin

## Rice, Robin (PUC)

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:56 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing  
**Attachments:** Cap X 2020.docx

---

**From:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Sent:** Monday, April 30, 2012 11:52 AM  
**To:** Haar, Burl (PUC); Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** FW: White Bridge Crossing

---

**From:** Adam Rucker [<mailto:ajruckerfarms@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 29, 2012 9:29 PM  
**To:** Boyd, David C (PUC)  
**Subject:** White Bridge Crossing

As a livestock producer of beef and hogs I am concerned for the safety of our livestock and the livestock of the neighboring farms. As a young farmer just getting established in the farming industry I am concerned the White Bridge Rd route will negatively our livestock and our business. There are few young farmers that are willing or have the opportunity to take on the role of operating a family farm and with the proposed route I am concerned for the lively hood of our family farm. With fewer young farmers in the country we need to be protected so we can continue to produce safe and quality food for the population. We feel the PUC has made a terrible mistake when they went against their own staff recommendations and chose the White Bridge Rd route.

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**Rice, Robin (PUC)**

---

**From:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 03, 2012 9:15 AM  
**To:** #PUC\_Public Comments  
**Subject:** FW: CapX Letter  
**Attachments:** Capx 2020 Letter Word Doc.pages; ATT00001.htm

---

**From:** OBrien, Dennis (PUC)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 02, 2012 9:37 PM  
**To:** Wolf, Dan (PUC)  
**Subject:** Fwd: CapX Letter

Sent from my iPad

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Staci Kinsley <[skchildcare@hotmail.com](mailto:skchildcare@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** April 18, 2012 2:49:26 PM CDT  
**To:** <[david.c.boyd@state.mn.us](mailto:david.c.boyd@state.mn.us)>, <[phyllis.reha@state.mn.us](mailto:phyllis.reha@state.mn.us)>, <[dennis.obrien@state.mn.us](mailto:dennis.obrien@state.mn.us)>, <[betsy.wergin@state.mn.us](mailto:betsy.wergin@state.mn.us)>  
**Subject:** CapX Letter

Attached you will find a letter requesting your reconsideration of the Cap route.

Thank you for your time.