COMMENT FORM
Public Scoping Meetings

We need your input. Please take a few minutes to provide your comments or questions for the USDA RUS Federal Environmental Impact Statement process and return your completed form today or mail by June 29, 2009. Your comments help in the planning and implementation of the project. **Thank you.**

Completing this form will automatically add you to our mailing list. If you prefer to not be on the mailing list, please check the box below.

☐ *I do not wish to be on the project mailing list*

Which meeting did you attend? June 17, 2009 in Wanamingo

Please check the following issues that are important to you for transmission line siting.

- ☐ Project Purpose and Need
- ☐ Visual / Aesthetic resources
- ☒ Proximity to residences
- ☒ Land use (agriculture, residential, recreation)
- ☐ Water resources (floodplains, river crossings)
- ☐ Biological resources (wildlife habitat, raptors)
- ☐ Historic and cultural sites
- ☐ Radio or television interference
- ☐ Noise
- ☐ Health and safety
- ☐ Other: _____

What additional key issues should be addressed when assessing the potential impacts of this project?

See enclosed letter.

Hampton • Rochester • La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project

If you own property in one of the proposed corridors, please indicate all the existing uses of your property below:

- [ ] Agriculture
- [ ] Residential
- [ ] Conservation Easement
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Other: _____

Please describe any special uses or circumstances on your property that should be considered when assessing the Project. Please indicate the location of your property.

My property is not located within the project corridors. I am only interested in what's best for Goodhue County.

In your opinion, what are the most sensitive resources (biological, cultural, recreational, ect.) in the Project area and why?

See enclosed letter.

In your opinion, was the project description, purpose, and need for the project adequately explained? If not, what additional information is needed?

It was. I have no problems with the project itself, I just want to make sure that it is sited properly.

Please tell us how to reach you.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: Dan Rechtzigel

Representing (Optional): Goodhue County

Mailing Address: 1140 2nd St. E.

City: Kenyon **State:** MN **Zip Code:** 55946

Daytime Phone (Optional): (507) 789-5877

Public participation for the Federal, Minnesota, and Wisconsin permitting processes will be ongoing for the Hampton- Rochester- La Crosse 345 kV Transmission Project. If you sign up for the mailing list, you will be notified when opportunities to participate are being planned.

Please plan to continue your involvement in the process and provide your comments. We appreciate your input.

Dan Rechtzigel
County Commissioner
Goodhue County

1140 2nd Street E.
Kenyon, MN 55946
(507) 789 – 5877

June 24, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

L-005-002 This letter is being sent to inform all interested parties that I do not support the efforts of XCEL Energy to construct new transmission lines along Minnesota State Highways 56 and 60 in Goodhue County as part of the CapX 2020 project. I have attended many meetings regarding this project and have shared my concerns with project representatives. After learning about all of the proposed options that XCEL is considering, it makes clear sense to me that the transmission lines should run along US Highway 52.

L-005-003 In reviewing the maps provided at the June 17, 2009 meeting in Wanamingo, one can clearly see the impact these transmission lines will have on residents living along Highway 56 and Highway 60. Most homes were built close to the highway, so for many residents these new lines equate to a new 170-foot tall structure located literally in their back yard. The homes located along US Highway 52 were built farther back from the highway, and all residents who bought homes along this sector bought them knowing that both heavy traffic and transmission lines would occupy many portions of the highway. The decision to construct the transmission lines along Highway 52 will have a far less impact on the topography of Goodhue County since current lines already exist. XCEL would have to construct new lines along Highways 56 and 60, causing great hardship and disruption to the residents living there.

L-005-004 Goodhue County is seeing growth in industrial and commercially zoned areas along Highway 52. The Highway 52 corridor will continue to grow and continue to attract more industrial and commercial activity. These businesses will demand vast amounts of electricity that will be easily provided by the transmission lines running along the corridor. By contrast, the Kenyon-Dennison region of Goodhue County has not seen substantial increases in residential, industrial, or commercial activity. Building these lines along Highways 56 and 60 seems like a lost opportunity. Why not build along the corridor that will clearly demand more energy as Highway 52 transitions from a four-lane highway into a limited-access freeway? Why build in the very rural areas of Goodhue County that will continue to remain rural for decades to come?

L-005-001

In Goodhue County we are proud of maintaining our agricultural heritage. On a county level, we have implemented a comprehensive land-use plan to help us achieve planning and zoning goals for the future. We have identified areas of Goodhue County that will be growth areas, and areas that we will work hard to maintain as agricultural. As a member of both the Goodhue County Planning Advisory Commission and the Goodhue County Board of Commissioners, I have spent countless hours working towards preserving the integrity of our comprehensive plan. Building these lines along Highway 52 fits in with our plan. The other option does not.

I urge you to select Highway 52 as your primary choice for the construction of the CapX 2020 transmission lines. The arguments listed above provide the foundation for making this decision based on sound logic and reasoning. Many people will contact you with emotional pleas to build it in one place or another. If we remove emotion from the argument, the Highway 52 option becomes the clear and obvious choice. I hope that you respect my role as a commissioner in working towards achieving the land use goals outlined in our comprehensive plan. I ask you to consider the impact these lines will have on our farmers in Warsaw, Holden, Kenyon, Wanamingo, Cherry Grove, Roscoe, and Minneola Townships whose ability to farm will be severely disrupted if these lines are forced to go over their property instead of in the road right-of-way. And I ask you to consider the residents living along Highways 56 and 60 who live so close to the road right-of-way that their lives will be severely disrupted if the lines are built along the highway. Finally, I ask you to consider the opportunity that Highway 52 provides. With a wide road right-of-way and remarkable potential for future industrial and commercial growth, the Highway 52 corridor is the only sensible option.

I appreciate your efforts to solicit feedback from the people who will be impacted by your decision, and I ask that you focus on making a decision that will be good for both XCEL Energy and Goodhue County.

Sincerely,

Dan Rechtzigel, Commissioner
Goodhue County Board

GOODHUE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

L-005-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

Potential impacts to land use will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement which will be available on the RUS website at: http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

L-005-002

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.

L-005-003

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.

L-005-004

Your comment has been noted. Please refer to comment response L-005-001.