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Subject: Request for Reconsideration for Route Segment 213 of the Minnesota Energy Connection
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July 1, 2025

To the Public Utilities Commission

I oppose the route change effected April 10, 2025. Had I received notice of the hearing and had I known of the proposed change I would have appeared to oppose it.

Please reconsider Route Segment 213 of the Minnesota Energy Connection.

Until the 4/10/25 hearing the planned route was along 310th Street which is at the south line of my property. At the hearing suddenly it was changed to the middle. I don't want any power line on my property but was willing to accept it on the edge. Through the middle is unacceptable

As planned it now passes through my remnant prairie. Was this considered in the environmental reviews? The reroute appears to avoid my RIM. Which is more important RIM which is a planted grassland or a true remnant prairie? Were the areas of the new route considered in the environmental reviews? In their objections to reroutes Xcel's attorney indicated they may not have been.

My renter doesn't want to farm under power lines and around power poles. Who would? I am concerned that having the route through the middle will more adversely affect the value of my property and the rental rate potential more than if it was on the edge.

My biggest concern is for the survival of my remnant prairie. Any diminution is serious. Less than 1% of prairie remains in Minnesota. We can't get it back. It is a globally threatened habitat. I have spent 22 years working to restore my remnant prairie. During that ongoing work I am on foot on the ground documenting prairie species, removing invasive species including Canada thistle and other nonnative thistles, woody invasive species including buckthorn, honeysuckle and mulberry. This is hard physical work that I don't feel safe doing under a high voltage power line. I collect prairie seeds from my remnant for establishing my RIM so as not to introduce outside genetics. I sell source identified seed from my remnant prairie to the DNR, Pheasants Forever and through Prairie Moon Nursery. For one species I am one of few sources in Minnesota. The state recognizes mine is a true remnant by granting me the Prairie Property Tax

Exemption. In the past I have received grants from the USDA for habitat improvement of my remnant. I was a finalist for Minnesota Conservationist of the year from the SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation Districts) for my work protecting and restoring my remnant prairie. This prairie work is my life.

By owning a 150 foot easement dissecting my remnant prairie Xcel could and would be entitled to do irreparable harm. They could destroy it by spraying what they consider to be "weeds" i.e. prairie species. They could dig holes, pile up soil, erect poles. They may tout their revegetation protocol, but one cannot create or recreate a prairie. One cannot revegetate a prairie. Any seed mix they might use would certainly contaminate by introducing new and inappropriate genetics. Minnesota prairies exist in fragments. The easement would cause harm by fragmenting my remnant.

Were all newly affected parties given notice of the hearing? In their objections to the reroutes Xcel's attorney indicated they may not have been. That is troublesome.

At the hearing this fall in the Metro I testified about my concern that proper notice was not being given. To this day I have not received any notices from the PUC. I have been talking with my neighbors to the east who also have not received any PUC notices. How can affected citizens participate in the process if they are not notified of meetings and hearings?

At the hearing panel presenters said they had worked with land owners. That was not my experience. I testified that I was happy to talk with and to work with Xcel engineering. None have ever contacted me. I'm still waiting. At the end of the hearing I approached and spoke with an Xcel engineer about shifting the route to the south. Nothing came of that and no one ever contacted me.

I was not noticed of the informational meetings and hearings and therefore missed them. I learned of the fall hearing another way. Xcel was using old, outdated property records. I don't know what the PUC was using. A neighbor called to ask my opinion and that was my first inkling about this proposed power line. After many phone calls and much time I finally reached the Xcel employee in charge of the mailing lists. Once he updated the lists I began getting mailings from WSB but not the PUC. Same for my sisters who own the two parcels to my east. Other neighbors to the east who weren't affected until after the 4/10/25 hearing had received no notices and were therefore excluded from the process.

Please reconsider Route 213.

Diane Jensen