



## Batch E-Filing for Dockets 24-132 - 9 Comments

1. Bruce Meuleners
2. David Sorrentino
3. Deb Erickson
4. Jeff Thompson
5. Jim Holasek
6. Peter Nordang
7. Carla Gestach
8. Stephen Gestach
9. Trudy Vogel

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**From:** Bruce Meuleners <brmeuleners@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 7:08 PM  
**To:** Lobby, Sam (He/Him/His) (PUC) <Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Re: Public Comment

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It is my thought that the power line should go along the road ways that way if there is any repairs that need to be done to the transmission lines, they can be done from the road instead of going through farm land and wildlife habitat.

On Mon, Dec 15, 2025 at 11:51 AM Lobby, Sam (He/Him/His) (PUC) <[Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us](mailto:Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us)> wrote:

Good afternoon Bruce,

You can reply directly to this e-mail here for any comments you have and I will make sure they get into the record. If you have any trouble just let me know, thanks much!

**Sam Lobby** | Planner, Director – Energy Facilities Permitting Unit

**Minnesota Public Utilities Commission**

[121 7th Place E, Suite 350](#)

[Saint Paul, MN 55101-2147](#)

O: 651-201-2205

[mn.gov/puc](http://mn.gov/puc)

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitted Public Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:40:32 AM

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Name *	David Sorrentino
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 10255 Jersey Ave Chaska, MN 55318
Phone Number	(952) 237-0851
Email	<a href="mailto:dgsorrentino@gmail.com">dgsorrentino@gmail.com</a>
Provide the docket's number.	ET-2/TL-24-132

Leave a comment on the docket. \*

I am a resident along the proposed route for the transmission line. I am concerned that the 90' poles along Jersey Ave will affect my property value. Is there any provisions for homeowners along the route to compensate them for loss of home value due to their view now including tall unsightly power transmission line poles? A 2018 study from the Journal of Real Estate Research found that housing near high-voltage power lines sell for 44.9% less than equivalent houses that aren't located near power lines. I also feel the following has not been adequately addressed:

1. They're not aesthetically pleasing.
2. People have health concerns, specifically the electromagnetic radiation.
3. Humming Noise can be an issue.

While a single homeowner as I has very little choice in stopping a project as this, Great River Energy needs to personally address the homeowners along the route as to the effect of their property values.

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**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitted Public Comment Form  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 16, 2025 9:09:06 AM

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Name *	Deb Erickson
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 7204 Kestrel Savage, MN 55378 United States
Phone Number	(952) 454-3742
Email	<a href="mailto:deberickson4@msn.com">deberickson4@msn.com</a>
Provide the docket's number.	24-132

Leave a comment on the docket. \*

I am writing to express my support for Proposed Alternate Route B because it follows the right of way and the impact to individuals and property will be minimal. I visited an area where the Preferred Route significantly impacts property and individuals.

I was able to see first-hand the impact of the preferred route as it is complex, cuts through farm fields, goes through a wetland in very low ground, over a railroad track, back down through a swamp, and across more farmland. The preferred route will negatively impact potential development as it cuts through land that will more than likely be developed for residential use. Additionally, the farmland will be forever impacted through reduced yields and reduced property values.

I understand the need for the facilities to be built but they need to be built in a manner that is least disruptive to the individuals and property. Proposed Alternative Route B does this as the impact to property and individuals is minimal and much less than the Preferred Route.

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**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitted Public Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, December 15, 2025 4:36:57 PM

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Name *	Jeff Thompson
Address	<input type="checkbox"/> 3612 Longfellow Minneapolis, MN 55407 United States
Phone Number	(612) 386-5446
Email	<a href="mailto:jeff@dahlgrentownship.com">jeff@dahlgrentownship.com</a>
Provide the docket's number.	ET-2/TL-24-132
Leave a comment on the docket. *	The Dahlgren township board of supervisors would like to see this project follow existing right-of-ways That would mean route B and not establishing new right-of-ways across private land. Going to the north of Augusta road seems to make good sense. the town board has authorized this statement.

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December 15, 2025

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Laketown transmission line. As the president of Holasek Land Management, our family owns parcel #040031102 located on the south side of Augusta road. This parcel is part of GRE's Proposed route for a new transmission line. I am submitting my comments in opposition of GRE's proposed route and in support of the alternative route B.

#### Topics for comment

Which is the most appropriate route and why?

I will start with the Commissions own Environmental Assessment from 4/8/25 (#20254-217369-01) evaluating application route and routes A-D. This assessment shows that routes A-D options have fewer negative impacts than the proposed application route. Specifically, the application route has 5 negative elements where as the alternative B route has only one negative evaluation element. Route B has one negative element which is reliability concerns, yet the application route is still being advanced over all other routes. While reliability is an undeniable factor in this evaluation this should not automatically outweigh the multiple negative impacts to landowners, the environment and land-use compatibility. In this case, the proposed application route imposes 5 significant burdens on land owners vs. 1 manageable reliability consideration. GRE's proposed route will create NEW damage to multiple landowners' property both physical and financial by cutting across country and not using existing ROW for that part of the route. The proposed application route is longer allowing more exposure and unreliability. Alternative route B stays within existing ROWs reducing the amount of required land and lessening the impact on land owners.

#### Reliability and cost comments

By adding a substation to the existing Xcel line this creates more exposure leading to increased unreliability no matter which route is used. There are 4 substations within approximately four miles of one another, the application route adds a fifth. According to Power Engineers the existing conditions for the MW-mile value is 1,565 and values above 1000 MW-miles are higher than usual. It would seem to me that there is already a load imbalance and or a reliability issue that should be addressed. In the proposed route, GRE would be putting in a parallel set of lines and a Bus-tie circuit breaker to add reliability but in the Alternative B route that GRE would run a set of parallel lines but not put in a Bus-tie circuit breaker. According to Power Engineers a

Bus-tie circuit breaker would help balance the loads between Waconia and Scott County. GRE is willing to install a piece of hardware in the proposed application route and purposefully omitted this piece of hardware in alternative route B. This omission creates unreliability in route B; therefore, route B fails. I question their motivation and this omission. I will point you to Power Engineers summary (Greenfield Breaker station reliability) where it states the benefits of a Greenfield breaker, how it would divide the load and line length 3 ways. This would maximize reliability of the local system but that would not be needed to be installed for 10 to 15 years. Due to the amount of future development, it seems that this would be a good long-term solution. With that said, cost needs to be considered. In the last hearing, it was discussed that because GRE is a CO OP that the cost of the project should not be considered. It's my opinion reading though Power's summary that the solution for any reliability issues would be a Greenfield breaker and cost should not be a factor.

#### If route B is picked what side of Augusta road should it be on?

If Alternate route B is chosen for the route, I believe that the North side of Augusta Road would be the optimal side. This option would do the least amount of damage to the land and reduce the number of landowners impacted.

#### Other Concerns

I have a couple of concerns. First, is the conduct of GRE during this process. It is my opinion, that they have been condescending, dismissive and have personally insulted Land owners. When a route is chosen landowners lose all leverage to negotiate and that GRE will take advantage of that. I do not trust GRE to negotiate in good faith! Secondly, if the GRE proposed application route is chosen, what is the process to adjust the alignment within the proposed route width? There is a lack of trust that GRE to give me the right information.

#### Closing Comments

I respectfully ask that the MPUC fully consider Alternative route B as the route for this transmission line. This option will minimize land damage, still can provide reliability and meet overall needs of this project.

With Much appreciation,

Jim Holasek

President, Holasek Land Management

**From:** [Wufoo](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submitted Public Comment Form  
**Date:** Monday, December 15, 2025 10:49:28 PM

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Name *	Peter Nordang
Phone Number	(612) 272-3307
Provide the docket's number.	ET-2/TL-24-132

Leave a comment on the docket. \*

As a resident in Augusta who is employed in the field of heavy/highway/industrial construction and enjoys the outdoors and all of the things that Mother Nature has to offer, I have spent some time reviewing the documents available on the eDockets website regarding ET-2/TL-24-132. While doing so I have reviewed some documents from the MnDNR and the Fish and Wildlife Service as well as the the Independent Review conducted by POWER Engineers. I have also reviewed the Carver County GIS website to review flood plains and wetland designations. It is my opinion that the ideal route for the new Laketown 115-kV Transmission line is to follow the Route Alternative B and run up the East side of Kelly Ave and turn East and stay on the South side of August road until it crosses Augusta at the intersection with Jersey Ave and up the East side of Jersey to the proposed substation.

This alignment would allow the project to:

1. Stay out of the areas that are listed as seasonally flooded on Carver County's website – doing so reduces potential dewatering costs, it also reduces construction delays (time and money) due to flooding or rain events during construction.
2. Follows existing roads/right of ways and allows construction traffic easier access during the project as well as better access for inspection and service after the project is complete.
3. Minimizes land acquisitions and easements for GRE/MVEC and reduces impact(s) while trying to access the property in the original proposed route for construction as well as future inspections and maintenance during the Spring/Summer/Fall farming seasons.
4. Allows for the future installation of the Greenfield Breaker Station that "would likely be a better long-term solution from a reliability perspective" and "In the event that Route Alternative B is chose, GRE has stated that a new greenfield breaker station would be required in the future to achieve similar load separation and reliability results as the proposed solution." as noted on page 4 of POWERS report – document 202511-224791-01. \*If this Greenfield station is going to be needed due to future growth and electrical loads, lets build now for the future rather than install a short term "band aid" with the originally proposed route.
5. It also avoids the potential disruption to wildlife/calcerous fen as noted in the MnDNR Document 20256-219508-02
6. Avoids the potential disruption to wildlife/eagle/bird migration as noted in the FWS document 202512-225823-01

In closing, it seems that Route Alternative B is a better plan forward than the currently Proposed Route.

Thank You.

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**From:** [Lobby, Sam \(He/Him/His\) \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comment on proposed powerline routing between Laketown Road and Hwy 10  
**Date:** Monday, December 15, 2025 1:45:53 PM

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Good afternoon,

Can you please file the email below as a public comment into the record for the Laketown 115 kV Transmission Line, docket number 24-132? Let me know if you have any questions, thanks much!

Sam

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**From:** Carla Gestach <cgestach@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 1:44 PM  
**To:** Lobby, Sam (He/Him/His) (PUC) <Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Comment on proposed powerline routing between Laketown Road and Hwy 10

You don't often get email from [cgestach@comcast.net](mailto:cgestach@comcast.net). [Learn why this is important](#)

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Dear Sam,

I am an agricultural landowner near the Carver County and northern Dahlgren Township border. I'm writing to comment on the proposed powerline routing between Laketown Road and Hwy 10.

My concern is that the current alignment crosses productive farm fields where no rights-of-way exist, creating long-term impacts (soil compaction, drainage disruption, access limitations, and yield loss). I respectfully request the project team prioritize established corridors and existing rights-of-way for routing, or adjust the alignment to field boundaries and property lines to minimize fragmentation.

Thank you for entering this comment into the public record. I support reliable infrastructure and believe in leveraging existing rights-of-way best balances

system needs with agricultural viability.

Stephen Gestach

**From:** [Lobby, Sam \(He/Him/His\) \(PUC\)](#)  
**To:** [Staff, CAO \(PUC\)](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on Laketown 115KV power line  
**Date:** Monday, December 15, 2025 12:39:28 PM

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Good afternoon,

Can you please file the comment below as a public comment into the record for the Laketown 115 KV Transmission Line, 24-132?

If you have any questions let me know, thanks much!

Sam

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**From:** Trudy Vogel <trudyvogel79@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, December 15, 2025 12:37 PM  
**To:** Lobby, Sam (He/Him/His) (PUC) <Sam.Lobby@state.mn.us>  
**Subject:** Comments on Laketown 115KV power line

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Hi Sam, here are my comments

In regards to the 115K transmission line proposed route from GRE, I would like to voice my concerns over their choice of routes. It makes no sense in my mind why they would choose to go through several farms , and through a swampy area at a greater cost of almost 3 million dollars, when route B which follows the roads offers greater accessibility to the lines when service to the line is required or problems arise. Power lines traditionally run along roads for that very reason, so they are accessible. I do not understand why there would be any logic in dissecting farm fields and dividing up farmland which also comes at a much higher cost, not to mention the harm to the wildlife and trees.

I also think the most appropriate alignment for the transmission line as it would go from County Road 140 North on Kelly Avenue East on Augusta Road to Jersey Avenue North to the new substation, would be on the North side of the road where the current line is. I was told by Minnesota Valley Electric executives that they would be able to just have one power line on the north side of the road to handle the new and existing lines.

Thank you for your consideration

--

Steve & Trudy Vogel

6850 Augusta Rd, Chaska, MN 55318

952-212-0124

## **So why did the Electric Poles and Lines cross the road?**

When this all started to happen, I didn't understand how the Electric Grid worked, so I asked for help from a MVEC Linesman, an Excel Transmission Linesman, and an Electric Utility 45 year Veteran who started as a Linesman. He retired as the person overseeing upgrades and construction of their grid.

GRE was to submit 3 plans and pick the best one.

GRE submitted 2 plans they knew would fail. The one along old CR 10, and the one shadowing the Excel line. They used lies and deceit to tell us the alternative routes we suggested would not work.

It can't be looped, limited number of transformers has to come off the line by Guernsey Av., too close to Game Farm, Excel won't let them cut into the line by Kelly Av., can't put it along all the new houses on Kelly Av., can't put it along New CR 10 because the County doesn't know where it is going yet, and nothing from the W, NW, N, NE, or East would work.

I asked my team of 3, what's the best route?

The answer was, the straightest, shortest, alongside a road, and not necessarily in that order.

The excuses GRE gave us for the alternatives we suggested not working, was GRE trying to, "Baffle us with Bullshit", according to my team.

So why did the Electric Poles and Wires cross the road from Laketown Township to Dahlgren Township? It is like someone is telling them to keep the transmission line out of Waconia, Victoria, and Laketown Township. Or is there something else going on here?

50 feet on each side of a pole is a No Build Zone.

50 feet for a mile is 6 acres.

6 acres x 4 miles is 24 acres.

That is if a pole is alongside a road.

If the pole is not along a road, it is 100 feet for a mile.

100 feet for a mile is 12 acres.

12 acres for 4 miles is 48 acres.

Is that why they are trying to keep the transmission line out of Laketown Township, and Victoria, and put it in Dahlgren Township?

Dahlgren residents would lose 24 to 48 acres of future development and not be compensated for it.

At the Sept 4<sup>th</sup> PUC meeting in St. Paul, the shorter, easier to build, Alternative Route B, GRE priced at \$25 million. The longer, harder to build, off road, GRE Preferred Route was priced at \$10 million to build.

After review of Power Engineers Independent Report, the Preferred Route went up to \$14 million and the Alternative Route B dropped to \$9.7 million, with a \$15 million Greenfield Switching Station in the future.

According to my team, if the Alternative Route B needs a Greenfield Switching Station, so does the Preferred Route.

The Barvaria Substation needs one now, because it is Radial.

If something happens at Barvaria Substation, it could knock out other Substations.

The Power Engineers Independent Report recommended, if the power comes up from Kelly Av., it would help balance the load, but turns around and recommends it comes off Jersey Av.,

Still trying to "Baffle us with Bullshit"

The best route is still along New CR 10.

The Power Engineers report also said the New Laketown Substation will serve Waconia, Victoria, and Laketown Township.

All lies, deceitful practices, and the \$15 million overcharge amounts to GRE trying to commit fraud.

Other cities and towns are watching the City of Victoria taking their infrastructural needs and sticking it into the neighboring towns and townships.

GRE has been dishonest from the very beginning.

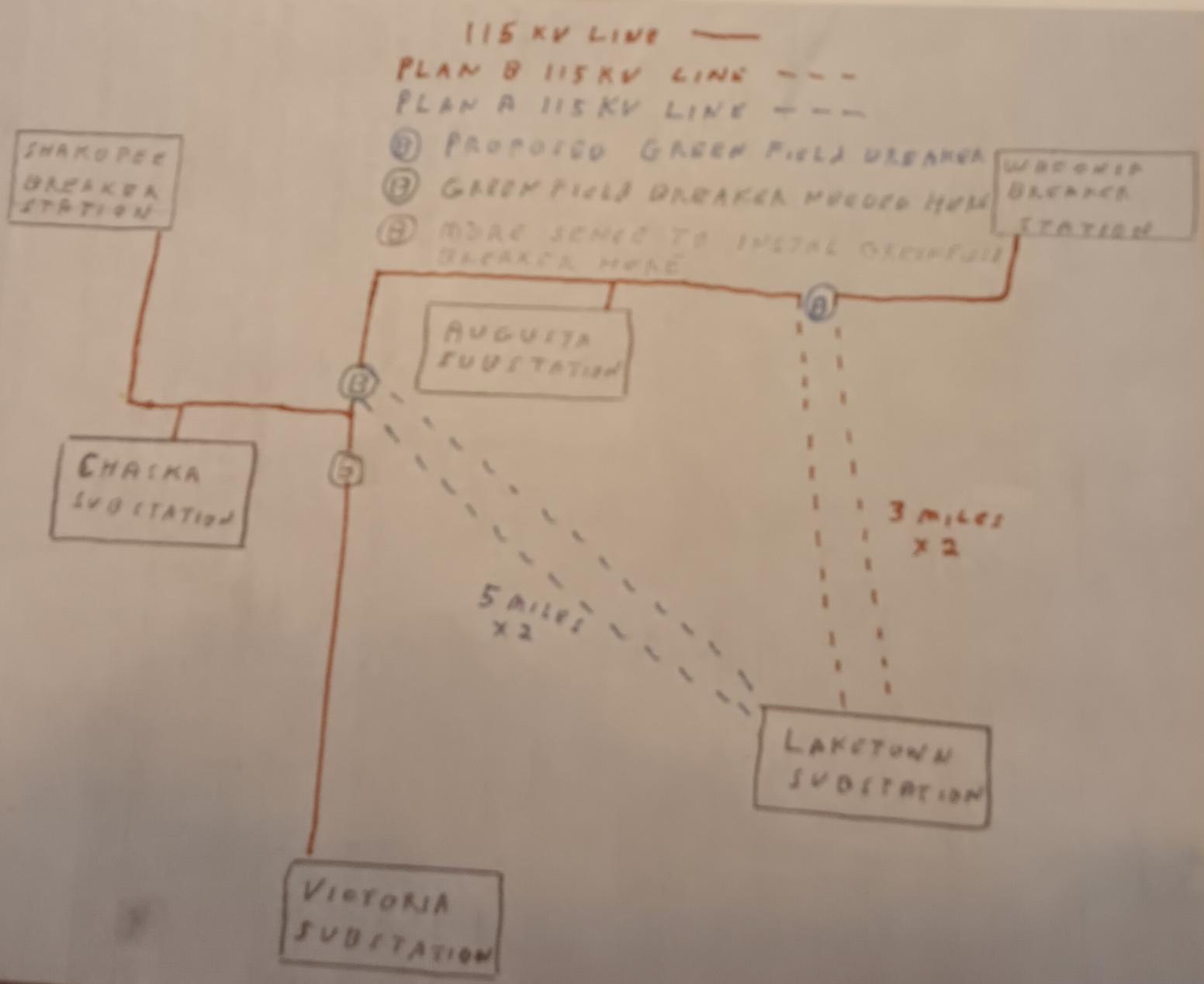
They have an attitude that they answer to no one.

Don't reward their bad behavior, Deny Both Routes.

Force GRE to do an honest job, or bring in someone else who can.

Sincerely,

Tim Eiden



Plan B shifts load to the west which should help balance the system.

Plan B is only 6 miles of total line less exposure better reliability.

Plan B follows an existing MVEC right of way less intrusive to land owners. More accessible for maintenance.

Not sure why a future Greenfield breaker is needed because of future loading at Laketown sub ? Why wouldn't the Waconia breaker be sufficient?

Plan A puts more load on the east circuit.

Plan A is 10 miles of total line which puts more exposure on the circuit.

Plan A is routed through existing farm fields and possibly future housing if Carver expands .

Plan A is cross country being more intrusive on land owners and harder to maintain due to crops and weather conditions .

If a future Greenfield breaker is needed for plan B because of future loading.

Wouldn't plan A also require a Greenfield breaker to provide better reliability ?

Wouldn't money be better spent putting a Greenfield breaker on the radial 115 KV line feeding the Bavaria ,Victoria sub .

Giving the 115KV Shakopee to Waconia loop less exposure and better reliability ?

Apparently the Victoria sub load can be carried by its sister substations = stoughton ave and Augusta or it wouldn't be radial fed .

Thanks !

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)