



Discussion name: Minnesota Power Application for a Route Permit for the Great Northern Transmission Line Project   TL-14-21				
Discussion close date: 2014-08-22, 4:30PM				
Should the Commission cancel the Advisory Task Force(s)?	Answer	User ID	Replies	Time Posted
	comment...	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-21 1:41pm CDT
	No. The expertise of the task force is needed.	Lola Wiskow	0	2014-08-19 10:05pm CDT
	No We need some representation . hopefully someone will have the common sense to realize that those of us that who have lived 40 years with a high voltage line have paid our civic duty and surely dont need one along side of the one we have	Darrel Nelson	0	2014-08-20 10:58pm CDT
	They should not cancel the task force. There needs to be more discussion on this issue and I feel those who have lived their lives next to the existing powerline have not been heard.	Marshall Nelson	0	2014-08-22 1:27pm CDT



	<p>Hi Rich, Here is my comment that I sent to Bill. It is sad that the PUC didn't notify a member of the Balsam Township board of supervisors. We had to find out from an attorney who may be opposed to the line. Just a coment. John----- Original Message -----          From: John Kannas To: William Storm Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2014 8:56 PM Subject: Advisory Task Force Great Northern Transmission Line Docket 14-21          Dear Mr. Storm, I feel an advisory task force should be established on the above subject transmission line. I am the chairman of the board of supervisors in Balsam Township. Balsam has 2 proposed transmission line corridors with multiple route possible through each corridor. Local input is vital to select the most correct route. Please reconsider and establish an advisory task force. I mailed my appication to be on the committee on 8/14/14. Sincerely,          John Kannas 40874 County road 336 Bovey,          Minnesota, 55709 218-245-1561          jbkannas@northlc.com</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-21 11:41pm CDT
	<p>Dear Commission I feel this illustrates how the public is unaware of the Proposed Great Northern Transmission. It has not been in the news and any official notices are in the fine print sections of the newspapers. Hi Bill I talked to Mark Johnson the Executive Director of the Minnesota Deer Hunter's Association headquartered in Grand Rapids. He said he was unaware of the power line. He had only heard about the Enbridge line. He said they would be interested in possibly serving on the task force if that was an option. I mentioned that the task force may not have sufficient members so it may not move ahead and that it is up to the PUC if they were eligible to be on it. I sent him the Great Northern Transmission Line web site. His phone number is 218-327-1103. Thanks Rich comment...</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 12:21am CDT



	<p>Dear Commission I am submitting an email sent to the PUC staff on my efforts to recruit members for the Advisory Task Force. Apparently the notices sent to the local units of government are either overlooked or not passed down to the local departments that would be interested and most capable in being on the Task Force. The Itasca County Land Department is an ideal department to serve on the Task Force as they have personal knowledge of and management of all Itasca County Lands which are crossed by the GNTL. Most of the Townships in the Itasca county are unorganized and have no LUG. Itasca County has authority over those unorganized townships. Here is an email I sent to the PUC. Hi Bill I talked to the Itasca County Land Commissioner. He was unaware of the advisory task force and said his department would like to provide input and serve on a task force if there is one. His name is Garret Ous and his number is 218-326-2855. He said he gets so many emails on things he missed the power line information and notices. How many volunteers were there for the Eastern Route and do you know what Townships volunteered? I am planning on contacting some of them. My phone number is 218-326-1874 if you want to call. Thanks Rich Mr. Ous also said he would have responded had he been notified directly by phone. He may not have received the notice as it most likely went to the Administrative Services Department and was not forwarded to his department. I believe the County Commissioners were asked to serve but were too busy. Mr. Ous said he would send in an application and have the Assistant County Commissioner serve on the Task Force if there is one. I realize the DOC staff is very busy and outreach is difficult so I have been contacting most of the groups that were identified on the DOC list of potential participants. I have had very positive response so far and feel there is enough interest to warrant the implementation of a task force. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Richard Libbey -Izaak Walton League Task Force Member-218-326-1874-Grand Rapids Mn</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 12:55am CDT
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	<p>Dear Commissioners I feel personal contacts with the various stake holders has generated enough interest and willing participants to warrant the establishment of the Advisory Task Force for the East section of the GNTL that encompasses part of Koochiching County and all of Itasca County. I have contacted most of the potential participants on the list for the Advisory Task Force this week and have a few more to contact. The response has been very positive from the participants to form and participate on the task force. The main reason cited for lack of participation previously was no knowledge of the Task Force's formation. Here is a list of the groups that were invited to participate but for whatever reasons they did not receive or read the notices that were sent. I also am including the groups that have indicated they are or have submitted applications to be on a Task Force if one is formed. These groups have local knowledge and expertise on the area and are willing to participate. East ATFArrowhead Regional Development CommissionItasca County - EastBalasm TownshipGreenway TownshipIron Range TownshipLawrence TownshipNashwauk TownshipTrout Lake TownshipCity of TaconiteNature ConservancyMinnesota Forest Resources CouncilNorthern Counties Land Use Coordinating BoardThe Following Organizations have expressed their desire to be on the Task Force and are submitting their applications:Itasca County Land Department-Assistant Land CommissionerMinnesota Forest Resource Council-Dave Zumata-Executive DirectorBalsam Township-John Kannas-Supervisor-Served on Essar Steel Power Line Task ForceLawrence Township-Cheryl Bunes-Mailed in application yesterday-Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board-John Chell-Secretary and past MNDNR NE MN Regional AdministratorRichard Libbey-Grand Rapids Chapter of the Izaak Walton LeagueMinnesota Deer Hunters Association-Mark Johnson-Executive Director is seeking a volunteer from his organization</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 1:43am CDT
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	<p>PUC Docket E015/TL-14-21        Date: August 22, 2014        From: Jeanne Newstrom, Trout Lake Town Supervisor        Comments: It was incorrect for the EERA staff to assume that our community is not interested in an Advisory Task Force based on a lack of response. The town board did not respond because it never received a solicitation letter [referred to in "Request to Reconsider" as dated June 19, 2014.] An easy google for Trout Lake results in our town website, www.troutlaketwp.com, and correct contacts: Trout Lake Township, Gwen Rutherford, Clerk Trout Lake Community Center 24951 County Road 10, Bovey MN 55709 218-245-1100 ~ troutlake@northlc.com        A concerned citizen alerted me of the task force solicitation and today's deadline. The concern was added to last night's August town board meeting agenda (August 21, 2014) but our ability to consider the matter was jeopardized by a lack of information and time. I was authorized to protest the absence of communication from the EERA staff to our town board. Now that the board is aware of an opportunity to participate in an Advisory Task Force, we can talk to the residents and recruit candidates. Our next board meeting for making those nominations, and submitting them to the PUC, is September 18, 2014. We trust that the opportunity to participate still exists.</p>	Jeanne Newstrom	0	2014-08-22 2:58pm CDT
	<p>This task force should not be cancelled. There needs to be more opportunity for public input regarding the proposed transmission lines. As Executive Director of the MN Forest Resources Council, which represents a broad array of public and private forest resource interests, I would like to serve on the East Task Force.</p>	David Zumeta	0	2014-08-22 3:02pm CDT
	<p>This task force should not be cancelled. There needs to be more opportunity for public input regarding the proposed transmission lines. As Executive Director of the MN Forest Resources Council, which represents a broad array of public and private forest resource interests, I would like to serve on the East Task Force.</p>	David Zumeta	0	2014-08-22 3:16pm CDT
	<p>The task force should not be cancelled. It's extremely important to have local input from knowledgeable people. When the commission was soliciting membership we were tied up in a flood situation and missed the deadline. However, if the membership application</p>	Dale Olson	0	2014-08-22 3:16pm



	process is reopened we would be very interested in assigning at least one person. Koochiching County.			CDT
	<p>There are currently 7 and potentially 9 groups willing to serve on the East task force. I feel this is more than enough interest. In reading the comments and talking to the various groups listed to be on the task force I hear the problem was not lack of interest but the lack of communication and sufficient notice. Itasca and Koochiching counties are on board as are 3 townships on the route. In addition the Minnesota Forest Resource Council and Izaak Walton League are willing to participate. The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association are considering participation. Due to this high level of interest the Izaak Walton League supports the establishment of the East Advisory Task Force.</p> <p>Richard Libbey-Grand Rapids Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America.</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 4:12pm CDT
<b>If not, should the Commission modify the structure and charge of the Advisory Task Force(s)?</b>	<b>Answer</b>	<b>User ID</b>	<b>Replies</b>	<b>Time Posted</b>
	No. The current structure is in place for a reason. The route alternatives and impacts need to be addressed.	Lola Wiskow	0	2014-08-19 10:08pm CDT
	Yes modifications to the task force are a must. Information about the new powerline has not reached my neighbors. I feel there should be some one on one with those who live next to the existing line which is one of the proposed routes. I want to see some actual effort to talk to these people. The environmentalists and government agencies need to sit out and keep quiet while the real people affected are heard.	Marshall Nelson	0	2014-08-22 1:57pm CDT
	I would like the PUC to consider following the suggested route for the Enbrdige Sandpiper transportation of oil South to avoid the Minnesota Lake Country , most specifically Palmer Lake, the area that my family has enjoyed as a place for healthy living and recreating. I	Ruth Phelps	0	2014-08-21 2:10pm



	<p>hate to think of the severe and irreparable consequences should there be an oil spill. This spring fed lake would never be the same again. It seems like there are other choices that make more sense. I hope that you will give consideration to alternative routes.</p>			CDT
	<p>I don't have an answer for that question but I know we have a serious communication problem when 4 of 4 of my affected neighbors don't know anything about a proposed HVL crossing their property by their residence. I don't have the time nor resources to compete with large presentations such as the DNR.</p>	Darrel Nelson	0	2014-08-21 11:14pm CDT
	<p>It would be preferable to not change the proposed structure, but if necessary due to time constraints, the structure could be modified as needed. There is a need to provide opportunity for public input from both local citizens and interests as well as statewide interests, and the task force provides a good means of doing this. My Council apparently is listed in correspondence that was sent out 1-2 months ago to some prospective task force members, but I do not recall ever receiving an invitation to serve on this task force.</p> <p>Dave Zumeta, Executive Director, MN Forest Resources Council</p>	David Zumeta	0	2014-08-22 3:10pm CDT
	<p>It would be preferable to not change the proposed structure, but if necessary due to time constraints, the structure could be modified as needed. There is a need to provide opportunity for public input from both local citizens and interests as well as statewide interests, and the task force provides a good means of doing this. My Council apparently is listed in correspondence that was sent out 1-2 months ago to some prospective task force members, but I do not recall ever receiving an invitation to serve on this task force. Dave Zumeta, Executive Director, MN Forest Resources Council</p>	David Zumeta	0	2014-08-22 3:11pm CDT



	<p>I do not think the task force should be canceled as it is very important to get direct input into the issue from local units of government, statewide organizations and local individuals. The task force provides an opportunity for a group discussion and recommendations on this very important issue. The power line has a life expectancy of 120 years so we want to take the time and resources necessary to find the best route for the line. If it is impossible to meet some statutory deadline and it is necessary to modify it to meet time constraints then I would support some modification that still meets the task force goals. If the October goal of issuing the Scoping Document can be changed to accommodate a full blown task force then I suggest changing the date and not modify the task force. Perhaps more meetings could be held in a shorter time frame. There are currently 6 LUGs and organizations willing to serve on the East Task Force. A seventh group will most likely participate. I feel this is sufficient interest to have an East Task Force. The current groups that are willing to be on the East Task Force Are :Itasca County, Balsam Township, Lawrence Township, Trout Lake Township, The Minnesota Forest Resource Council, and The Grand Rapids Chapter of the Izaak Walton League. The Arrowhead Regional Development Commission has expressed interest and is considering joining. The Northern Counties Land Use Coordinating Board has decided not to join because Itasca County is not a member of their association. I feel the interest shown by these groups justifies having an East task Force to consider the proposed route in Itasca and Southern Koochiching County. Richard Libbey- Grand Rapids Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 3:50pm CDT
	<p>Koochiching County has joined the groups listed above that are willing to participate on the East Task Force. There are currently 5 local units of government and 2 organizations eager to serve on East Task Force. I feel this high degree of interest is sufficient to have an East Task Force. The Task Force should have sufficient opportunity to meet and prepare a report as this is a very important issue involving a major 500KV power line. Thank You for this opportunity to participate. Richard Libbey-Izaak Walton League</p>	Richard Libbey	0	2014-08-22 4:27pm CDT