

APPENDIX F

Project Mailings and Open House Meeting Invitations



JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT MN ENERGY CONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT.

Xcel Energy is hosting a virtual open house to provide information about its proposed MN Energy Connection transmission line project between southwest Minnesota and the Sherco power plant in Becker.

The new transmission infrastructure is designed to deliver at least 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy to replace the energy produced by the existing coal units, which are scheduled to retire in the coming years.

Additionally, the new transmission lines will re-use grid connections in becker, opening a new path for renewable energy in the wind-rich southern and southwestern Minnesota regions.

Please join us at an online public meeting on November 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm CST to learn about this exciting project. You'll also learn how you can participate in the upcoming regulatory process and how to provide feedback on the potential routes we will propose in a Route Permit application.

The link to access the meeting will be posted at **MNEnergyConnection.com**. You can also listen to the meeting by telephone at 833-746-0074.

The meeting will be also be recorded and available on the project website if you are unable to attend on November 15.

If you have questions about the project, please email **MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com** or call toll-free 888-292-4714.

To subscribe to the State of Minnesota project information for the Certificate of Need visit: **<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling>**. Follow the instructions to subscribe to docket 22-131 (22 stands for the year 2022). Additional information about subscribing to state files can be found at **mneenergyconnection.com/community-engagement**.





**JOIN US TO
LEARN ABOUT
MN ENERGY
CONNECTION
TRANSMISSION
LINE PROJECT**

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Xcel Energy is hosting an online public meeting to provide information about its proposed MN Energy Connection transmission line between southwest Minnesota and the retiring Sherco power plant in Becker.

The new transmission infrastructure is designed to deliver at least 2,000 megawatts of new renewable energy to connect to the electric grid, replacing the energy produced by the existing coal units.

Additionally, the new transmission lines will re-use grid connections in Becker, opening a new path for renewable energy in the wind-rich southern and southwestern Minnesota regions.

Please join us at an online public meeting on November 15, 2022 at 1:00 pm or 6:00 pm CST to learn about this exciting project. You'll also learn how you can participate in the upcoming regulatory process and how to provide feedback on the potential routes we will propose in a Route Permit application.

The meeting link will be posted at **MNEnergyConnection.com** or you can call into the meeting toll-free at **1-833-746-0074**. Both meetings will present the same information.

The meetings will be recorded if you are unable to attend on November 15.

To subscribe to the State of Minnesota Certificate of Need project information visit: **<https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/Efiling>**. Follow the instructions to subscribe to docket 22-131 (22 stands for the year 2022). Additional information about subscribing to state files can be found at **www.mnenergyconnection.com/community-engagement**.

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JOIN US TO LEARN ABOUT MN ENERGY CONNECTION TRANSMISSION LINE PROPOSAL

Public open houses scheduled to provide information and collect feedback about the project

Xcel Energy is hosting public open houses to provide information about answer questions about the proposed MN Energy Connection transmission line project. If approved, the project will run between the retiring Sherco power plant near Becker, Minn., and Lyon County, Minn. The project is designed to connect new renewable energy to replace the electricity from the retiring coal-fired power plants. We're asking landowners and officials to join us to learn more about the project, discuss land use issues important in each area, and review the preliminary route corridors we've identified in the project area.

No formal presentation is planned, so attend at any time. Detailed route maps will be presented at public meetings, and will be available on the project website after the meetings.

We will also host a virtual open house for those unable to attend the in-person meetings.

Open House Schedule		
Feb. 21, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	Becker Community Center Gymnasium	11500 Sherburne Ave. Becker, MN 55308
Feb. 23, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	Agribition Building McLeod County Fairgrounds	840 Century Ave. SW Hutchinson, MN 22350
Feb. 27, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	EverSpring Suites Conference Center	1500 E. College Dr. Marshall, MN 56258
Feb. 28, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	Granite Falls Kilowatt Center	600 Kilowatt Dr. Granite Falls, MN 56241
March 1, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	Willmar Conference Center Gallery 7 (Inside Best Western Hotel)	240 23rd St. SE Willmar, MN 56201
March 2, 2023, 4:00-7:00 pm	Redwood Area Community Center	901 E. Cook St. Redwood Falls, MN 56283

Virtual Open House

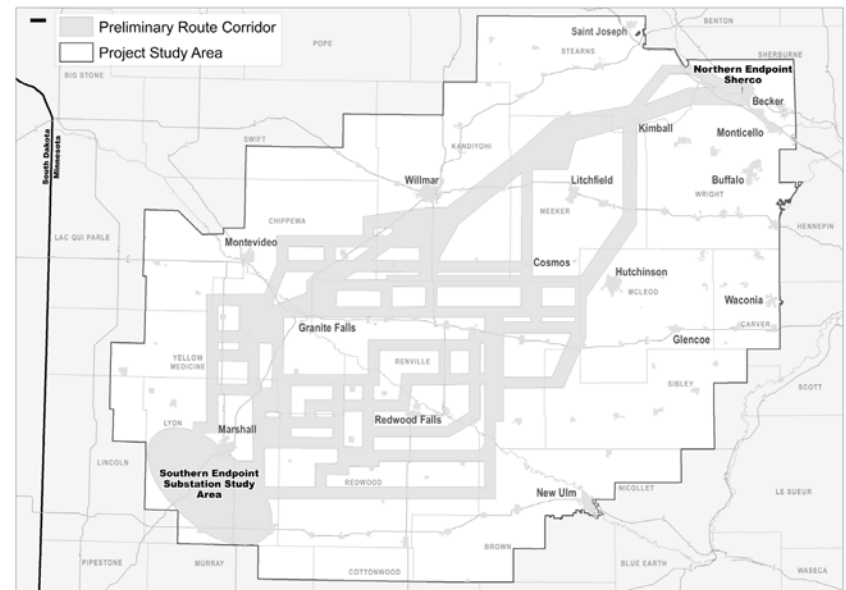
March 6, 2023 1:00 and 6:00 pm options. Link will be posted at MNEnergyConnection.com/community-engagement.

Phone (If you are unable to join online): **833-746-0074**

For more information, visit MNEnergyConnection.com, email MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com or call toll-free **888-292-4714**.

About MN Energy Connection

Xcel Energy received approval to retire all of its coal-fired electricity, including the Sherco power plants, by 2030. The MN Energy Connection will deliver renewable energy from the wind-rich areas in southwest Minnesota to the existing electrical grid at the Sherco plant, serving customers by connecting to the regional grid.



Map shows preliminary route corridors under consideration to build a transmission line between project endpoints.





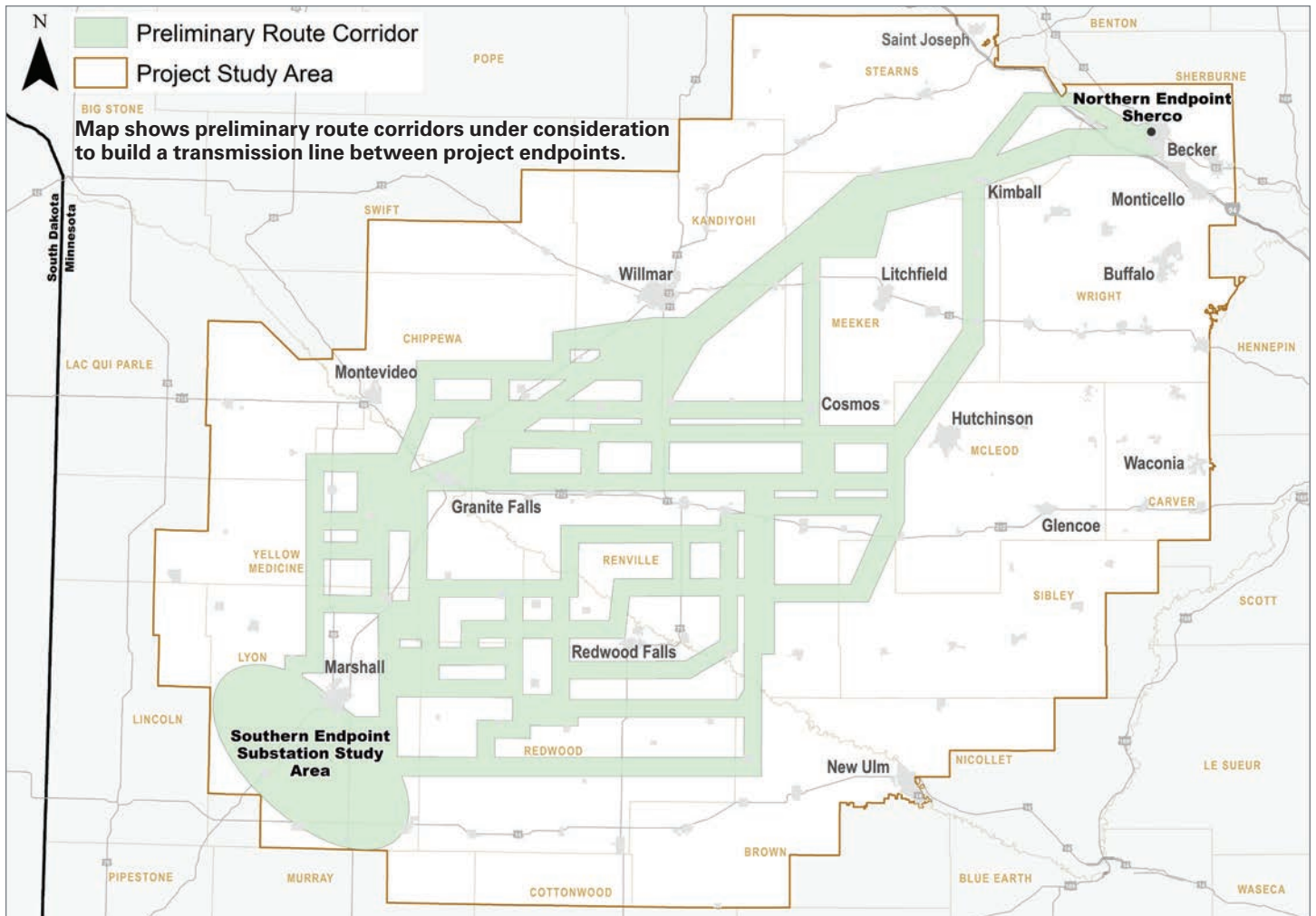
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**PLEASE JOIN
US TO LEARN
MORE ABOUT
THE MN ENERGY
CONNECTION**



PLEASE JOIN US!

Public open houses to provide information about the proposed MN Energy Connection Transmission Line

Xcel Energy is hosting public open houses to provide information and answer questions about the proposed MN Energy Connection transmission line project between the retiring Sherco power plant near Becker, Minn. and Lyon County, Minn. The transmission line is designed to connect new renewable energy to replace the electricity from the retiring coal-fired power plants.

We’re asking landowners and local officials to join us to learn more about the project, discuss land use issues important in each area, and review the preliminary route options we’ve identified in the project area. Detailed route maps will be presented at public meetings, and will be available on the project website after the public meetings.

No formal presentation is planned, so attend at any time.

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We will also host a virtual open house for those unable to attend the in-person meetings.

Virtual open house: March 6, 2023, 1:00 and 6:00 pm options – [MNEnergyConnection.com/community-engagement](https://www.mnenergyconnection.com/community-engagement)

PHONE (If you are unable to join online): **833-746-0074**

For more information, visit [MNEnergyConnection.com](https://www.mnenergyconnection.com), email MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com or call toll-free **888-292-4714**.

TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT OPEN HOUSES

Join us for an update about the MN Energy Connection project

Xcel Energy is hosting open houses for landowners to learn more about current route options under consideration for the MN Energy Connection project.

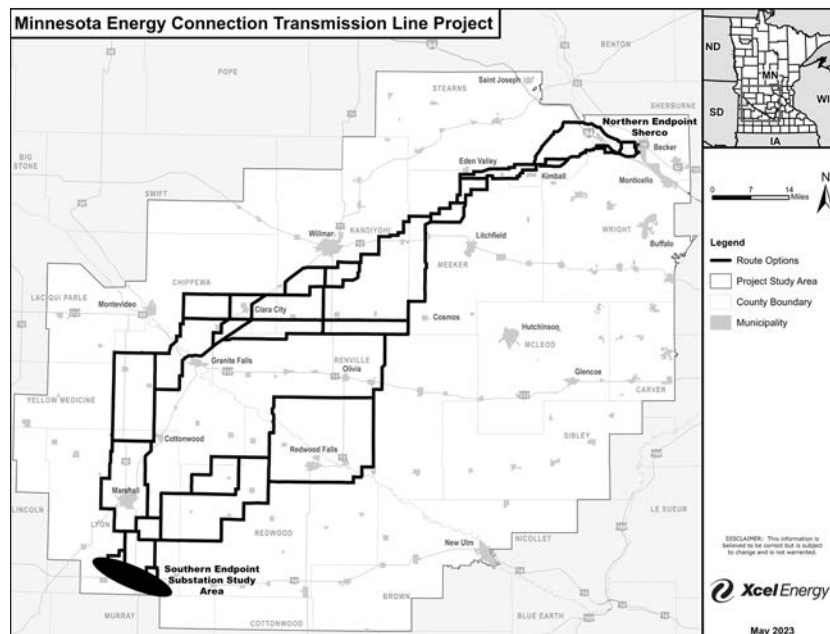
Using feedback from landowners, local governments and other stakeholders, route options have been revised from the options shown earlier this year. The options continue to be preliminary and the team will use comments we receive to inform us as we finalize route options that will be submitted in the Route Permit applications, which we expect to submit to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission later this year.

Route options available for review

A detailed view of the revised routes can be viewed at www.MNEnergyConnection.com. Large format maps will be available at the meetings.

Comments can be submitted to the Xcel Energy project team at the website (click on Community Engagement), in person at the upcoming meetings, mailed to Xcel Energy or by email at MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com.

Mailing address:
414 Nicollet Mall—Floor 6
Attn: MN Energy Connection
Minneapolis MN 55401



Open House Schedule

Tuesday June 6, 4:00–7:00 pm	Powder Ridge Event Center	15015 93rd Ave. Kimball MN 55353
Wednesday June 7, 4:00–7:00 pm	Becker Community Center Gymnasium	11500 Sherburne Ave. Becker MN 55308
Thursday June 8, 4:00–7:00 pm	4H Building, Meeker County Fairgrounds	1230 N. Armstrong Ave. Litchfield MN 55355
Monday June 12, 4:00–7:00 pm	EverSpring Suites Ballroom	1500 E. College Dr. Marshall MN 56258
Tuesday June 13, 4:00–7:00 pm	Redwood Community Center	901 Cook St. Redwood Falls MN 56283
Wednesday June 14, 5:00–8:00 pm	Willmar Community Center	624 US-71 BUS Willmar, Minnesota 56201
Thursday June 15, 4:00–7:00 pm	Kilowatt Community Center	600 Kilowatt Dr. Granite Falls MN 56241
Tuesday June 20, 1:00 and 6:00 pm	Virtual Open House	MNEnergyConnection.com





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Transmission Line Information

Dear landowner,

Thank you for your engagement and participation over the past several months as the MN Energy Connection team has worked to identify and develop proposed routes for this important project. We appreciate all of the comments we've received and look forward to hearing more from stakeholders about the proposed route options and describing how the process will move forward.

Upcoming open houses—please join us

Additionally, we will host a series of open houses (schedule below) where you can ask questions, learn more information, view large format maps detailing the route options, as well as provide comments about the current proposal.

Revised route options available

Enclosed you'll find a map of the route options that have been narrowed down from what we presented in the spring. These route options can be viewed in more detail at www.MNEnergyConnection.com where you can also submit comments to the project team at Xcel Energy (click on the Community Engagement tab at the top of the website to access the comment form).

These options continue to be preliminary, and we are asking landowners, local government officials and other stakeholders to provide Xcel Energy with comments about how land use would be affected by the route options. We will review those comments as we finalize the Route Permit application we expect to file later this fall with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, which reviews these types of permits.

When we file the Route Permit application we will notify affected landowners at that time. Following that filing, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission will review the route options and schedule public meetings and hearings. A decision on the final route is expected in late 2024.

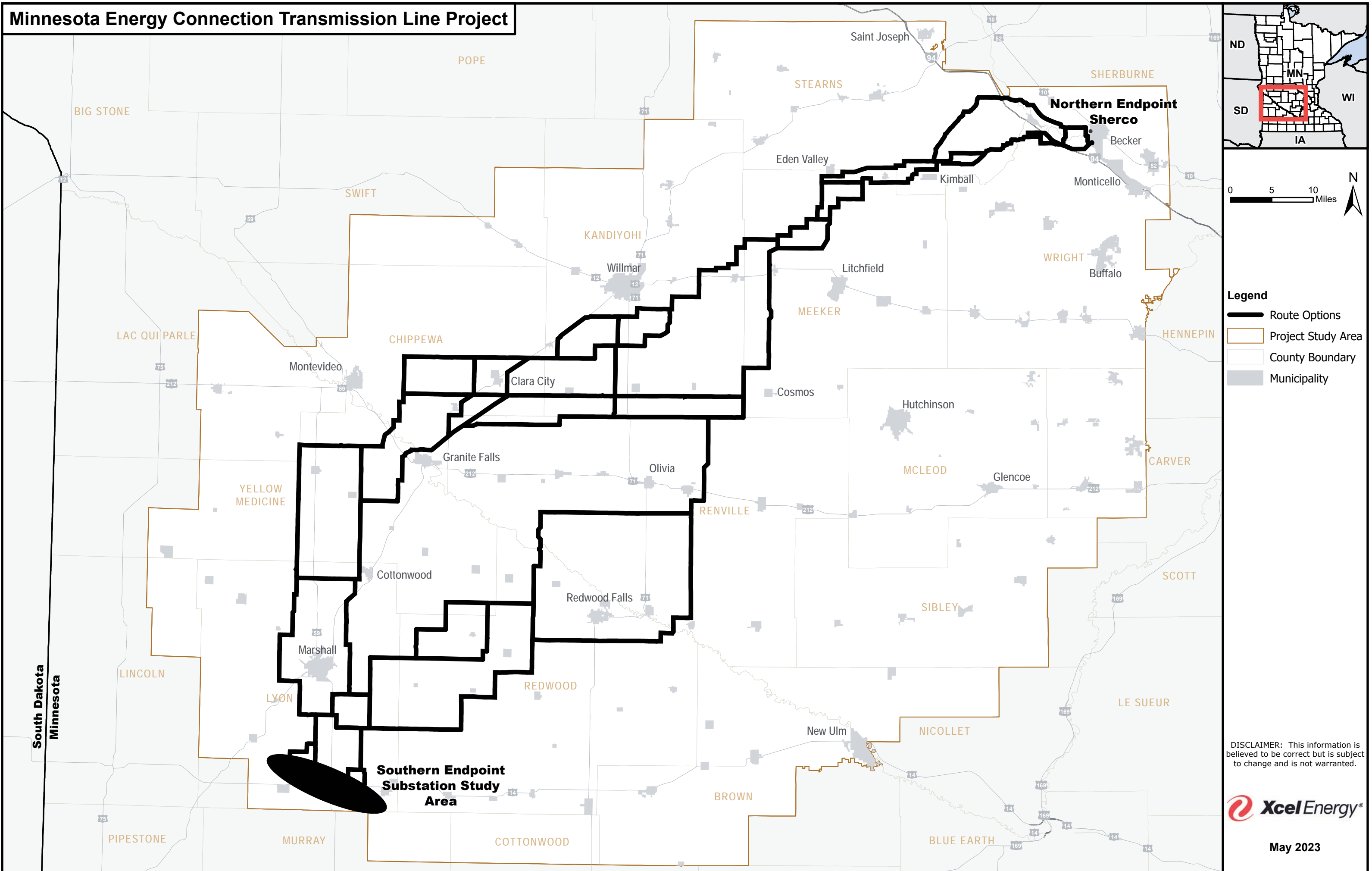
Contact us

Landowners can always contact us with questions or comments by emailing MNEnergyConnection@xcelenergy.com, calling 1-888-292-4714 or submitting a comment on our website by visiting www.MNEnergyConnection.com and clicking on 'Community Engagement.'

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Minnesota Energy Connection Transmission Line Project



- Legend**
- Route Options
 - Project Study Area
 - County Boundary
 - Municipality

DISCLAIMER: This information is believed to be correct but is subject to change and is not warranted.



May 2023

APPENDIX G

Public Comment Tracking Table

Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Public Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
2/21/2023	Eagle's Landing homeowners will not tolerate our property values deteriorated by proximity to high-voltage lines. We demand that my route bury the lines according to the MNDOT highway feasibility study released in April 2022.
2/21/2023	Please keep the line short and sweet in Sherburne County to minimize interference with center pivot irrigation and farm lands. The map of MN looks like a web of mismatch power lines. Common sense to me would be a straight line from Point A to Point B. I think more energy should be spent to keep Sherco open and running for longer than 2040.
2/21/2023	Concerned about property value impact, especially because we do not receive energy from Xcel. Our provider, Starns Electric, has buried lines in our neighborhood, which is very reliable. I don't want to see your high power lines. Concerned about potential health impacts of lines which burying such lines would reduce. While burying lines is a higher input cost, long-term maintenance and public safety is improved. I would like to see the environmental impact study and cost estimates submitted to the PUC. I would also like to see a detailed cost estimate comparing above ground to buried lines.
2/21/2023	All people in the cities and towns don't care and it doesn't drop the value of their properties or effect their livestock - run it there. We have seen the opposite studies. We have seen the law suits - we care. Put it though towns/cities where it doesn't effect their values or they don't care.
2/21/2023	Why does this area have to have these lines in our area when we are serviced by Excel.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	While I am not opposed to tower transmission, this particular [project] will have minimal impact at the SW end and huge impact at the NE. This area of Minnesota is fast growing and has high population density. This being above with [other] lines will have adverse impacts on the value of the land, homes, and business. It will also stifle grow in all three. This activity loss will far exceed the economic impact the lines propose to bring.
2/21/2023	I live west of Clearwater. The route near me could easily go to the south or better yet follow the north side of the wildlife area. There are very few homes in this area. Of the 2 routes leering west of MN 24, one follows County 40/46 which affects many homes. Further south it would go near way less people. I would like to see it follow the less populated areas. Go through the fields, not residential areas. Thank you.
2/21/2023	Studies show significant decrease in home values, and significant increase in health risks when high voltage lines are installed near residential areas. The two statistics are certainly correlated, not to mention to visual degradation of large power lines. For the section of the route in St. Augusta, near Emerald Ponds and Eagles Landing, numerous residential family units would be negatively impacted by this plan. As one of those residents, I do not support the plan in its current form. Xcel should move forward with evaluating the burial of these new lines to minimize health, financial, and safety risks for those living in St. Augusta.
2/21/2023	The proposed "North Route" would run less than 500ft from my home. I would think the negative health info and property depreciation would be a huge negative impact on my family. Please choose a less impactful option.
2/21/2023	We have an endangered species on our land. Blanding's turtle. What will be done to protect their habitat.
2/21/2023	Why can't these lines be buried? They don't cost much per research I have from some. Who wants those ugly power lines running in their yard, by their yard or neighborhood. Buried lines and we don't have to worry about nothing. This is wrong. Bury them!
2/21/2023	All items above are a concern. Above lines are not what people want to live nearby for safety needs and visually. Buried lines could be an option, but am sure that comes with a cost. It would be nice to impact the least amount things as possible. In the end, I just want something affordable since solar is not an option in my location (not enough sun), something that is reliable, and not have to worry about rolling blackouts.
2/21/2023	Overall I believe the new law mandating 100% carbon free electricity will prove disastrous for MN's future. We can expect only 5%-10% of power from solar in the winter. Wind only produces 40%-60% of [power] on average in the spring and fall, lower in summer.
2/21/2023	Love to see any plan where the lines are buried. We can accept higher up-front cost if the tradeoff is lower maintenance overall.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	Seems to me the northern route through St. Augusta would be the longest and most expensive option. I understand it has to go somewhere; we all use electricity. But let's limit cramming through or going near residential development (like mine) - Eagles landing. Less costly - cut straight across.
2/21/2023	On my parcel I currently have: Xcel Energy Line 5401, Railroad - Spits Parcel, Hwy 55 - Spits Parcel, gas pipeline. Another easement would impact my farm operation. I plan to expand my livestock operations - and this would limit me. Concerned about a line that close to my livestock operation. Wondering if the current Line 5401 I can be followed.
2/21/2023	Avoid houses and farms and animals. Use route options that are along parcel lines or roadways. Avoid homes. My property values is going to be devastated. This will effect property value by effecting neighborhood value.
2/21/2023	I don't want the line to be within 700ft of my property. I think the line should stick to major roads and not residential areas or farm fields.
2/21/2023	Good presentation, no issues
2/21/2023	Avoid impacting home or residences. This is going to impact home values and change sight lines. I am not happy with this because I bought my home to start a farm and I think it will effect my animals.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	Ref map A4. I would prefer Xcel try to keep the power lines running along major roads where possible.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	I think the line should stick to major roads (like Hwy 94, Hwy 23) and not go through farm fields.
2/21/2023	We understand that updating the grid is important. Shutting down an existing, successful power source doesn't make sense to me. Sherco really should stay. "Don't put all eggs in one basket." "Diversity." This makes better sense. Turning everything to electric, appliance, cars, etc. would put a greater strain on our environment, our thoughts and the expense crazy once the government stops financial support.
2/21/2023	I think we are on the right ave by a mandated zero carbon footprint in a short period is heartbreaking to people dependent on solid power needs. At what cost do we make the switch.
2/21/2023	I am very much against new power lines to service wind/solar farms. I believe they are a waste and will never supply power on a consistent basis. Why ruin farm land for this waste of time?
2/21/2023	I oppose the 345kV line in this area. 1. Threat to human health. 2. Threat to livestock. (EMF, stray current). 3. Property values. Because of bad weather siblings and neighbors weren't able to attend. They also oppose.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	NA

**Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table**

Date	Comment Text
2/21/2023	I wish to be notified of any potential route changes near my address. Many sensitive wetlands existing in my area, hunting season is also a big event, I see one proposed route that goes along Mannonah Township section 24 and borders public hunting land. Will this impact hunting season Oct - Nov?
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	I do not want this line within 700ft of my property nor anyone else's. These lines should be kept along roads and not through farm fields or residences.
2/21/2023	NA
2/21/2023	I know we need the line to keep reliable electricity. I just hope you take the most direct route to minimize the effect on the least amount of people.
2/21/2023	My family and I are EMF sensitive individuals. Two years ago we moved from a home in Tennessee due to major health issues caused by a cell phone tower located 500 feet from our home. Symptoms experienced included: aura migraines, a "buzzing" feeling down limbs, two miscarriages (where previously none were experienced), throwing up, and general daily dizziness. Before purchasing our home in St. Augusta, we hired an EMF consultant to inspect our home, measuring for cell radiation and electrical radiation. He deemed it a "clean" home site. Now we are on a healing journey to overcome our health conditions caused by previous EMF exposure. Success in that journey has depended on our ability to be at rest, away from EMF radiation while we are at home. I do believe that the existence of a 345w high energy power line within a mile of our home would be detrimental to our health and healing. I do ask, for my 11 person family, that you do not consider erecting this line in St. Augusta. Also, for the health of all people, I do hope Xcel Energy will consider burying their unsightly and unhealthy lines so as to limit their assault on the quality of Minnesotan's lives. May you make the best choice for health. Thank you for considering.
2/21/2023	Poles and lines need to be as far away from homes as possible. Home values would decrease as well as health concerns. Open fields would be a much better choice to help avoid or minimize this. I am very concerned about the proximity to homes for our neighborhood. On the proposed route on A1, west of the Sherco plant that travels on 160th St NW, there are several homes close along that roadway as well as trees. If you have to pick one of the routes south of the Mississippi River, please choose the route along I-94 and west through the open fields. There would be much less conflicts of homes nearby. I spent a while talking to your engineer here tonight and he said that route would avoid more homes and issues than the 160th St NW route. Please avoid being near these homes. Many are very close to the road. Thank you. *See map attached to comment sheet*
2/21/2023	*See map attached to comment sheet*
2/27/2023	Map F6. The proposed line runs through our farm. It would be very close to our neighbor's place on 320th Street. Our son owns the farm site on 320th Street just north of us, and his plans to build a new house there will probably be changed if the line goes through.
2/27/2023	1. Also on 460th St. is East River Electric goes directly to the college in Marshall. 2. Also on Co. 18 they are putting a new 3 phase transmission line.
2/27/2023	NA
2/27/2023	NA
2/27/2023	NA
2/27/2023	When will you guys be satisfied, when will you have enough? 2013 you railroaded a line east and west now it's north and south in 2028 you will have another route, the hot air you need to turn these wind mills are already in St. Paul! You will regret closing the coal plants in the future! Your painting yourself into a corner. God help us all.
2/27/2023	Please do everything possible to make sure materials are sourced from USA or Canada and NOT China. So important to our energy security.
2/27/2023	This is all BS. Climate change is BS.
2/27/2023	We can't afford rate hikes. Take it out of Gov. Walz paycheck and/or D.N.C.
2/27/2023	I am disappointed to see how long the proposed timeline is and would like information on how to expedite the process. I would also like to encourage maximizing capacity now. Our region can fill the transmission capacity with wind and solar faster than it can be built out. Renewable energy is curtailed substantially in the region and communities are losing millions in production tax revenue because transmission is lacking.
2/27/2023	Reduce permitting time on simultaneously to get constructed and operational sooner. Expand capacity of project to increase the amount of transmission to take all power out of the area based on permitted and proposed wind/solar projects. Upgrade existing transmission lines.
2/27/2023	Why can't we follow ND's example and only have all those red lights come on when there is actually an airplane in the area. Somehow they are radar controlled. The red blinking lights are horrible - they have ruined our rural landscape. If I wanted to have lights blinking all night, I'd live in a city!
2/27/2023	Energy storage for future additions of solar and wind into grid over the next 5 years. In areas of non-agricultural, will MN pollinator score card be utilized (promote pollinator seed mix). Avoid biological impacts.
2/27/2023	Crop dusting. 10 years since CapX and compaction still shows. Tile helped and a dry year is helping.
2/27/2023	I don't want this going past my residence. It would be awful to see these so close to my home - please try to keep farther from places people are living. *See map attached to comment*
2/27/2023	Prefer route to be elsewhere (on behalf of owners). Disclaimer - Patti Leaf property by marriage. *See map attached to comment*
2/27/2023	I already have a line less than 1/4 mile north of me now and now you want to put one 1/4 south of me. I don't want to be boxed in. You will not cut my farm down the middle with poles.*See map attached to comment*
2/27/2023	Can the new, proposed transmission line allow for the existing 115kV line that runs N-S on the west side of Granite Falls to be replaced or removed? If not now, how about in the future? *See map attached to comment*
2/27/2023	I am concerned about being located next to a large substation or huge power line. The reason I moved to the country was for peace and quiet and for the wildlife and agriculture. I do not want the view of the country destroyed by ugly structures near my farm. I am also concerned with the noise that power lines create and same with windmills. I do not want to be anywhere near any of them. I am also disappointed in the fact that the energy generated by the windmills will be sent to the metro areas by we as land owners have to deal with the unsightliness of the substations and transmission lines. It seems typical to make the rural people bear the burdens for people that choose to live in metro areas. As I stated before, I don't want the lines or substation to be anywhere near my property. Thank you.
2/28/2023	NA
2/28/2023	NA
2/28/2023	We feel the push to complete this transformation is much too fast and will result in not having enough infrastructure in place to handle the electrical needs resulting in sustained blackouts. If this took place in winter this could result in millions being put into life threatening situations. Put the welfare of the citizens over the push to get this done quickly.
2/28/2023	NA

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Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
2/28/2023	I think the most important factors are to avoid proximity to homes and follow existing lines as much as possible. Thank you.
2/28/2023	Although the proposed line is on a property line, we own the property on both sides and it would run right through the field making farm operation with large equipment very difficult. *See map attached to comment*
2/28/2023	Although the proposed line is on a property line, we own the property on both sides and it would run right through the field making farm operation with large equipment very difficult. *See map attached to comment*
2/28/2023	This would be in my backyard. I am building a new house by the location and I farm the field already, we also already have a large line to the south of the property on the gravel road. *See map attached to comment*
2/28/2023	<p>The proposed line runs on two sides of our property - south (140th St SE) and west (40th Ave) property lines - turning a corner on a private resident. The road to the west - 40th Ave is not maintained in the winter months so it would not be accessible. Our acreage is part of the CRP Program and has restrictions on use. We would strongly suggest taking the proposed route for transmission line away from our property line.</p> <p>In gaining further information on the Project, we have concerns for the power lines following our property on two sides. We have a large population of ducks and pheasants on the property which we maintain and improve as part of CRP/RIM program. Birds typically fly from our property and adjacent to the fields where the new line is proposed. We suggest not creating a new barrier for local and migrating water fowl. Birds of prey can use the tall towers to hunt pheasants which is not desired in the state's CRP or RIM program. *See map attached to comment*</p>
3/1/2023	Try not to destroy the natural beauty of the landscape. Green energy will not work 100% no way.
3/1/2023	NA
3/1/2023	Lake Fanny is a flood zone - see map. All fields that surround Lake Fanny have lift stations to pump water off the fields. Whitefield/Fahlun line road is a dead end into our field that is farmed as one field and only field approach. *See map attached to comment*
3/1/2023	Commenting on land we have rented for 25 years in Genessee township, Kandiyohi County sections 5 and 6. Putting a corner post right in the middle of a 320 acre field and the splitting a 160 acre field right in half seems counter productive. Also a new house will be built soon in section 6. *See map attached to comment*
3/1/2023	Genessee section 18 in Kandiyohi County is one large field. The west side of field was purchased to make it a larger field. *See map attached to comment*
3/1/2023	Consider adding Litchfield and Olivia as next meeting locations. Cities like Eden Valley have a significant drive to Willmar, Hutchinson, etc. Add a basic visual to show generation to transmission to distribution. The average person likely does not know the difference and that can help w/ understanding of a project.
3/1/2023	*Comment was on a map* Glad to see it is projected to be on the northwest side of the tracks - b/c we were very concerned it would be south of the Hwy taking out much of our grove.
3/2/2023	But own land around the line. It's about time to bring solar to farmers.
3/2/2023	If you put these lines in the farm field even 100ft inside of existing line fence it will be difficult to farm around these power lines. The person who rents the ground will not be compensated for their trouble because the easement payment goes to the landowner.
3/2/2023	I would suggest avoiding the north route completely, especially where it goes along my son and daughter in law's driveway. It would destroy their driveway and many 100 year old oak trees. Also it would split up many farm fields and impact wild life such as pileated woodpeckers, deer, owls, eagles, many more. You could continue on the road and avoid costs, easements, and turns. The location I'm referring to is 135th St NE Atwater, MN 56209. The location is strongly against this route.
3/2/2023	We don't need another line through the neighborhood again. We been through this already 12-13 years ago. Take is somewhere else.
3/2/2023	Build another nuke in Chaska for the metro. Thanks.
3/2/2023	NA
3/2/2023	NA
3/2/2023	NA
3/2/2023	Keep coal plants too, important to have some back up - look what happened to Texas - California.
3/2/2023	Map E2. Norfolk township section 7, NW 1/4 has a bald eagle nest located in it. *See map attached to comment*
3/2/2023	Property: XXX 135th St NE Atwater, MN 56209. The proposed line on the northern section of the route butts up along the north end of our property directly along our driveway which is lined with very old and historic oak trees, home to pileated woodpeckers, owls, and other wildlife. Our land is all forested and surrounded by protected waterfowl areas to the west and south. The proposed route would directly butt up against these "avoidance" areas in addition to cutting directly through neighboring farmer's fields, which would greatly interfere with their operations. I propose the route, if necessary, follow the existing road - 30th Ave NE- which would avoid costs, easements, settlement agreements, and legal issues, in addition to avoiding turns in the route. The large waterfowl protection area in which the route turns south should be avoided altogether and a different path south should be found. This will greatly reduce the impact on the residents living in this area, will protect animals and natural resources, and will follow existing infrastructure which will greatly reduce costs and issues that will arise with landowners along this portion of the route.

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3/2/2023	Property: XXX 135th St NE Atwater, MN 56209. The currently proposed line (the north-most route) borders our property and runs along it. The line can't be built here because it would destroy our driveway, as well as destroy a line of 100-year old oak trees which house various species of birds and other animals some of which are protected and perhaps even endangered (pileated woodpeckers, owls, etc.). The currently proposed line runs directly on top of/over said driveway and tree line. Therefore, building the line here would devastate wildlife and existing infrastructure. Additionally, a portion of our property is a wetland area, home to many waterfowl. Building the line here would disrupt this wildlife. These areas have been noted on the attachment image labeled "#1". Moreover, the proposed line borders an "Avoidance Area" (a waterfowl protection area) adjacent to our land. Building the line where proposed will negatively impact wildlife. This area is noted on the attached image labelled "#2". Furthermore, the proposed route has one unnecessary turn in the line since there is a road directly to the north on which the line could run, where the proposed line runs already further east. If the line was moved so that it stays on the road, that unnecessary turn would be avoided. If the line was moved so it stays on the road it would also avoid the boarder of the previously mentioned waterfowl protection area ("Avoidance Area"). Also consider the fact that the road has an existing right-of-way easement, which would avoid the need to additional easement purchases from landowners and the potential cost of legal issues, since I know personally that the landowner/farmer whose land the line cuts through is 100% opposed to the proposed line (as are we, where it is proposed today). The alternate route is indicated on the attached image "#3". Note that the proposed line cuts through the center of the neighboring farmer's field, which would be detrimental to the farming operation. Surrounding our land, a single farmer owns the land to both the east and west, and the proposed line cuts into their land on both sides in a major way. Using the alternate route I noted avoids some of these intrusions on the farm land. Choosing to build one of the other two routes (southern most) would avoid all these issues. Also note that the noted "alternate" road already has power lines on it, so adding lines wouldn't be anything new. In general, the "north-most" route runs through many more farmlands away from existing roads than the southern routes, which run along roadways. The routes to which I'm referring are labelled on the attached document labelled "A". The north route requires much more effort and costs more regarding easement purchases, so the southern routes are best to build. Cutting through farmers' fields and other private areas (like our land and property lines) is unacceptable when there are existing public roadways and existing easements that can be utilized. You can expect legal troubles from the farmers and residents of this area if you try to build the line on the north route. We will fight to our last penny to keep our land the way it is. It seems much simpler for Xcel to build in other locations, so please do. In summary, we urge and particularly demand that one of the southern routes be chosen for the new line. If, God forbid, the north route is chosen, we demand that the line be moved away from our property, which only makes sense, since there is a much more viable alternate route that solves so many issues. Thank you for your consideration. Take care and be well. *See maps attached to comment*
3/8/2023	The proposed line would impact a family farm.
3/8/2023	Keep Walz nonsense out of rock and cows!
3/8/2023	Stop bending a knee for monetary gain. Keep your citdiot communism ideology out of the rocks and cows. Tim Walz and his supporters can all go **** themselves.
3/8/2023	NA
3/8/2023	This is not something our communities want, much less pay for. There are serious health-consequences to these that are nearby these solar/turbine farms, as well as not even being able to meet the needs therein. We need to heavily consider the consequences for future generations before disregarding the inevitableness of disposing of these items when retired and the concerns to our health, finances, and future costs to our children. We do not want this!!
3/8/2023	NA
3/8/2023	We do not want these transmission lines anywhere near our community! There are health impacts that affect communities that are close to turbines and transmission lines. I do not think wind and solar will EVER meet the needs of Minnesotans. This will end up costing an extreme amount of money when we have the coal and natural gas resources right here in our region.
3/8/2023	Farmers are trying to feed the world. It's extremely important to keep impact low on ag land. In our location (1 mile west of MN Hwy 22) there is a large Foresman Farm egg production facility. It would be unsafe to have power near it as well. Thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions.
3/8/2023	NA
3/8/2023	NA
3/8/2023	Follow roads NOT going across farmland acres.
3/8/2023	Men especially were very rude! Stepped in line twice, over me! To see the map. It's all about "them" and how effects "them," get it!!
3/8/2023	Check wildlife area in Sec 36 Cedar Mill Township - Not correct on map.
3/8/2023	The proposed route going through Grafton Township highly inconveniences our farming operation in multiple places. We use spray planes as well that the lines would disrupt.
3/8/2023	NA
3/8/2023	The route to the east is longer to the end destination. Keeping the route to the west/north provides the shortest distance and doesn't cut through productive farmland.
3/8/2023	Why?
3/8/2023	I do not agree with this or the route. You will be putting this right in front of my house. Ruining my view. You're increasing the price to customers and will continue to raise prices. Your taking away our views, farm land, etc. and if you don't get what you want you take it. You take it away from hard working people. This is not needed for these stupid electric cars. I don't want this in my neighborhood or in front of my house.
3/8/2023	It needs to be reliable/cost efficient, long term equipment usage
3/8/2023	I cannot believe what you (Xcel) have done to our state. You have littered our farm land with solar panels and we still lose power. I DON'T WANT any lines run through this county/area. You have WAY too much power in this state. I am very angry about all of this.
3/8/2023	Don't want on our (east) side of needed Renville/McCloud line
3/8/2023	What rate is currently being paid for solar, coal, gas, nuclear? We want the cheapest energy not the most expensive. We will not be stuck with expensive power for a generation. Who do your interests lie with financially, rate payers, state, or investors? Solar and wind are less reliable and not wanted. Who approved this?
3/8/2023	Opposed to Grafton TWP - Preston Lake TWP route. Too disruptive.
3/8/2023	Don't do it!
3/8/2023	MN needs to own this! Warren Buffet is not a Minnesotan. This is owned by? Warren Buffet? This is toxic?? No! No! No! So the solar panels get covered up in snow? Then no power?
3/8/2023	Crossing DNR wetlands open hunting lands - concerns of stray voltage.

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3/8/2023	My concern is less about the landscape pollution of more wind turbines and power lines, but rather how you can replace stable energy production with intermediate power, i.e., how do we stay warm in the dead of winter at night when the wind isn't blowing. My observation of solar is that it is a very poor way to generate power for the grid. It could help meet peak demand in the heat of summer, but it doesn't generate power the majority of the time. My solution if we have to do away with coal is to replace the Sherco plant with nuclear power plants. You wouldn't have to rebuild the grid.
3/8/2023	The routes will not go through our property. I think following the existing power lines is best if possible so not to make any more obstacles.
3/8/2023	I am very concerned about this impact of EMF on GPS controlled pivots. Prove to me that my GPS will not be impacted.
3/8/2023	<p>Item to consider/objections to the proposed line through Harvey Township: 1. Proposed line would run along a Fish and Wildlife Service easement in Harvey Township, Section 5. 2. There currently is a powerline crossing our land that goes east and west, how high is the proposed line to go over the existing line? 3. We own land on 580th Avenue, 340th Street, in Section 5 of Harvey Township, along 590th Avenue in Section 33 of Manannah Township on southside of CSAH #3 and on north side of CSAH #3 going north. It seems like Xcel Energy is asking us to give up a lot of farm land. 4. On the north side of 340th Street there is a telephone line/power line that you would need to have further easement on the land or go higher than the poles or go over two homes that are side by side on 340th Street. 5. You are asking people that own farm land to give up a share of their income by placing these poles on our farmland that will now have to deal with and control of the weeds - who will take care of the weeds? 6. If you look on title of ownership, Ralph Mausehund and Wanda Urdahl have a life estate so we would have to sign off on an easement plus our adult children. My late husband worked against the powerline years ago when we would've gotten 4 towers across our land. I don't think my children and I will be very willing to sign off on an easement on our land. 7. There is currently underground in the road right-of-way on the south side of 340th street and on the east side of 590th Avenue along the proposed powerline - a natural gas line.</p> <p>Main concerns - We have a DC line crossing our land now and I know how it crackles when you get near, don't even have to be under it. Now you are preparing to put a line within a road right-of-way 150' from center of road and I live on the other side 100' from center of road. You can see by #3 Xcel will be putting easement on these lands. The more I see and read about this powerline, I will not sign off for an easement and understand it will go to condemnation.</p>
3/8/2023	See attachment A. 1. Your poles would go between our windmills and we can't have that because we lay our windmills down to work on them, 2 windmills 125' towers. 2. We graze 25 of our neighbors cattle. 3. You are too close to our house. *See map attached to comment*
2/24/2023	I am reaching out in concern of the proposed line route over my property and the adjacent properties. As you can see from the areal, we have live stock. There have been several studies showing issues in birthing cattle /horses cause by the electric field from these lines. Livestock aside, there is a large environmental impact in the woods to the west, the line would pass through. This wood is home to deer, turkeys and several other animals. Cutting a 200' swath out of this would destroy a lot of habitat for these animals. I strongly disapprove of this route and believe there are several other more economical and environmentally safe options to take. *See map attached to comment*
3/9/2023	<p>Issues that that are important to me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Avoid proximity to residences - Avoid interference with farm operations – Most Important to me. <p>Issues that are somewhat important to me:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Minimize visual impacts - Follow existing infrastructure – However don't create a double powerline in fields. <p>For my family and I the most important issue for us when it comes to the infrastructure projects is the ability to easily farm around the project. Specifically when it comes to manure application for our swine barns.</p> <p>Our operation utilizes a manure drag line system to spread our manure. Having any sort of poles in our fields makes it much harder to get that job done. Poles are annoying for any normal farm applications but when you add dragging a hose thru the field it becomes very frustrating and definitely increases the risk of an accident or spill.</p> <p>We utilize this dragline system in Lyon County Clifton township 4, 8 & 9 and also Stanley 21 & 22. Some of the proposed maps drawn call for new poles thru the middle of our field (stanley 21) and some call for a doubling up of poles (Clifton 4&8&9). In any case addition of poles would make using our specialized manure application method much harder and would lead to an increased chance of an accident for the entire lifespan of the lines.</p> <p>We would appreciate taking this into consideration when determining the location of your proposed project and try to avoid cutting our fields in half or adding more poles to our existing line.</p>

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3/12/2023	<p>Our concerns are agricultural , we operate an organic farm producing grain crops, and hay and we have dairy cattle and beef cattle. Much of our property is bordered by roads therefore we depend on hay from the road ditches to feed cattle. The backbone of a farm is the LAND.</p> <p>Our farm is small at 160 acres and we would be unable to lose additional farm land. Many small farmers already are being pushed out of business.</p> <p>Also, there is an organic vegetable farmer in this 1 mile radius that sells to individuals and food markets</p> <p>Also, there are six individual homes surrounding our farm plus another eight within a mile, one home with an autistic child. The area has a number of deer and fowl, geese and pheasants because we are a half mile from the Crow River. There is a Wild Game Refuge near by. This route also appears to go over or near Immanuel Lutheran Church which in 2023 will be building a school and a line would not be good in the path. My understanding was that the line was not to go 150 feet from homes and that you would follow field/property lines.</p> <p>We do not approve a diagonal route that seems to cross our fields in Section 33 of Acoma Township. Our preferred route would be from Highway #4 going NORTH .</p> <p>We listened to the virtual presentation and attended the March 8 open house in Hutchinson, also that was a nice article in the Hutchinson Leader regarding the meeting. Our farm is on the corner of 190th Street and Walden Avenue in Acoma Township.</p>
3/12/2023	<p>I currently live in Minnetonka, MN but grew up in Lyon County on the east side of Lady Slipper Lake and I am a land owner in Lyon County, Lucas Township, Section 25. I have many fond memories of growing up on the family farm near extensive wildlife including ducks, geese, deer and pelicans. In recent years we've had the addition of our national bird the Bald Eagle - amazing!</p> <p>As I review of proposed 9 line options I would like the committee of managers to consider the issues that are extremely important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Avoid impacts to natural resources and water resources -Follow existing infrastructure (Roads, Transmission lines, etc) -Avoid interference with farm operations -Avoid proximity to residences <p>As a child the Bald Eagle was on the endangered species list; today there are 2 nesting bald eagles that live between the north side of School Grove Lake and south shores of Lady Slipper Lake. Its highly concerning to me that that a transmission line is proposed through these wildlife areas home to geese, ducks, pelicans and bald eagles. I enjoy bird watching over the prairie lakes and often spend time in Lyon county enjoying the beauty of nature. It pains me to realize this could be in jeopardy!</p> <p>As a land owner (Lyon County, Lucas Township, Section 25) I'm concerned with the proposal of power lines that will cause decreased land values due to obstacles (of poles) well into the farmable land. The current proposal indicates poles could be placed on 2 sides of my parcel. The addition of any poles would decrease land and rental values. In this case its a double whammy if it proceeds; it will be extremely intrusive to the farmable land. My renter's will be significantly affected due to the additional obstacles in their paths affecting their ability to operate safely and efficiently to care for this valuable resource. I will need to make adjustments to the rent to compensate due to a decrease in profitability. I strongly urge that any line proposed on farm land is the last option and least intrusive to ensure the continued viability of our farmers and the farming communities.</p> <p>I strongly ask the committee to follow existing infrastructure inclusive of roads, transmission lines, ditches etc. We should not be intruding into wildlife or farmland areas just because it's the easier route. It is also extremely important to maintain visual beauty of our prairie lands. In following existing infrastructure of road and ditches it would keep this new transmission line from causing additional visual intrusions to the southwest and central Minnesota areas. It's important to remember that visual beauty for all is important and should not be glossed over or forgotten in our rural communities.</p>
3/12/2023	<p>We were out of the country when the meetings for the transmission line proposal occurred, so I would like to ask a question. We own the NE1/4 of the NW1/4 of Section 3-117-29 (PID 080031200), and also 20 +/- acres within the NW1/4 of the NE1/4 of the same Section (PID 080030125). After looking at your map of the proposed corridor for the transmission line, it appears that it does not run through Section 3. If I am correct, could you tell me what impacts, if any, there will be on our property?</p>

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3/12/2023	<p>This letter is being written in opposition to the current proposed routing of the Minnesota Energy Connection Project for the two Gen-Tie lines from Sherburne County to Lyon County, Minnesota. Anderson Trucking Service, Inc. and related entities have been negatively impacted on 17 parcels across three counties by several high voltage transmission line projects, and the current plans threaten to negatively impact another 6 parcels.</p> <p>The negative effects created by previous high voltage transmission line easements on over 250 acres of property of these projects have significantly devalued, impaired the current marketability and potential development of the parcels. I have attached a separate document listing the ownership and parcel identification numbers to provide you have background of these projects.</p> <p>The MN Energy Connection Project is proposing routes affecting property I own and would significantly impair property values as well as current and planned future uses on 6 additional parcels. Below are examples of affected properties in the proposed route(s) affecting Anderson Trucking Service, Inc. and myself. *See comment for list of parcels with description*</p> <p>Respectfully, it is requested that the current proposed routing through this area be rerouted in its entirety. If this is not possible, then it is requested that in order for the properties listed above that would be impacted by the proposed routing of the transmission lines be rerouted to retain maximum values and allow for current and planned future use as stated above. At a minimum, any easements agreed to in the future, landowners such as Anderson Trucking Service, Inc. and myself be duly compensated for land devaluation and impairment caused by said easements for current and future planned used.</p>
3/15/2023	<p>I am writing you to request that you avoid running the proposed line through property that my family owns and operates. Our family is a large family farm in the area; our primary business is raising hogs, but we also farm ground. We use manure from our hog barns and apply it to property that we own. This is done via a drag line system where we drag a line behind an applicator in the field. As we drag this back and forth in the field, it is imperative to have long runs without obstructions. Adding large power to the middle of our field would do just that.</p> <p>The land we farm, and our family owns and is in some of the proposed routes is in Section 4 of Clifton Township and Section 21 of Stanly Township both of Lyon County. If these areas could be avoided for this reason it would be much appreciated and would allow us to continue to operate our business efficiently.</p>
3/16/2023	<p>These issues are important to me when identifying a new transmission line route:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Avoid interference with farming operations. Do not add power lines on farmland. Most importantly, do not run the power lines through the middle of farms. One of your options runs through Lyon County Stanley Township Section 21 & 22. The line runs right through (East/West) an operating farm, making farming very difficult. Also consider staying away from current livestock farmyards. Do not add power lines in Lyon County Clifton Township Sections 4, 8, and 9 for the same reason. 2. Consider what you are doing to a rural farming neighborhood. We already have a substation, a solar “farm”, and large power lines moving electricity east in our neighborhood. There is already enough infrastructure interference in the Lyon County Stanley and Clifton Townships neighborhood. 3. Do not add second power lines on a parcel of land. Two separate lines on one parcel makes farming even more difficult than one power line. In Lyon County Stanley and Clifton Townships we deal with many power lines already. Reuse existing power lines whenever possible. 4. Consider locating the wind towers and solar “farms” closer to the population centers that consume the electricity. *See maps attached to comment*
3/16/2023	<p>The Andersons legacy is a 60 year old generational farmstead that will be right where it is now for another 60+ years. I oppose the proposed location for the high voltage lines proposed to run through multiple century owned farm steads. The project (MNEC) is located West of Hasty, MN. The proposed location of one or more of the powerlines is proposed to go directly over a house that is set to be built in the spring of 2023 which will be called home by my family with 4 children. We oppose not only the invasion of this project but also the future health effects it could have on our family. Aside from the direct effect this would have on our family it will also have an indirect effect on local wildlife/ game as well as the Thousand Hills Grassfed Beef cattle that have holistically grazed the land for more years then the age of most of the committee members. You are not just interrupting a way of life but calling for it to come to a halt. We appreciate you taking the time and consideration and respectfully voice that it be run along the MN 94 interstate corridor.</p>
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
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3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	<p>The Andersons legacy is a 60 year old generational farm stead that will be right where it is now for another 60+ years. I appose the proposed location for the high voltage lines proposed to run through multiple century owned farm steads. The project (MNEC) located West of Hasty, MN. The proposed location of one or more of the powerlines is proposed to go directly over a house that is set to be built in the spring of 2023 which will be called home by a family with 4 children. We appose not only the invasion of this project but also the future health effects it could have on our family. Aside from the direct effect this would have on our family it will also have an indirect effect on local wildlife/ game as well as the Thousand Hills Grassfed Beef cattle that have holistically grazed the land for more years then the age of most of the committee members. You are not just interrupting a way of life but calling for it to come to a halt. We appreciate you taking the time and consideration and respectfully voice that it be ran along the MN 94 interstate corridor.</p>

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3/16/2023	To whom it may concern, We are disappointed and irate to hear of the proposed power line maps through our area. According to our neighbors there was notification via mail. We did not receive any notification that there was a potential for drastic change, damage, and adjustment to our property, lifestyle, and the future of our children. We have had cases of mail theft in the area and specifically at our address, so it should have been a priority to notify affected landowners in a more reliable manner of communication. Especially considering the severity of the situation. We were unaware of any community open houses due to the lack of communication. We are devastated that an impactful decision is being made without adequate forethought and notification of impacted landowners. This will decrease our property value significantly and potentially put us in a financially devastating situation. Our land would be negatively affected as it is a significant water flow area for surrounding properties towards the watershed of Fish Lake. Additionally there are several wetland ecosystems that would be destroyed including Fish Creek. This creek feeds into Fish Lake which goes into the Mississippi River. Our property is grazed by Thousand Hills Cattle which is regenerating top soil, native plants, and animal habitats. They have made great improvements on the surrounding ecosystems with their approach including preventing runoff. That progress would be halted and reversed if power lines were to run through the grazing area. Please note WE ARE NOT in support of power lines running along Grover Ave NW in Wright County, MN. Please consider a route that will be less of a negative impact towards people, residences, our environment, and water. If you would like to talk to us further please consider calling as that is a more reliable form of communication than mail.
3/15/2023	Hello Xcel Energy. I am Julie Bredeson, a County Commissioner from Meeker County Minnesota. I have been receiving numerous phone calls, text messages and emails in regard to the proposed transmission line which could potentially cross several Townships of Meeker County. A petition for signatures is being circulated along with information and requests for area residents to attend meetings and access your website for additional information. The residents are quite concerned about such a project crossing through Meeker County and what such a project would do to property values. I am encouraging people to gather information and stay apprised of their rights and options as land owners and residents of Meeker County. I look forward to visiting with your company representatives at upcoming informational meetings. Julie Bredeson Meeker County District 2 Commissioner.
3/15/2023	I am very frustrated that this power line project is being proposed. It does not make sense to me that we would choose to build solar and wind energy projects so far from the customers that need it, then spend millions of dollars to build transmission lines through the middle of our state impacting hundreds of residents along the way. Yes, we need power in our society, but it is the responsibility of power companies to be prudent and efficient about the manner and location in which it is generated. I don't want to hear the sales pitch about the "wind rich" Southwest part of our state. The fact is that these wind farms have been being built for years with lack of planning and foresight just to meet mandates and now a power line needs to be pushed through the front yards of rural Minnesotans to serve the Twin Cities demand. There are other options to provide this power, but the people making these decisions would rather push this into someone else's lap and pretend that everything is just fine. I don't see how you can propose 180 miles of industrial power lines to connect a bunch of solar and wind farms to our grid and sell it to the public as "100% Carbon free" energy. How are solar panels, and wind turbines made without the use of carbon? How are you planning to construct this power line without the use of carbon? How long before upgrades will be needed to the line? How long until the existing wind turbines get demolished and buried in some far-off wasteland while you pretend it didn't happen? What is the life expectancy of the solar panel components that are made from plastics and precious metals, that are being mined around the world? The proposed powerline will impact property values, agricultural lands, natural resources, wildlife, and the scenic value of our beautiful state. I don't want your power line, I don't want your stray voltage, I don't want your politics in my front yard.
3/15/2023	We built our home in this beautiful area 20 years ago. The possibility of a power line coming through THIS CLOSE to our house is absolutely devastating to us for the following reasons: serious health concerns - we would NEVER buy a house near a power line! loss of aesthetics - indoors or outdoors, we won't be able to escape the view of the power line. significant decrease in property value. proposed route cuts right through the MIDDLE of a 35-acre wetland that supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds. The transmission line route should AVOID RESIDENCES. A person's DAILY life should NOT have to be near and under power lines!
3/15/2023	People involved with transmission line decision. I'm a property owner in Lyon county Clifton township and already have two large transmission lines on property. I am concerned about the possibility of placing the new line along side of existing one.... if this is the case a line cutting across section 9 would really have a negative impact ... farming the land and certainly decreasing the value when it is sold. Please have someone contact me...507 828 3545
3/15/2023	Please consider NOT putting the power line near the City of Eden Valley, MN. All the people who built homes on the south side of Eden Valley don't want to see a gaudy power line when they look out their windows. And there will be no room for the city to expand in the future. There are many environmental issues to consider. For example, the eagle's nest nearby, fields where whooping cranes eat and nest, and where many animals call home. The known and unknown health effects that power lines cause. Please stay away from residential areas and towns.
3/15/2023	Ref: MNEC project. I just found out about the project potentially effecting my land or land within my community. This project and route through our community would gravely effect our land use of cattle (Thousand Hills Grassland Beef), our dog training through our lowland creek and grassland as well as obstruct a clear view of natural land. There are protected eagle nest near by that I feel would also be effected gravely. We oppose of the potential routes noted down 150th or anywhere near the vicinity. This will directly effect the value of my land along with neighbors as well. We do not want our children or grandchildren to be exposed to these high energy transmissions. The notifications of proposed land use must be improved since none of our community recalls seeing any over the passed year.
3/14/2023	To whom it may concern, my name is Tom Deutz, my family lives in Stanley township 33, in Lyon county in the Marshall, Minnesota area. One of the concerns my wife and I have with the proposed MN Energy Connection routes is the proximity of it to the west of our residence. We have 2 teenage sons who have an interest in farming in their future, our plans are to expand our building site to the west of our existing site to construct agricultural facilities for our farming operations. We chose this site (bare land) to build 20 years ago so we had room for expansion in our future, if the proposed route you have, we would not be able to expand. Hopefully we can work on finding other routes. Please feel free to contact me. 507-829-8052. Thank you, Tom and Glenda Deutz
3/13/2023	I am concerned about the proposed power line that could go up on the east line of my property. I don't want the line to go up here for a couple of reasons. The most obvious problem for me is I don't want a giant, ugly power line right in front of my house. I also plan on putting livestock in the pasture on the north side of the property, and I have concerns about stray voltage upsetting cattle. Putting up the power lines also concerns me. Any heavy equipment would have to go across tilled ground. Beside the potential destruction of crops, it would also compact the soil greatly. This will only lead to more problems for me down the road. I am also worried about the tree line on the NE side of my property. Besides being a very nice border between property lines, there is a bunch of wildlife that uses it for shelter. I hope that this feedback is taken into account when making your final decision.
3/13/2023	My mom owns farm land in section 15 of Rhiederland township of Chippewa county. I farm that land as her son. This parcel already has power line running through it. If you add more it will make it even more difficult to continue farming in between or around these poles! Please consider running this line along a right away of a road!! Thanks
3/13/2023	To Whom It May Concern: Our home is on one streets of one of the proposed routes. This road has livestock, farmland, and families. All of the families are deeply concerned about the power lines being on and around our properties. If this route is chosen, we have all already communicated with each other that we will be going to court. It is very frustrating to have something like this come down our street when we are not even serviced by Xcel Energy. Our lives will be disrupted and inconvenienced and the end result will not even be for us. I know you will not agree, but there are many articles and doctors that warn of livestock and people being this close to power lines. There are livestock, and more importantly, children on this road who will be impacted. I implore you to choose a different route. I can assure you that the route down 145th St will not be the most direct and certainly not the most economical for Xcel. This entire project is upsetting for so many reasons and will impact so many families along the proposed routes. If there was a way to stop the entire project, I would do it. But unfortunately, Xcel does not care about the families that it will be impacting, only the money it will be making. Choose a different route than 145th Street. Thank you.

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Date	Comment Text
3/13/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/13/2023	The CAPX 2020 power line already goes across my farm to the northwest. Possible routes for this new project include a line parallel to this one, and another route directly to my east, which would mean my home would be surrounded by two large power lines very near my home. No one should have to live close to TWO large power lines, but in our case it is even worse. My wife has severe neurological problems and is confined to a wheelchair. Our doctors have said exposure to electromagnetic fields could adversely affect her condition. If she loses more function she may not be able to work (which she currently does from home), and may not even be able to stay at home by herself during the day as she does now. It is critical to us that she not be exposed to any further electromagnetic fields. Please find a route that does not further impact our home in Section 5 of Eden Township, Brown County.
3/13/2023	I am concerned about the northern proposed transmission line going through Harvey Township Section 5 and Manannah Township 33. I understand the need for the transmission line and I appreciate reducing the carbon emissions with the use of the wind turbines. I am apprehensive about a 345 KV line intersecting a 400 KV line so close to a farm with two households in Section 5. Approximately 50 years ago, two legs of the tower was placed on the land, in Section 5. I do not feel it is necessary to place another tower within the same section, affecting the same landowner. Please feel free to reach out to me with further questions. Thank you.
3/13/2023	[Inappropriate spam bot comment]
3/13/2023	To Whom It May Concern: I am writing regarding my concerns for the proposed high voltage power line which is being planned to connect energy resources in the Marshall\ Lyon County area to Becker, MN. As a landowner and family member to individuals in agriculture in this area, I ask that you make some considerations in the route that is selected. Specifically, please do not burden those who already have a high voltage line running through their neighborhoods. There are at least two lines on this proposed route which have been identified to be the highest voltage lines already in this targeted area. It does not seem right or fair to the growers along these lines to have to have a second high voltage line of equal kV or greater travel through their region. It is a proven fact that crop yields are diminished for the plants which grow directly under high voltage lines. Thus, if it isn't bad enough that these farmers' yields are already reduced by the existing high voltage line, why should they have to be impacted by a second line. A more viable alternative would be to run a high voltage line adjacent to a lesser voltage line, or, locate the line independently of other existing lines. Additionally, future farming operations will have to be reassessed and worked around these power lines. For instance, if consideration of raising milk cows may be in a future business plan, the decision to move forward with this will have to be tabled as a result of placing personal livelihood ahead of ensuring electricity generation for others. Although there is proven research made that living directly under a powerline or within 150 feet of the powerline places one at high risk for cancer development, it should be factored in for individuals in agriculture who have to drive their farm equipment underneath these highlines multiple times throughout the growing season. Not only would they have to deal with the high voltage from the existing high voltage line, but, now there is even double exposure and risk of needing to contend with this from a voltage line of the same kV. Not only is there the issue with having the electricity exposure, there is also the extra burden created in driving machinery through the fields. Next, it is concerning to me that if there was ever a natural disaster or major accident that caused the pole(s) and line(s) to break, it does not make sense to have two high voltage lines adjacent to each other. This is not only from a safety perspective for individuals living and driving in the area, but, for the potential electrical outage created by this. It seems that a more straightforward route would be to run this line along MN-23 in which it is connecting the two points without zigzagging across the countryside. In fact, Granite Falls, which has some energy sources already in place could be included in this route. This is beneficial in that an additional source of energy would be made available for connection to Becker. I strongly feel that the building of yet another major powerline through our great countryside and impacting farming operations could be avoided if more enforcement was made in having both residences and businesses install solar panels on their rooftops. Minnesota has ample sunlight throughout the year that there is no reason that the use of solar panels at the individual consumer level would make a need for even considering the time and resources into setting up another powerline. I hope that you will take these concerns into consideration as you strive to identify the route that would cause the least burden on individuals who have already had to be accepting of having to give up their land and take personal risk every time they are working out in their field for a major powerline. Please be sensible in factoring in other routes where there currently is not near the power passing through the area. Thank you for your consideration. Regards, Stephanie Christensen Batt
3/12/2023	To whom it may concern: I recognize the need of this power line and think that it is a good thing to move to renewable energy where possible. I wish that we would do a better job of getting individuals, businesses, churches and schools to put up solar and wind options so that power is generated by all of us and not just building giant arrays or wind farms. In regards to this line, as I look over the proposed routes and the routing of existing lines, I do have some concerns. I believe that we all share in this equally since it will benefit all of us. However, we shouldn't put the burden of these ultra high voltage lines in one area. People that have already got anything 200kv and above routing through their land and area should have this routed somewhere else. This will also spread the lines out some in case of damaging weather or acts of god. To put these bigger lines in the same area or near one another is courting disaster in case something would happen. I believe the residents who already have these lines in their area have been burdened enough whether they are farmers who have to spend extra time working around the pedestals or residents that have to deal with the noise, views and other issues.
3/12/2023	2 or 3 of these proposed routes are going to be extremely close to my house one route is literally going down my road. I have significant concerns about my property value decreasing. I would like to know which route is the cheapest and why are you are proposing to go right next to houses? I believe you should travel in areas that are not inhabited.
3/12/2023	Hello, there are three possible routes that cross or run along my property. Commenting on the two proposed routes that either go north on 647th Ave or crossing 647th Ave. These two proposed routes come very near three of my neighbors houses as well as our home, compared to other routes that cross open fields and away from houses. Our nearest neighbor has a child on the autism spectrum and is very concerned with any environmental changes that would further impact his son's health and wellbeing. My family is also concerned on the affect of these transmission lines on our farm as these appear to be crossing and going in our pasture. I am going to have to look into how it would impact our organic grass feed beef operation. I have CRP contracted acres along 647th Ave that would be impacted by this route as well. The route on my property that is along Hwy 55 would have less of an impact on my neighbors and our farm operation. Thank you for your consideration. Todd Lemke
3/12/2023	Hello--I just learned of this project and a potential powerline route goes through my property. I'd like an update on project status. Please contact me.

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3/11/2023	TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: We live at 16509 County Road 7 NW in Clearwater. It looks as though one of the proposed routes for the powerlines is through the north end of our property right next to a pond. My assumption with this is – if this would be the chosen route – that all trees would be cut down in that area to make way for the line. One of my concerns with this is how do you plan on handling possible erosion and wash outs from either the pond itself or heavy rain? This is somewhat of a steeper area, and I could see that being an issue with the trees being taken out of that area and the substantial amount of digging that would need to be done. Additionally, we are also concerned about the increase in noise from the interstate if powerlines should come through here. The trees on the property line we feel block a lot of the noise from the interstate. One of our other concerns with these proposed routes is the devaluation of property. While we can appreciate and are thankful that the proposed route is going on the property line to the north and not through the middle or back part of our property, my husband and I still feel that the property will be significantly devalued just due to location of the lines. We feel that if powerlines come through here if we ever want to sell this property in the future it will likely have to be sold at a loss as it is a known fact that most people do not want to live near high voltage powerlines. Yes, we realize there is a one-time payment that is made if the line goes through your property, but these payments don't look at future value. Just looking at the cross-country routes Xcel is taking with these lines will not only devalue our property but other home and landowner's properties in the area as well. High voltage powerlines, if possible, should be kept on main highways or interstates. It is the best place for these. We had bought this place about three years ago & had we known there was a possibility of powerlines coming through here we would have passed on buying this property. If the State of Minnesota wants to be carbon free by the year 2040 they need to come up with better ways of producing energy than stringing hundreds of miles of high voltage powerlines across Minnesota. These powerlines are not only devastating to homeowners and landowners but also are a major disturbance to wildlife and natural habitats as well. Cheryl & Chris Reeve
3/11/2023	Writing about the option of running the line along 152nd street in Fairhaven township. There are 2 properties on this area that would be within the 150 ft setbacks, 6703 at 135 ft and several buildings on 7196 about 88feet, less depending on which side of the road the lines would be placed. Additionally running this option directly to the west would run into the federal wildlife area along Hwy 15. RD Offutt owns about 800 acres in this area and sprays this area with aerial spray planes. I would recommend this be communicated if the lines are placed. The routes to the south appear to avoid the center pivot irrigation in the area. I believe the northerly CR8 to CR 7 to HWY 15 option would maximize the use of existing right of way and parallel existing developed corridors.
3/10/2023	I believe the routes should run along roads, property edges and land boundaries. Not cutting through farm fields. The power lines going through fields inhibits farmers ability to operate their farms efficiently and normally. Two locations of this happening are in Lyon County, Stanley Township, section 21. The proposed route would as it goes east/west would travel directly through a contiguous farm field. The other location is Lyon County, Clifton Township, section 4 as it goes north/south. Because of how the parcels show up on the tax records it appears to be a property boundary, however in both instances the parcels are owned by the same persons (me and my wife) and farmed as one contiguous piece.
3/9/2023	I went to the meeting on the flyer and nobody was there to see these proposed line routes. I want to talk to someone about this. thank you.
3/9/2023	We do not want power lines to be running through our property. We feel that the new power lines should follow existing infrastructure to minimize destruction of natural occurring resources. These resources would include our farmland and wooded areas that are utilized for hunting on our property. The destruction to our property as well as potential impacts to a water resource in order to erect power lines are purely unwarranted and unwanted. This is especially true when there are already existing infrastructures in place that can be utilized for the purpose of this project all the while, minimizing destruction to natural resources and precious farmland.
3/9/2023	Hello, As I noted yesterday when I met with Xcel Energy Staff, the City of Hutchinson would prefer that the proposed alignment not go through the Hutchinson Joint Planning Area, as that is a long term growth area for the City of Hutchinson. Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions at 320-234-4258. Thank you.
3/9/2023	You have a route that goes down a fence line that has a 400KV tower installed there. It is very tall and going to be a huge object to go over and there is a massive chicken barn next to that line. Following Highway 15 south of Kimball would be a straighter and less expensive and also would have less crossings over middle of farm fields that would have poles in the middle that would be hard to farm around with all the large equipment. I also worry about all the tile we have in the ground.
3/9/2023	My question is why do water fowl and environmentalists get different treatment? I notice that there were no lines of proposed route options running through their property. In other words, why are special privileges offered to special interest groups? I call foul. Or should I say fowl.
3/9/2023	Bringing a route to our community is not an isolated issue. With the route comes the "predator" wind energy companies. The company pushing in my area has been working the 102 year old's, the 90 year old's, the 88 year old's, the absentee land-owner's, the land-owners who are living in nursing homes. These wind energy companies are offering a long-term lease that very likely will turn into a perpetual lease. One where when granted the price will be FMV less fees paid prior to the grant of the perpetual easement. So that sounds like the lease is really a purchase from the beginning. It is a 30 plus page lease that is way too complicated for these elderly targets. There should be some protection or moratorium holding back new wind farm construction along the route options because of their business practices. I use the word predator because this describes what I observe.
3/8/2023	Our property is my parents homestead which is now in my brothers and sister's name which is Kalla Farm and Wildlife Management. The property address is 17073 County Road 44. We are strongly against the power lines coming across our property and have contacted an attorney to review our options. We realize that these power lines will be going somewhere. Our property is a unique one which consists of virgin oak woods that we will fight to see that it will not be destroyed and will remain protected. This land was granted to us from our parents so that it will remain that way and not be developed but protected for wildlife. We ask that XCEL Energy utilize the road infrastructures South of St. Augusta running down Co. Road 7 to Co. Road 142 connecting with HWY 15. This is the best plan to keep the lines running along infrastructure and not cutting across country. We ask XCEL to please consider this when making their decision. Should anyone need to contact me, I would be happy to discuss/help further. I can be contacted (Ken Kalla) at 320-237-7646 or 320-558-2773. Thank you.
3/8/2023	One of the proposed routes would put a pole within 600 feet of my house. The line would also run directly through Lake Fanny ground. Lake Fanny was drained many years ago but there is still a large area of established cattails and there is often standing water during the year. The drainage ditch receives much of the water from Willmar so 2 days after a significant rain fall the ditch will overflow into this area. I have pictures of this but don't see a way to add them to the comment. Looking farther north, the line would be within 4000 feet from a bald eagle nest.
3/6/2023	We object to the proposed route of the powerline that crosses our farm property that also includes a wetland. This power line would take away farmable land that has been farmed by our family over 70 years. This powerline on my property would negatively impact the wildlife, potential contamination of the wetland from the construction, impact the natural flow of water/irrigation of our farm field and long-lasting impacts to the future crop production. We would support placement of the powerline along roadway easements that are already established.
3/6/2023	I tried to get the link for your 6:00 p.m. Virtual Open house but it said there was nothing scheduled. Can you send me a link to the recording? We are in the proposed area and are interested in additional information. Thank you.
3/6/2023	We own five parcels that are within your area of projected impact. We are concerned about how this will affect working fields that people rely upon for their livelihood. Construction impact and farms being divided by lines creates hardship for our farmers. Please follow existing road corridors for your improvements. Your 3/6/23 VIRTUAL Open house was nonexistent.
3/6/2023	I have been trying to print off the pages for Safety Around POWER LINES AND it only seems to print only partial of page 2 regarding farm equipment and fueling machines. Could you please send me these pages by my email? Thank you

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3/6/2023	1. I think it was stated the poles would be 800-1,000 feet apart, how tall will the pole be? 2. On your maps, do your lines indicate which side of the road the line would be put? 3. We currently have a powerline going east and west across our land, would you go over it by how much? 4. We currently have a natural gas line in the road right of way along your proposed route, do you need to stay so many feet from the gas line? 5. Our land is currently used for agricultural use, how far out from the middle of the road would a proposed pole be placed. 6. The proposed route in Section 5 where I live has a Fish and Wildlife easement - you wouldn't put a pole on that land but putting it across the road would affect the wildlife that enters that area. 7. It looks like you have intentionally put a proposed powerline on the edge of our 160 acre farm in Section 5, Harvey, Section 4 Harvey and then going north into Manannah township section 33. 8. Title to these parcels are under ownership of Wanda Urdahl/Wanda Mausehund and Ralph Mausehund , (et al on parcel tract maps or if you have checked legal ownership), which is all under a life estate so our children would also have to sign off on any easement or eminent domain issue. My late husband tried to work with the first powerline that went across our land as he didn't want it on our land taking away our rights. My family remembers those issues all too well and will not sign off on another powerline going across our land.
3/6/2023	Curious as to why you wouldn't continue on County Hwy 2 all the way to 30th Ave NE and then go west on 30th Ave NE. Currently you the purposed route going south on Co. Hwy. 2 to the NE corner of my farm and then going west through my farm to 180th St NE and then going south to 30th Ave NE and then west on 30th Ave NE?
3/6/2023	Two recommendations - my two cents! 1st priority - Please avoid going through downtown Eden Valley. 2nd priority - Please take the higher route to avoid going near Stearns Scout Camp which is located in South Haven (east of Fair Haven) on Co. Rd 44 - on west shore of Clearwater Lake. Thank you!
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	The route that goes down 390th to 365th will go very near a bald eagle nest. The nest is on the Crow River and it has been established for several years. Might want to look into that. Hate to mess with the national bird, which is also sacred to the Native Americans.
3/16/2023	I was recently notified of the proposed power line route that would affect my property. I am disappointed that I heard of this proposal following open house meetings. I was not notified prior to those meetings as stated. The apparent goal of this project is to reduce carbon emissions. Our land is used to graze cattle from Thousand Hills Farm. Their regenerative approach to agriculture has increased topsoil and native plant growth in the area. As well as increased wildlife presence due to increased habitat and food sources. This has in turn increased the amount of carbon absorption. Running the power line through our property would prevent Thousand Hills from continuing to graze and would halt their environmental progress. I am concerned that this project would destroy the positive work that Thousand Hills has done for the environment in this area. This route would completely contradict the apparent environmental goal of this project.
3/16/2023	I was recently notified of the proposed power line route that would affect my property. I am disappointed that I heard of this proposal following open house meetings. I was not notified prior to those meetings as stated. The apparent goal of this project is to reduce carbon emissions. Our land is used to graze cattle from Thousand Hills Farm. Their regenerative approach to agriculture has increased topsoil and native plant growth in the area. As well as increased wildlife presence due to increased habitat and food sources. This has in turn increased the amount of carbon absorption. Running the power line through our property would prevent Thousand Hills from continuing to graze and would halt their environmental progress. I am concerned that this project would destroy the positive work that Thousand Hills has done for the environment in this area. This route would completely contradict the apparent environmental goal of this project.
3/16/2023	I am writing to voice my concerns on the powerlines proposed in my area. I live in the country for a good reason. I live amongst my parents 65 acres where I grew up. Now myself and my special needs daughter enjoy our peace and quiet in our own county home. We have animals that freely roam our property as well as we let the local farmer graze his cattle. My daughter knows her boundaries of our property and we do not want that to change with the proposed powerline. We have a few newer homes out here and the fact there is suggestion of placing powerlines in our neighborhood is disheartening to say the least. We have trumpeter swans that have lived in this area for decades as well as more frequent sightings of bald eagles in the past 5 years. Why interfere with our neighborhood and the enjoyment of wildlife. An easement of 150 feet could put you past the 100-year-old oak trees that line my yard. In the big picture powerlines will ultimately decreases the value of our property, potential health concerns also come to mind – my daughter is very sensitive and the potential harm of EMF is very concerning to me. I feel this would put additional concerns for my special needs daughter who enjoys her country living. Frequently you can find her driving her orange golf cart all around the property as well as her grandparent’s property. In summary I feel this purposed powerline will greatly affect her safety. I am not in favor of these powerlines coming through 155th at all. It is not safe for any of us. Please consider a different option.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.

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Date	Comment Text
3/17/2023	<p>I was notified of the proposed power line route that would affect the properties in my area 2 days ago (3/15/23). I am disappointed that I heard of this proposal after there were open house meetings in Becker. I was not notified prior to those meetings. I am a customer of Wright Hennepin Electric, NOT Xcel Energy, so if it was some type of small advertisement, it was probably tossed as I would have assumed it was junk mail. Issues of this magnitude should be mailed first class, or your representatives should be going door to door, and calls should be made to families in the areas.</p> <p>The apparent goal of the project is to reduce carbon emissions. The local land is used to graze cattle from Thousand Hills Farm across the street from me and the land adjacent to me. As my neighbor Jessie states and I agree; The Thousand Hills Farm's regenerative approach to agriculture has increased topsoil and native plant growth in the area. It has increased a wildlife presence due to increased habitat and food sources, which in turn increased the amount of carbon absorption in our area. Running the power line through the land that is owned by several of my neighbor's properties would prevent Thousand Hills from continuing to graze, and it would halt their environmental progress as well. I am VERY concerned that this project would destroy the positive work that Thousand Hills has done for the environment in this area. This route would completely contradict the apparent environmental goal of this project.</p> <p>I am also concerned about long term health effects from these power lines for each family and future generations. I am also a dog breeder, and I have already noticed changes over the years after the power lines went up along the I94 corridor. within the health and breeding of my dogs/puppies. Families with cancer seems to have increased, and many people wonder if it could be related to those lines. After reading several reports and studies, information states that even within 50 meters (164 feet) there is an increased cancer, stunted growth and increased triglyceride to name a few symptoms. Within .315 miles people have shown to have abnormal EEG's and a 1/2 mile to a mile even decreased calcium flow, altered reaction times, altered biorhythms, stunted growth and the list goes on. The Xcel route should be planned somewhere else, farthest from families and livestock that will be detrimentally effected from the EMF radiation these will cause. I believe the best option would be on the other side of the Mississippi river and along the Hwy 10 corridor areas, which would be farthest from the families and farming in my area.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me via email or phone, my number is 320-420-9989. Please update when ALL future meetings will be planned so that the families in our area can have an actual voice in this urgent matter.</p>
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/18/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/19/2023	<p>If the proposed transmission line goes through this corridor, it will go through on West side of my parcel of land located in Section 23 & 26 of Grafton Township, Sibley County, MN on 631st ave. I oppose this corridor as it goes through some of the best agricultural land in this state that God has made for producing food and fuel and not for urban or private expansion. If this route is chosen than the price of land is at \$50,000 per acre just as was sold to Midwest Machinery John Deere dealership for their new shop expansion 5 miles to the north of my farm. Their location is on Hwy 212, Renville County Preston Lake Township. This should not be treated as an agricultural land sale, rather as an urban land sale for development. We as rural residents should not be treated as 2nd class citizens when it comes to being compensated fairly for land used for transmission of power for the metro areas of this state. I would advise not to use this corridor for your choice because we will fight in this area to be compensated at the \$50,000 per acre level because of previous land sales to private entities for development other than being used for agricultural land purposes. Any questions about this matter please feel free to contact me at 320-583-3353 or burnsgro@gmail.com, thank you for your time. Curt Burns Stewart, MN 55385</p>
3/19/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	<p>Being Wright County is bearing the physical and visual scars of the CapX 2020 345KV HVTL, under the justification of "power line reliability" (CapX 2020 DEIS), it would only be equitable that Sherburne County bear the scars of the Xcel Energy's 345 KV HVTL Minnesota Energy Connection line. Sherburne County landowners will be benefiting from the lease of their property for Xcel's solar project and Xcel's customers will be benefiting from the power transported. Putting the HVTL in Wright County will be of no benefit to the rural Wright County landowners, as in the case of the CapX 2020 HVTL.</p> <p>To propose another 345 KV HVTL line, whose proposed right of way (ROW) is in the areaway of "our" home at 16517 Gowan Ave NW, 55320, is not right/fair (see attachment #1). There definitely should be some "rule" against bunching HVTL ROW's on one landowner's property and bunching in one county by one utility.</p>
3/20/2023	<p>Being Wright County is bearing the physical and visual scars of the CapX 2020 345KV HVTL, under the justification of "power line reliability" (CapX 2020 DEIS), it would only be equitable that Sherburne County bear the scars of the Xcel Energy's 345 KV HVTL Minnesota Energy Connection line. Sherburne County landowners will be benefiting from the lease of their property for Xcel's solar project and Xcel's customers will be benefiting from the power transported. Putting the HVTL in Wright County will be of no benefit to the rural Wright County landowners, as in the case of the CapX 2020 HVTL.</p> <p>To propose another 345 KV HVTL line, whose proposed right of way (ROW) is in the areaway of "our" home at 16517 Gowan Ave NW, 55320, is not right/fair (see attachment #1). There definitely should be some "rule" against bunching HVTL ROW's on one landowner's property and bunching in one county by one utility.</p>
3/20/2023	<p>Since the proposed route segment in Wright County Mn, at Wright County CSAH 75 and the Mississippi Backwaters of the "Fish Creek Basin" includes sharing ROW with the CapX 2020 345 KV HVTL, I feel this comment justifies referencing the OAH Docket #15-2500-20665-2 direct testimony [4.0], CapX 2020 Monti to St Cloud DEIS[1.0,2.0,3,0] & 2009 Route Permit Application [5.0, 6.0]. The HVTL transmission line has been described many times in OAH Docket & DEIS as being "double circuit" [1.0]. Although the main purpose for Monti to St Cloud segment is "reliability" [2.0], only 1 circuit was needed to accomplish that goal. Circuit #2 was stated [3.0] for future demands. However, Circuit #2's future use is quite limited by NERC requirements for reliability. In the Route Permit for the CapX project, NERC states in the referenced section 3.5 on page 3-27 [6.0] NERC Reliability Standards are ok when each circuit of a double circuit configured structure "serves a different function". Page 3-28 further defines the CapX engineering & design approach to the use of the 2nd circuit as such to insure reliability of circuit #1 in the case of the "Common Tower Outages" listed. Using the "2nd Circuit" as another "Proposed Route" for the MN Xcel Energy Connection from Enfield to Mn Trunk Highway 15, near St Cloud, may be the only future opportunity Xcel would get to utilize circuit #2 in a "different function" connection[5.0]. That investment has been sitting empty for over 10 years. Xcel Energy has the largest investment in rate payer cost and in CapX managerial investment, [4.0]. To not propose the use of the 2nd circuit as a possible route from Enfield to Mn Trunk Highway TH15, near St Cloud[5.0], voids fiduciary responsibility of Xcel's Directors & Officers. The rate payers, through the PUC and I, as an Xcel stockholder(s), "should expect better!" [See email for excerpts from DEIS]</p>
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.

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Date	Comment Text
3/20/2023	We would like to express our concerns on the proposed power line route through Harvey and Manannah Townships in Meeker County. We have an extensive tiling system. Several farms are pattern tiled at 25 to 40 feet apart which would make it very difficult to fix tile damaged by the insertion of power poles. We would rather see poles in the road right of way than in crop land.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	<p>The preliminary route affecting my property does not appear to meet many of your project guidelines. This route fails to follow existing linear corridors and property boundaries. It also crosses the right-of way of a county road near my driveway and is close to a sensitive waterfowl area. Hosting a 150-foot wide easement on my property will not mix well with prime agricultural land and will be detrimental to the deer, honey bees, and different bird species. Thus, it would be best to consider another route when evaluating and finalizing your plan. Specifically, the acquisition of a transmission line right-of-way easement on and near my property raises the following land use concerns: (See comment for list and description)</p> <p>As I review this preliminary route and examine other options, it is evident that the preference is to avoid densely populated residential neighborhoods and sensitive environmental areas. I am suggesting that this route be eliminated from consideration or adjusted to preserve the area in its “as is” condition based on similar factors. Instead of crossing my property as well as several agricultural/rural properties north of me and linking up with Meeker County Road 18 before connecting to the transmission line at State Highway 15, it may make more sense to extend the route from McLeod County Road 19 (Vista Road) east along 220th Street and connect with the transmission line at the intersection with State Highway 15. It would enable you to follow existing linear corridors and property boundaries, minimize the crossing of existing roads, and avoid causing harmful effects to residential homes, farms, and conservation lands. Then again, there may be other alternatives subject to this review that may provide a suitable route for the proposed transmission line.</p>
3/20/2023	This addendum is provided in response to the request for public comment at the Xcel Energy Open House held March 8, 2023, in Hutchinson, MN. This addendum to the standard Public Comment Form is a non-exhaustive list of property uses and issues to be considered in evaluating the prospective double circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line route between Becker, MN and Lyon County, MN. The double circuit 345-kilovolt transmission line structures to be erected as part of this proposed route are hereinafter referred to as “Structure” or “Structures.” (See comment for maps and further explanation)
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/21/2023	<p>To who it may concern or that might care to take a few minutes out of their day to listen and hopefully understand. I live on a peaceful and beautiful country road (150th street NW clearwater MN) That is perfect for raising a family on which were my intentions when I purchased this property. I have strong values in being stewards of the land such as regenerative agriculture growing and raising my own food along with passing these values on to the next generation in a healthy environment. I really admire the push for green energy but I do not condone pushing residents to accept irresponsible or unethical means such as forcing people to allow massive powerlines to run through their property and subjecting their families or neighbors to EMF. The property along my road has been farmed by the Maier Family sense 1959. Matt Maire runs a holistically grazed farming operation that not only helps feed our community with good quality beef, pork and eggs but other communities as well and it concerns me that one of the proposed routs would have a huge impact on this farm and the way of life that has been enjoyed by his family and so many others that rely on his nutritious meat to feed their families.</p> <p>I don’t want to come off as complaining because I believe if there is a problem that every problem has a viable solution and that is what we should look at. A wise old man that was my mentor in business and life taught me that every problem needs to be looked at from both sides and with facts instead of feelings. I have been putting some serious thought into the rising increase for electricity as we have seen black outs in our state during summer months so I understand that the power grids need more. This leads me to my solution I came up with to both problems at hand which could help with infrastructure problems and eliminate the need for clearing massive amounts of land to install high lines at a huge cost not only monetarily but to the environment as well. In order to put in a solar farm you are buying all the panels already but have huge costs in ground work and into concrete and steel structures to attach these panels to so instead of filling a field full of panels paying to install huge power lines, start a program to lease the roof tops of existing buildings, install solar panels supplying power into the grid as you go eliminating the need for this project all together hopefully making your company more money while doing not only what is ethically right but doing what is right for the environment and the families that this would impact. I hope that this is taken into consideration and if I spoke out of term please share facts with me so we can all work together to make a brighter future for the earth and generations to come.</p>
3/21/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3//21/2023	We ask the following: Avoid any impacts on water and waterways. Avoid any current residences with houses OR stay 1000 feet from the house. Avoid any planned residential area currently under way (Hutchinson Joint Planning Area). Avoid interference with farming operations. Avoid any current wetlands – public and private – Vista Road has both.
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/22/2023	To whom it concerns, My name is Tom Deutz of Marshall, MN and I was wondering if you received my comments from March 14, 2023, concerning the proposed route of lines for the MN Energy Connection? I would prefer that they would not be so close to my current building site because we have plans to expand our operation in the upcoming years where you have the lines proposed, we have 2 teenage sons who have an interest in farming and that is where we plan on building agricultural facilities. Thanks, Tom and Glenda Deutz. 2873 co.rd 9. Marshall, MN 56258. Phone number 507-829-8052
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/23/2023	My husband and I farm in Kandiyohi. County, Kandiyohi Township, sections 29, 30, and 32. The plat map numbers are T-119-N and R-34-W. According to one proposal, the route would be to go just west of the little town of Kandiyohi on Federal Highway 12, then south along County Road #8. At about 2.5 - 3 miles south of Hwy 12 is a five mile east / west tarred road, County Road 19 or 45Th Ave. We live and farm along that road. Not only are we farming along this busy road, but there are currently six non-farm businesses, and 13 residents / farms. This road is also a main thorough-fare that connects Lake Lillian to Willmar, along with a number of out of Willmar properties. There already is a smaller transmission line running along this road. While we were speaking with one of your representatives, we were told that it was possible the new line would go further into our field. I was looking to see other possible routes besides County Road 19. I seem to recall the option of continuing south along #8, and then veering off at a point south of County Rd #19. I can not speak for the farmers south of us, but I think there may be less people impacted by going further south than along #8. My husband and I certainly understand the need to continue with electrical transmission, but as farm equipment keeps getting bigger, it makes it progressively harder to farm in-between the poles. We would graciously request that you consider a less busy route than County Road 19 or 45Th Ave SE of Willmar.
2/25/2023	NA
2/24/2023	NA

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2/24/2023	NA
2/27/2023	I am more sensitive to EMFs than most people. Please keep the power lines on the NE side of the Mississippi River by Becker and away from my property by Clearwater as well. 16202 Hwy 24 S Clearwater.
2/28/2023	Stay on your own property!
3/1/2023	What percent of Minnesota power needs will be met with this project?
3/1/2023	NA
3/3/2023	The proposed route cuts right through the middle of the field meaning I'd have to farm around the poles. I have a proposal from 3 years ago to install an irrigator right on the proposed route. There is an existing irrigator that is in the next field that could interfere with its use. There is a DNR scenic river conservation easement that the power line would run through. I've attached some of the easements that I'm held bond by. (See comment for attached map)
3/3/2023	Interference with radios in the house and in tractors plus damaging farm imp and damaging crop around the poles.
3/3/2023	On this property there already exists 3 pole settings going diagonally NE to SW route. The land is patterned tilled and as a landholder, adding another line and pole settings on this property is totally unacceptable. It will devalue my land and make my land very unproductive. My nephew who rents the land will need to go around 5 pole settings to plant, spray, harvest the crop, also depending on the distance between new and old settings, there will probably be not enough distance for the machinery today to function properly. Also, my neighbor across the road, the pole setting and lines are very close to his family dwelling. (See comment for attached map)
3/3/2023	We have 3 spots that the end of the irrigator will go under the line should be okay if there is no pole there (see picture). We have one field where we would have to drive under it to farm not sure what it will do with the GPS. On the other field there is head lanols where the lines go should not be a problem. My renter said it should not be a problem with the GPS on the irrigators. With my dairy farm within a half mile it would be good to do a before and after stray voltage test. Overall I'm ok with the line going in. (See comment for map)
3/4/2023	Why don't you route lines along major highways. Keep them out of fields that are needed for crop production and not mess up the use of airplanes used on the fields.
3/4/2023	I oppose this line due to a couple reasons. There is an existing line close to the proposed line already, which is a lot of turning around making things even more inefficient. It would create more possible hazards for inexperienced operators to hit as well. Also, it seems we have less time every year to get field work done due to the weather, so we don't have a lot of time to go around things. I understand the need but please consider an alternate route. Forgot to mention compaction as well.
3/4/2023	New line west of Granite Falls, south to Lene up with solars from last of Cottonwood to last of Marshall by solar farm.
3/4/2023	Why can't solar farms and turbine be built close to the end user.
3/4/2023	I own land outline in black on this map. This proposed route for the new MN Energy Connection line runs directly through my land, from my property line and any roads. Farming would have to be done on all sides of the poles instead of one side if the line went near a road. It bisects two terraces I have in this field. Farming around terraces is hard enough without adding the inconvenience of going around these poles with large equipment. And naturally weed control will be an annual problem around the poles. I have done a significant amount of tiling on this field and I'm not crazy about disturbing those lines, not only where the pilings will be dug but the heavy equipment driving over the tile lines. I have a CAPX line going through my property that was built a few years ago. Even tho matting was put down, I still had damage to a tile line from the heavy trucks. I didn't notice it until several months later. Finally, perhaps the greatest problem is the decrease in the value of the land with the transmission line running right through the middle of the farm. I certainly am very much opposed to you using the proposed route for the new transmission line.
3/2/2023	New proposed route is less than 500' from my primary residence. Proposed route runs the length of our entire housing development which will drastically reduce our property value. Xcel isn't a provider of electricity to us, why should the powerlines go through our neighborhood? This route increases the risk of wildfires in our community and town. I moved to this neighborhood to get away from the city feel. I don't want huge powerlines disrupting that feel. (See comment for attached map)
3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble site. This route travels between 4 lakes and will hurt the local bird flyway between the lakes. Has been proven by the CapX line that runs in the area already. Will reduce farm productivity of land for at least 10 years due to the path created during building. Will make farmability difficult with 2 lines running side by side and will increase risk of running into poles. If route is chosen please replace existing line, put underground or 3 circuit new line.
3/6/2023	Concern on effect on our dairy heard.
3/6/2023	Would like to see the energy source for the Twin Cities be closer to them. Put solar up there so lines wouldn't be necessary.
3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble spots. Crosses waterways and could damage drainage infrastructure. Due to existing line this new one is put in field which is terrible for farmability of the farm. Construction will damage productivity of farms. Blocks bird flyway between lakes.
3/6/2023	Reasons I would ask you to pick a different route to avoid going through the middle of my farm are as follows. 1. Proposed line runs across field that we've pattern tilled and just finished last fall and would not want to get that ruined! I have an investment of \$129,000 worth of tile in that field. 2. With lines running all the way across my farm every pound would be affecting the GPS part of farming tillage, planting harvesting, spraying!! 3. My fertilizer plan includes hose dragging hog manure from the north and with poles across field this would not work anymore plus they use GPS for application. 4. I have a dairy set up that would be hard to sell with big power lines that close!! 5. Plus inconvenience of planting, spraying, tillage, and harvesting around pole in the middle of my farm. Please follow existing infrastructure!! There are several farmers with these problems on this portion of line!! (See comment for attached map)
3/8/2023	I rent and operate the land. I am concerned with the inconvenience of farming around the poles and interference with my satellite signal used for farming and aerial spraying, stray current. It is very miserable to farm around poles running diagonally through the field, along an edge is better.
3/8/2023	Concerns about the wildlife mainly with birds of flight. Over the years we have put in 2 duck ponds, planted pines for the pheasants and numerous food plots. Also any damage to any trees would destroy the wood duck habitat and especially to the many bats that live and fly in our trees.
3/6/2023	Follow a road/existing infrastructure/no road access to this part of the line. This is along drainage ditch construction will impact tile and could damage ditch. Will interfere with farmability and productivity of land. Will affect local birds by blocking flyway between lakes. Refer to map for trouble spots.
3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble area. Will damage local flyway and kill a lot of birds moving between lakes. (See it with the CapX line just north of this route). Will damage productivity and farmability of land I farm.
3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble site. Concerned about damage to crop land and productivity. Do not want to see them on a daily (in my backyard). Concerned with how you will get to back of property.
3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble site. This route travels between 4 lakes and will hurt the local bird flyway between the lakes. Has been proven by the CapX line that already impacts the flyway. Will hurt farmability of the land with 2 powerlines running close to each other. Construction will hurt farm productivity.

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3/6/2023	Refer to map for trouble area. Dislike damage to productivity and farmability of the land I farm. Dislike that there is no road access to this route and will have to cross farm to get there. Blocks fly way between 2 lakes will kill local birds (seen with the local CapX line running south of town). Runs along drainage ditch which will damage tile outlets.
3/6/2023	This proposed route would leave a narrow strip of farmland on the north side of this property and the adjacent landowner north of my land. This would make farming that strip very inconvenient. Also, the whole line in that area would detract from the cemetery serenity. See attached aerial photo.
3/6/2023	We have a pond and wildlife area, across the road from our house, that we have established over the years. I am very concerned about the ducks, pheasants, geese, and bats, and the impact it will have on them.
3/6/2023	Refer to map about trouble area. The path used to build powerline will greatly reduce this farm's productivity for at least 10 years. Was/is a planned building site for livestock in near future but will be unusable if powerline are built. If a pole is put in field it will greatly reduce farmability with larger equipment. If this route is picked at least follow/replace the existing line.
3/6/2023	Do not cut any of my trees down as they produce shelter for wood ducks and bats.
3/6/2023	My concern as it relates to me, I own farm land by a proposed route. We have numerous tile lines near and crossing under route. Williams Bros Pipeline also runs thru proposed route, along with a natural gas line a 1/2 mile west. Interference with usage of farm machinery has a large impact on value of farm land, for rent and resale concerns. Damage to crops and land structure, when construction and upkeep for myself and my family in the future.
3/6/2023	Vesta township, Sec 15, WNW, there is a cemetery here and the path to avoid it affects many farm operation's cropland acres for a couple miles. It is our opinion that it be best to avoid this route. (See comment for attached map)
3/25/2023	I am a resident whose property is directly in one of the proposed paths of the power line along Grover Ave NW in Wright County and very near other proposed paths. I am deeply concerned by this proposed path. There are numerous environmental reasons to be concerned about this path including numerous waterways (ponds, wetland, lake, creek) that would be destroyed. I would invite organizers to come and take a firsthand look at this land to see the nature and wildlife they would directly be destroying. Additionally, this path would affect numerous residences along with agricultural residences. The route running along Co. Rd 8 in Sherburne County would be less of an impact to current residences. I am additionally concerned by the increased risk of cancer due to the closeness of these power lines to my home. Our area is out of the city of Clearwater's limits, but there are many homes with young children that would be affected. Please reconsider the route through Grover Ave, parallel to Grover Ave, and on the northside of Fish Lake. These routes would be detrimental to numerous humans, wildlife, and nature.
3/25/2023	Xcel Energy's proposed power line route through Clearwater Township in Wright County along Grover Ave NW to 160th St, Parallel to Grover Ave through Thousand Hills farm, or on the north side of Fish Lake are terrible routes that will negatively impact many people and wildlife. The proposed route on Grover Ave NW would go directly through our property. Property that is grazed by Thousand Hills Cattle. Matt Meier at Thousand Hills has worked tirelessly to build a business that is regenerative and beneficial for the environment. Many residents in the area of the proposed path support this farm by leasing land for grazing. We would be sickened to see a powerline run through and destroy what we have collectively worked to build and restore. As a neighborhood we value the environment and care for the land. There are several residences in the proposed path that have their own livestock and fields that would be shattered by the routes through Clearwater Township. These routes would destroy a way of life for many that are significant supporters of the environment. Please seriously consider an alternative route.
3/26/2023	I am writing as a Clearwater Township homeowner regarding the proposed MN Energy Connection Route. I am urging you to please use the Northern route that cuts south along County Road 8 to Becker and please, please, please avoid Clearwater Township. As a resident and mother of 2 young children, the line through Clearwater Township would pose a big problem for my family including increased cancer risks, loss of habitat for the animals we adore, and diminished property values. Please take the more preferable Northern Route as it is far less populated, there is less environmental habitat, and there are already transmission lines situated there.
3/6/2023	(See comment for full pdf and maps) Concern about safety and efficiency, farmland use and reduced property value, and wildlife concerns.
3/7/2023	Co Rd 5 or State Hwy 71 - I think would be a better route to construct your line - "Reason" doesn't affect as many personal properties, and could be serviced off the main road with proper access the line once again to avoid one side of personal property. (See comment for attached map)
3/7/2023	The field in this area is patterned tiled the whole length of the field, north and south and east and west. Highlighted area on map shows this (Highlighted in yellow). There is also a transmission power line tower located in that area where you propose to bring your lines. Area circled in red ink indicates the location of that power line. (See comment for attached map)
3/7/2023	We would like to avoid towers going diagonal through fields with large farm equipment it becomes difficult to maneuver to create crop rows that are straight and easy to harvest. Rows that are not straight with the field creates weed patches and land that can't be farmed. (Highlighted in green). There is also a terrace that we have had installed and maintained for soil erosion in that sandy soil. We would prefer left undisturbed. The terrace is highlighted in orange. (See comment for attached map)
3/7/2023	I hear the GPS does not work close to the lines. (See comment for attached map)
3/7/2023	I am writing to express my serious concerns about the proposed route that would run right through the middle of our field location. Harvey Twp Section 4 Meeker County/Manannah Twp Section 33 Meeker County. Intersection of 340th St and 590th Ave headed east across our field. Farm equipment is large and poles in the middle of a field are difficult to farm around and severely affects the efficiency of farm operations. We have an existing transmission line in other fields and when we farm under it the line often interrupts our GPS signals and we lose our guidance lines or they become seriously distorted. In the future we would potentially put irrigation in this field the transmission line would eliminate our ability to do this. All of these detrimental effects of the transmission line crossing through the middle of our field would have substantial financial impacts to our farm operations. Following road rights-of-way on the side where current local utility poles exist would be a much better option.
3/7/2023	We already have 2 towers from a transmission line on our property. Don't want anymore.
3/7/2023	We already have a powerline near a residence and in a farm field, so we know what a problem it can be with larger farm equipment and GPS, farming around the tower is a real problem. Avoiding the disruption of important farmland should be a primary concern when deciding upon a powerline path.
3/7/2023	Our first wish would be "somewhere else." The major concern is interference with ag field work. We already have a "major" powerline crossing our farm. This interferes with GPS signals. Towers in mid-field cause problems with planting, spraying, and harvesting crops. Along road way would help.
3/7/2023	My wife Jan and I are very concerned about the two potential routes of the new transmission line for the Marshall area to Becker MN. On our property we presently have two transmission lines already. We are told that if these properties are selected the new lines would be built adjacent to the present lines. One property is East of Marshall, Clifton Township, between 260 and 270th Street on 310 Avenue. The second property is in Section 9, Clifton Township, also between 260 and 270 Street. This property does not follow a property line but instead cuts directly across our farm. Our primary concern is having double lines built on the property side by side and this will have a negative impact on the cash rent that we will receive on our farm land. Today's modern equipment is bigger and bigger and operators do not enjoy maneuvering around obstacles. Our tenant has already called this to our attention and made it clear that it is going to affect the attractiveness of our land. In summary it will affect our cash rent and no doubt when the farmland is sold double poles across our land will decrease the value. Transmission lines are not new to us because these existing lines have been there most of our life. Our concern is double lines side by side on our property!

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3/8/2023	It appears the proposed lines from SW to the west metro St. Cloud areas are intended to get power from the SW MN wind/solar generation to the grid near the Montecello plant. By the time the line is complete how much of the current generation equipment will be obsolete? The best use for much of the land in the area of the proposed lines is production agriculture. It seems absurd to negatively impact the efficient production of food to get power to the people that need the food. Find areas of less value to the food production cycle to generate and transmit power.
3/8/2023	(See comment for full pdf and maps) Concern about property values, biological impacts, and safety and efficiency.
3/8/2023	GPS on tractors, combines don't work around lines. (See comment for attached map)
3/8/2023	Problem: line running in the fields between 105th Ave SW and 120th Ave SW. Lines should run along one of these roads. Problem: Lines running between 195th Ave SE and 210 Ave SE runs over land we are farming. Lines should run along one of the roads instead.
3/9/2023	I would like to express my concern about the proposed route of the powerlines that would go east and west, parallel to State Highway 19. I strongly disagree with this route because it will cut through the middle of the sections which I farm, also it will go right in front of my home that I built one year ago. I was going to build a new home one half mile north of my other building site with the harvester silos but I decided to move it south of that location because it's not healthy to live that close to the power lines you have running along 290th St. This proposed route will also affect my sons who live right beside your proposed route as well at 2833 Lyon Redwood Rd and 2855 CR 11. Please reconsider your proposed route, we do not support it. Please see map for general location.
3/9/2023	(See comment for attached map)
3/9/2023	Use county or state highways, as they are better maintained than township roads. Try and use marginal farm land, rather than prime agricultural land that's needed for production.
3/9/2023	I would not like to see that across my front yard or lose any of our trees.
3/9/2023	(Duplicate of emailed comment on 3/12/2023)
3/10/2023	We will have no benefit from this line. We already have a line going kitty corner across our land. We do not want another. It devalues our land, lowers the rent because the farmers have larger machinery and it's already difficult to farm around these poles. We don't want or need another set of poles.
3/10/2023	We are farmers and landowners in Rhiderland Township Chippewa county 15, 21, 22, 23. We live and run our farm on Sec 22 we already farm around a set of H poles between Sec 15, 21. I have these farms sprayed by airplane every other year. We and many other farmers on this diagonal line will not be able to use airplane if 2 sets of poles are on our land. Pilot won't do it. We also own NW 1/4 of 22 and 23 and would not like it just south of farm. I believe a different route would be better and don't want to have to farm around more poles. We have enough of them already. (See comment for attached map)
3/10/2023	If you reference the map enclosed you will notice that the proposed project cuts through our front yard, inappropriately close to our house.
3/11/2023	We don't want extra power poles out any further in our fields for the new proposed second line on: NE 1/4 Section 13, Hazel Run Township, Yellow Medicine County. (See comment for attached map)
3/10/2023	My experience with Xcel Energy is that they are extremely poor neighbors. Communication is substandard - easement boarders are routinely ignored - third party contractors are very inconsiderate of care to adjacent farmland. Damage is ignored or contested especially when damage is significant with continuing losses to landowner - I will not be signing future easement agreements with Xcel. Please provide an upfront "opt out" option early in this project.
3/10/2023	When studying and looking at the maps there are many proposed power lines, running directly through farmers land. I realize looking at a piece of land and running power poles through it would not cause concern for non-farmers but this is a major obstacle and concern for farmers. Please keep in mind when you are looking at farmland on your route from Lyon County, MN to Becker, MN. This may look like open space, but you are actually cutting through farmer's business, think of it as their "business building". You can imagine having powerlines cutting into your "business building" will affect your overall production, efficiency, and safety. Also I am concerned about the wildlife that lives on and nearby Lake Slipper and School Grove Lakes. The flocks of pelicans, bald eagles, and other ducks that by adding a power-line would interfere with their flying patterns in these lakes and DNR area. We need to be watchful and ensure wildlife areas are maintained. Can you find a route that runs more in road ditches and along highways or railroad for more friendly route for both wildlife and farmers? In you presentation it was stated that extra care would be taken around lakes and rivers plans to go near them. It is important to maintain our environment for wildlife and our farming community equality.
3/13/2023	I put marks on the map where the line will affect fields where I farm. We use GPS on all of our equipment and can't have GPS cutting out.
3/13/2023	My brothers and sister own the property at 17073 Co. Rd 44 South Haven where parents Don and Marlene Kalla still reside. We would ask Xcel to utilize current infrastructure of roads instead of plowing cross country through virgin-historic woods and farmlands. I have attached photos of two historic red oak trees that are among some of the oldest in the state. These are estimated to be around 300 years old and can't be replaced or compensated for. There are many trees like this in our area that would be destroyed by two of the current powerline routes through our area. All of our family and neighbors are asking that you strongly use the powerline route that follows Co. Rd. 8 in Sherburne Co. and crosses the Mississippi River south of St. Augusta. This line then connects with Co. Rd. 7 to County Rd 142 then to Hwy 15. This would be the best route to protect natural resources and follow existing infrastructure. I have taken the role of representing the neighborhood area and would be willing to work with Xcel on this issue.
3/13/2023	I own the land highlighted on the map provided with this form. It has an old building site on it I was in the process of selling this building site to an individual who was planning to build a new residence on it since the information that this property could potentially be crossed by a major powerline, the sale of this building site has been put on hold. If this land is crossed with this transmission line, what restrictions would the landowner have when building on it? As you can see, even the preliminary planning has already effected the sale and possibly the value of this land.
3/13/2023	We live on Cty Rd 44. One of the routes you are looking at goes off Cty Rd 44 on to our farm field. It runs from one end of our farm to the other end going west. We have always liked the wild life on our farm - turkeys - pheasants - ducks and deer. We have a small field of CRP land - which would be in this area - where we planted seeds to improve bees and butterflies. The rest of the farm is planted in corn and soybeans. Our son who just retired his job is starting to farm it. The way this route zig zags around this neighborhood is terrible - their are many houses in this area and you want to zig zag around them for this. I think there is a better route than the one coming down 146 to Cty Rd 44 and turning south.
3/13/2023	It appears that you are placing a higher value on USFWS land for the proposed powerline. As a farmer, this concerns me. This line will decrease my property values. It will increase the difficulty in running my farm, crops and pastures. This line might affect my water drainage. These "Avoidance Areas" do not pay property taxes, thus do not support local roads, bridges, schools, fire, rescue or county projects. So, why would we avoid these areas? What about my cattle, sheep, crops, and family? I am not a fan nor supporter of this proposed line. I will be seeking legal counsel.
3/10/2023	Please see attached printed comments. Please confirm via email that you have received this letter at hectormatthys@hotmail.com.
3/14/2023	I am a homeowner. It will devalue our properties! Nothing will make it okay! Nothing will make this acceptable for our health! We do not want it near our town, residences, and families!! People will move away - it is unhealthy and frightening! Stop this project now! It is infringing on our rights!!
3/14/2023	NA

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3/14/2023	This farm has many natural obstacles and I (and my landlord James DuBois) would like to have the poles erected on the border of this farm as shown on the map. Placing the poles in the field would devalue the farm significantly. (See comment for attached map)
3/14/2023	We already have a transmission line feet from our sons residence circled on the map. We don't need anymore transmission lines close to their home. I own the farm and I don't need any more lines close to my grandchildren!!! We already hear them snapping at times. Find another route.
3/14/2023	(Duplicate of community engagement form)
3/13/2023	First thing I don't think this line is necessary. Keep the Becker plant running on natural gas and doesn't harm the environment. Secondly, if it wasn't for the new green deal that Walz is proposing we wouldn't have all these problems, electric cars, will never work in this climate. So don't bring your transmission line anywhere near close to my farm so we have to farm around them and I don't want them next to my residence.
3/13/2023	I own the southeast quarter of section 9 underwood township Redwood county except blg. Site. The south fence line of the property is one of the routes for the proposed 345kV line. Having had the evil 345kV CapX 2020 construction damages I will certainly fight this proposed line on my property. (See comment for attached map)
3/13/2023	I am writing about section 35 and section 36 of Underwood township Redwood county. Having had the evil CapX 2020 line go through about 3 miles of our farming operation it changed my life. Now this proposed high voltage 345kV line will go through 2 miles of our operation. Certainly some of your unpaid damages in CapX 2020 will be revived. The proposed high voltage line is to cross the existing CapX 2020 line in my field. I own and farm 3 sides of the proposed cross point. I do not want the extra poles and things of the crossing in my field. I do not want my field to be on every terrorist map to wipe out power to the metro area. I would insist on permanent monitoring of voltage to the farm field in the area as with all the bad experience I have had with CapX 2020 voltage. No one has said for sure if the new line is going over or under the existing CapX2020 line on my property. (See comment for attached map).
3/14/2023	Don't put poles thru the middle of fields if you have to. Farmers should get a yearly payment. We should get the payment because of the efficiency lost and the overlapping of our inputs. When following existing lines combine the lines to one set of structures. It is very time consuming to farm between poles. Structures should be placed on state owned land whenever possible to avoid the destruction of productive acres. The state wants this they should have no problem supplying land where they can.
3/14/2023	See attached addendum. Follow existing infrastructure, avoid proximity to residences, avoid historic and cultural sites, avoid interference with farm operations, avoid impacts to natural resources. (See comment for attached map)
3/14/2023	The whole idea can certainly be done. However it may take more time than predicted but the collateral damage to all agriculture endeavors and rural MN is not acceptable. It may keep the Twin Cities in electricity, but it won't help the power, heating, and travel in greater MN!
3/14/2023	I have pasture land in sections 21 and 22, Manannah Twp, Meeker Co. A proposed line is going through this pasture for cow-calf operation and I don't want to deal with the stray voltage that comes with these power lines. Also there are nice mature oak trees and I hate to see them go.
3/15/2023	We are strongly against the proposed route coming within 100 feet of our home due to: Safety reasons - High voltage frequency adverse health effects (short and long term) within such a close proximity of our home. Decrease in property value - Has been proven within market to decrease 10-30%! Please reconsider the proposed route to avoid such a close proximity to our home.
3/15/2023	I live in the country for a reason. I enjoy the wildlife that I am surrounded by. It is proven fact that power lines disrupt the movement of wildlife. As I write this there are 4 eagles in the farm field across the road from my house. There are dozens of swans and there were several deer in that same field last night. I am also surrounded by dairy farms. I support my neighbors and know the dairy farmers. I support my neighbors and know the drastic effects power lines can have on these operations. I could go on forever but these are just a couple reasons why I am against this route...
3/15/2023	Do no want on my property - resale will go down.
3/15/2023	As a two time cancer survivor and the documented health risks living near and having exposure to power lines, I am 100% against the route along 597th Ave. Every time I leave my home I will be driving under and along the full length of the line along 597th Ave. I built in the country for a reason I wanted a peaceful place to enjoy the abundance of wildlife that I have on my land. It is a documented proven fact that powerlines cause ecosystem fragmentation and disrupts the movement of wildlife. In most situations, high-voltage power lines can lower your homes value by 10-30%. I have worked hard to make my home inviting and to progressively increase its value. For all these reasons and more we do not want this powerline anywhere near our home.
3/15/2023	Our priority in raising our five children is keeping them safe and healthy. This goes against all our effects in providing this for them. We are not in agreement with the plan of this power line running this close to our property. (647th Ave in northern Meeker County and Meeker/Sterns St southern Sterns County between Eden Valley and Watkins. Secondly what does this do to our cattle and other animals. It cannot be good for them either. Thirdly this would severely hurt our property value down the road someday when we look to see people don't want to live next to big power lines. There are certainly other options and having this line so close to homesteads is not acceptable.
3/15/2023	I am deeply concerned about proposed route which will go through the middle of prime farmland thus affecting production. We need to be more vigilant in protecting productive land. Additionally, farmers GPS will be affected, will disrupt existing tile and of course affect value of said land. Please consider the above in your decision.
3/26/2023	I am asking you to avoid routing the proposed line south of Fish lake. This route goes through multiple fields where my neighbors graze their cattle for their organic livestock operation. After that it jags north along Grunwald Avenue across the street from my residence. Also a number of my neighbors live right along Grunwald putting the new line near their homes. I believe a better route would be either of the routes to the north of Fish lake where the lines would be going through larger agricultural pieces of land.
3/27/2023	We live at 7289 160th St NW in Clearwater MN. After hearing about the plans of new power lines running directly across the road from us, I have a few things to comment on. We purchased this home in June of 2022. Had we known this, we probably would have looked elsewhere. This would diminish our property value despite what the "experts" might say, not to mention the health risk from this. We bought this home for peace and serenity away from the metro area with plans to retire here. I notice that this proposal has 3 possible routes on it. Route 3 makes the most sense, away from more residential areas! There is an abundant amount of wildlife around here, and they also should not have to suffer from another "green" energy plan. Thank you for your consideration on this, and feel very strongly about this NOT coming down our road!!! Hopefully common sense will prevail on this issue. Thank you
3/15/2023	There is a proposed line that would go past 5352 115th Ave Wood Lake MN, 56297. It would go past right next to a residence on the west side where there are terraces and a waterway in the same area. Adding obstructions here would create interference of farm operation along with safety around terraces as they are very steep and high with limited space. This line also cuts through the middle of many other fields which interferes with farm operations not only for the farmer but for coops aerial application. It looks like it's following some property lines as some fields go across property lines it puts obstructions in a field. Property lines change with the buying and selling of land which can put obstructions in the middle of a field in the future. The construction process creates deep compaction that will cut crop yields for many years if not decades. Putting lines in fields interferes with farm operations and is a safety concern. (See comment for attached map)

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3/15/2023	I farm with my family in Lyon County, Lucas Township, Section 15. The proposed powerline is to erect a new line along the existing line of 69 kV. My concerns are: The proposed line would be 300 feet further into my field. There are 6 wooden poles there already thru the middle of my field, and you can understand that it is not easy to farm around poles as the equipment is getting larger and more expensive to repair broken spray booms, nozzles, field cultivators, combine heads, etc. We give great care to not damage the poles, yet we need to plant/control weeds/harvest. So the extra time required is a factor. This field has a slough in the NE corner that is often a Fly Away area for migrating ducks, geese, pelicans, and other birds to nearby sloughs and lakes. There have been dead birds found by the existing 345 kV 0962 line on the South end. This NE part of my field is also declared as a wetland. I join with my neighbors - farmers to continue to preserve the wildlife that we have, and would not want to see more birds fall because of another line. Another concern for my field, since there are already 2 power lines going thru it, and especially if 2 lines are erected close together - that will not look positive for tillable acres and future land value. (See comment for attached map)
3/15/2023	We have a new house and if the line comes past us the value of our house would be zero dollars. We babysit the grandkids sometimes and I wouldn't want them outside. Those lines are noisy and affect our radio and tv.
3/15/2023	Our comments on proposed routes through Lyon County, Lucas Township, Sections 12, 14, 16, 24, 25, and 26. We have and still actively farm land in these sections since 1966, 56 years. Since our start in farming until present all lands has been farmed with family, we are a true 3 generation working family farm. Two of the proposed routes will have a negative impact on farm safety and crop production for us and our family members. Huge powerlines through fields are unacceptable and permanent. Powerlines should be placed in or on edge of existing public roadways to avoid devaluing private property, not farm fields. Your proposal indicates avoidance areas owned by MNDNR. We submit to you the fact that we just completed purchase in January 2023 of the wetland and grasslands between School Grove and Lady Slipper lakes. This is a valuable resource for many species of wildlife including nesting bald eagle. Private ownership of valuable wildlife areas should have the same avoidance priority as the state of MNDNR.
3/16/2023	<p>I have attached the map that highlights our family farms in yellow. The blue highlight shows the path of Capx2020 high power transmission line installed on the south edge of our farms in 2012. The second attached map is a yield map from the 2022 crop year. The green in the map represents good yields and the other colors are poor yields. The 2022 crop was the ninth harvested since the Capx2020 line was installed and shows the struggle we continue to have with productivity problems due to compaction from install!! We have deep tilled to a depth of 17" two times, and patterned tile this easement area and still experience huge losses in this area!! You can understand why we would be against another line installed as close as one-half mile to Capx2020, and continuing diagonally northeast across a large section of our farm. The reduced production from projects like these has a direct impact on our bottom line every year as well as driving down our proven yield for crop insurance that then lowers our guarantee and exposes us to greater financial risk.</p> <p>We currently farm around six Capx2020 power lines. When swerving to spray around these lines rates vary from 10 times to one tenth as the sprayer navigates around the pole. This makes weed control difficult on the reduced rate areas, and on the 10 times over application areas carryover becomes a problem!</p> <p>Another huge issue with another line like this on our farms is aerial applications of fungicides and insecticides. Pilots are very hesitant to fly on chemicals with one line crossing a farm and will refuse with another line crossing our farm! Aerial applications are crucial as tar spot and other fungal diseases become more prevalent as well as soybean aphids, and these are late season issues and with crop size and large crop tangles, ground applications become impossible!</p> <p>We also have phone lines, power lines, rural water etc. buried on our property and that we have sacrificed enough for these public good projects and that the pain should be shared by others! We respectfully ask that you consider a different route for this project.</p>
3/18/2023	NA
3/18/2023	On enclosed map the proposed route would be almost directly on top of a 2 foot drainage pipe, that drains a wetland by the gun shooting range. The pipe has multiple tile lines also that drain into. The route would have to change or the aft drainage pipe moved. I have diagramed the route of the pipe on a map with a black marker. Section 9 and 10 Mannanah Twp Meeker County.
3/18/2023	I am strongly against the proposed route coming in my area! Land Value - I have a 138 acre farm which I rent and looking at a decrease in land value, decrease in crop production. Safety/Health - Working in close proximity under these high voltage frequency will cause detrimental health issues! Please reconsider the proposed route to avoid our farm! (See comment for attached map)
3/18/2023	Decrease in property values. Interfere with reception of any/all broadcast transmissions. Wi-fi interference. Long-term changes to habitat. Can interfere with the ability of livestock and other animals to respond normally to the Earth's magnetic field. High voltage power lines mess with animal magnetism.
3/17/2023	Not in favor of 3 main powerlines so close to my residence. Having powerlines 300 ft between will create havoc for farm operations and wide custom application sprayers and will have problems with weed control in them areas. Huge transmission line going directly into wildlife area may impact wildlife habitat. Please take these items into consideration before making a final decision.
3/17/2023	(See pdf for full comment). We already have a powerline on our land... Concern about static and noise from the line in proximity to residence... Would like farmland to be avoided.
3/17/2023	Impacts; irrigation to farm fields. Infrastructure; center pivot irrigator; Interference; with farm operation. Sections 21 and 22-Twp 121 North -Range 31 West, Meeker County, MN. NE1/4, Sec 21 and Part of NW1/4 Sec 22 (See comment for attached maps)
3/17/2023	This would make a large impact on the farming operation and the price paid per acre. Huge negative impact. This would also take away value from the property when and if it would get sold. If installed on my property it would be too close to my sisters residence. Who would want to live by or look at this everyday.
3/17/2023	I think the 150 ft easement is too wide. Keep the towers on road right of ways. Ag land is too valuable for towers. I also think and hope the PUC considers using corridors of existing power lines to follow.
3/17/2023	I would like you to follow road right of way that are at least 120 r/w so lines are not over road.
3/16/2023	I already have a natural gas line, fiber optics cable, water line, local coop line running along the side of my property!! Please, please reconsider a different direction. This layout would include my farm on all sides! Including my 80 on the east side! See yellow highlight. Please reconsider the proposed plan. (See comment for attached maps)
3/20/2023	(Duplicate of emailed comment on 3/20/2023)

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3/20/2023	It is my understanding from the Redwood Falls March 1 open house that the new transmission line is proposed to run the entire length of my 120 acre farm where no transmission lines currently exist. This will void the ability to produce crops on several acres rendering that property valueless. I lease the land for food production and this substantial decrease in acreage not only would permanently diminish my income materially affecting me, it also limits the goal of renters willing to rent land with transmission lines running its length. It also would substantially decrease the value of the entire parcel were I ever to be offered for sale as several acres would be useless. Individual farmers should not suffer substantial financial loss to the benefit of a large powerful company. Existing transmission lines to follow roads and infrastructure with easements and agreements already in place. Destroying additional precious farm land which in our case has been cared for by our family since the original deed in the 1800s. I am deeply disturbed. I urge you to consider options that do not take away farmer's land.
3/20/2023	Use the Hwy 23 corridor. I have extensive pattern tile in my parcel, and use aerial application and drone crop monitoring, this route cuts through the middle of sections poor access for maintenance, and is next to two large feedlot operation. (See comment for attached map)
3/20/2023	Use Hwy 23 for route primary, I was told towns were to be avoided, I suggest go through the towns on Hwy 23, they are some of the customers that use the energy. My parcel we use aerial spray planes for application every year, I use drone for crop monitoring. I also have extensive pattern tile on my parcel. (See comment for attached map)
3/20/2023	Use Hwy 23 corridor. I am the owner of outlined parcel and operate the cropland portion as one unit. I am in the process of building a new residence on this parcel. This parcel has tile and cuts through the section. I use aerial application annually, as well as drones for crop scouting. I recommend using Hwy 23 corridor as the route, shortest distance.
3/20/2023	My property is approximately 45 ft from my neighbors live where you people want to put power overhead that's a little out of hand. I'm saying from my north side of my house its that close do I want them big lines over head that close to my house hell no. Now ask yourself if you lived here and I want to put them powerlines that close to your house are you ok with that if so give me your address and we will do that to you if its okay think about more than just yourself I don't want that buzzing in my window day in and day out come on now. (See comment for attached map)
3/20/2023	NA
3/20/2023	NA
3/20/2023	NA
3/20/2023	NA
3/20/2023	Concerned about stray voltage because we have a feedlot and pipeline is very close. Having to farm around poles and losing cropland plus all the compaction to the land. Enclosed find map and why we have a major concern.
3/20/2023	The obvious choice would be to follow existing infrastructure. You goal of clean energy is not really true if you are planning on eradicating new property.
3/20/2023	Please don't cross in middle of sections of A9 land (reference south of MN). Where possible position route on land that is signed up for wind and solar monuments. Those people may support the project more than people who are not signed up.
3/21/2023	Our township has a cemetery, airport section 26 and Irish baseball diamond in the country on Dayton Avenue. Stay away from home.
3/21/2023	NA
3/21/2023	Do not put this line on our driveway. We have power now and don't need you taking away my farm land for your environmental hazards.
3/21/2023	My farm located in Renville County, Boon Lake Township, Section 31 has an existing power line crossing it already. With the proposed line running parallel to it, this would cause major problems trying to farm around another set of poles. I would be left with a considerable amount of land impacted due to the easement of the existing and a new line would be a wide swath through prime farmland. This line should follow roads and have poles along the road shoulder. (See comment for attached map)
3/22/2023	Enclosed is a petition that has been signed by people that are against your transmission line running through Harvey Township, Manannah Township, and Swede Grover Township in Meeker County, Minnesota, as it goes from Marshall, Minnesota to Becker, Minnesota... We have 216 people that have signed this petition that do not want the Xcel Energy transmission line to go through Harvey, Manannah, and Swede Grove Township. (See comment for attached petition and full comment)
3/21/2023	<p>As listed on your public comment form, all of the issues pose a great concern and consideration for us and our property. The best we can decipher is one of the proposed paths would straddle our West property line and our neighbors East property lines. Specifically to that exact area and where the footprint of the powerline/easement would occur, our largest concern there is the loss of old growth oak trees and other native tree species that also appears to be very old due to their size. Our neighbor to the west grazes cattle and it is anticipated that one of his large concerns is stray voltage and it's impacts on his cattle which are a large part of his livelihood. Along with cattle we have concerns of this stray voltage having negative effects on deer and their use of the property in the area of this proposed lines. His property is also the host to many large Oak trees that he and we do not wish to see disturbed.</p> <p>Currently our property is in CRP. Prescribed fire is our primary source of required and desired management of the prairie planting. In the future it is possible that we may want to graze, or farm some of it again. If the proposed route that is chosen is the one that runs through our property, we would need to ensure that our current concerns along with the concerns for our future land use wishes/rights be impacted the least amount. Up to this point, we have not been informed on how you will directly work with landowners to finalize the exact path of the lines and poles that will minimize impacts to land, habitat, and land use practices of each landowner. The difference of fifty ft to a couple hundred feet east or west would make a huge difference in how people feel about having a permanent line on their property and mitigating/resolving potential issues such as natural resource concerns like removal of trees, grazing cattle and wildlife, and current/future land use desires.</p> <p>Beyond the generalized statement that landowners will be paid a "fair market value payment for ROW/easement", there was not much detailed information provided as to how much of a benefit there will be to each landowner that would be impacted by this line on their property. I.e. Requirements, restrictions, annual rental rate, vs one time payment.</p>

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3/20/2023	1. We already have the CAP X 2020 lines running right by our building site. It seems unfair that we would have to have another set of lines come through our property, which would mean we would have MORE of our grove removed, after already having 60+ feet taken out last time. We had a nice big grove and now it's being cut down by all of these lines coming through. Also, the new lines look like they would come up through our fields and right over the top of our brand new shop we just finished putting up. Plus head right through our grove. 2. The proposed line would run through 2 of our fields. NOT along the fence lines, causing us to farm around them, which is very difficult with large equipment. It would also affect the yields in those areas for years to come. 3. We understand that these lines are a necessity, but having the lines on private property and running through the building site, lessens the value of the land and the building site. Having 2 run through our land/building site would significantly decrease the value. 4. What about health concerns. Is there any known health concerns having these lines run right overhead of our building sites? 5. Our suggestions would be to run these lines along ditches and fence lines so it wouldn't impact the value, safety, operations, etc. of the land. There are lots of roads that are available that don't have anything in the ditches, that could be used to run these lines.
3/20/2023	<p>One of the proposed power line routes (x 373rd St, Eden Valley) runs along ALL of our property owned by family trusts and land that is in contract with the federal government. Explained below, this route is not a legally viable route. To create a healthier environment for us and wildlife - at a significant cost, we just converted 40-acres of farm land to the south of 373rd St (surrounding our home) to an ORGANIC POLLINATOR FIELD of native grasses/flowers, which is in contract with the federal government. This pollinator field supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds. The proposed powerline runs through this field, which is not legally viable route. We consulted with the USDA Farm Service Agency, and due to contract terms, no land can be currently taken out of this contract. We strongly oppose this proposed route for the following additional reasons.</p> <p>Future sale of building sites to the north of 373rd St will NOT LEGALLY BE POSSIBLE if a power line is constructed in the proposed location. This will cause significant and devastating financial harm to our family, as this is vital income for retirement. Further significant devastating financial harm would be caused by a major decrease in property value (\$125,000 low estimate/\$250,000 high estimate) due to proximity to proposed power lines. Proposed route runs down the MIDDLE of a 35-acre wetland refuge that also supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds (our family trusts own one-half of this wetland). Wi-Fi interference - we are concerned that interference would negatively impact our livelihood/ability to work from home. Major physical and mental health concerns - we would NEVER choose to live near power lines of this magnitude. We concur with studies that indicate underground lines are much safer. Loss of aesthetics - the view from our front porch directly overlooks our beautiful pollinated field, and the proposed powerlines would ruin the aesthetic of this view and the charm of living in the country and in nature (also significantly reducing resale value).</p>
3/27/2023	We have many bee hives on our property. Bees and power lines don't mix.
3/23/2023	NA
3/23/2023	NA
3/27/2023	I attended the meeting in Willmar, MN on March 1st, 2023. I am opposing this powerline coming down on Hwy 8 to Co Rd. 3. It would be crossing Lake Wakanda and Little Kandiyohi Lake. I also don't want it less than 1 mile from our home residence. If approved, it should follow existing routes and roadways. Property values would decrease if it's too close to residences - I have concerns on the health effects to humans and animals. (See comment for attached map)
3/27/2023	I am not in factor of this power line. If approved, use existing routes of other lines highways and roads. Stay away from lakes, farm residences, and towns. I have major concerns of the potential hazards of the line. (See comment for attached map)
3/23/2023	Will interfere with farm practice: Acreage difficult to use common practices and aerial spray for pests. If it does intersect at N and S and E and W. Location aerial spray method will be eliminated and the value of property will be reduced. Too close to our home and visual appearance difficult to farm around locations. (See comment for attached map)
3/23/2023	Aerial spray option will be eliminated. Value of land reduced. Difficult to farm around. Construction project would cause compaction that will reduce yields following completion of project. Acreage loss will occur. Seneca Foods uses aerial spray to control pests in canning crops - line will eliminate us to possibly contract with them to raise a quality product. (See comment for attached map)
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	I have purchased produce from loon organics for many year. Adam and Laura have educated me on healthy eating and growing. As small farmers they had kept the Land free of chemical. I encourage finding an alternate route for the transmission lines. John Hassinger
3/16/2023	Please do not run a power line through loon Organics farm. They are amazing and their produce is great and this will hinder my opinion of your business.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
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3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/16/2023	Hello-We have been members of a CSA Farm-Loon Organics-for over a decade. This family has committed their lives and livelihood to Organic farming. We have benefited from their passion and dedication with the most amazing fresh fruits and vegetables- and personal experiences on their beautiful, wonderful farm. This planned power line would harm them and all that they have worked for so long and so tirelessly.. Please do not intrude on their property and find another route for this power line-thank you very much! Theresa Bergren
3/16/2023	To whom it may concern, we are members of a CSA near Hutchinson MN called Loon Organics. We have been customers for years and strive to eat healthier foods for our family. Any disruption in growing these products with chemical use would be detrimental to the farms business, purpose and mission. We ask that ANY use of chemicals be banned near this location during the build and every year after. Please respect this wholesome business and all if the people they serve. Thank you

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Minnesota Energy Connection
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Date	Comment Text
3/16/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	To whom it may concern, I was recently notified of the proposed power line route that would affect my property. I am disappointed that I heard of this proposal following open house meetings. I was not notified prior to those meetings as stated. The apparent goal of this project is to reduce carbon emissions. Our land is used to graze cattle from Thousand Hills Farm. Their regenerative approach to agriculture has increased topsoil and native plant growth in the area. As well as increased wildlife presence due to increased habitat and food sources. This has in turn increased the amount of carbon absorption. Running the power line through our property would prevent Thousand Hills from continuing to graze and would halt their environmental progress. I am concerned that this project would destroy the positive work that Thousand Hills has done for the environment in this area. This route would completely contradict the apparent environmental goal of this project. Please feel free to contact me via email or phone, my number is 612-437-6266. Jessie Heberling 15545 Grover Ave NW Clearwater, MN 55320
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	I am writing as a concerned homeowner regarding a proposed route for the power line. This is disappointing considering that there was no prior notice regarding the impact it would have on our property, livelihood, and family. Our property is a part of a larger habitat that has recently seen increased growth of wildlife and foliage. We have worked to increase the presence of quality trees and plants in the area by planting numerous trees each year. Our work alongside the work of our neighbors has helped to create habitat for numerous animals. We have seen more sightings of mature and young eagles in the area. The proposed route runs near a pond that is a consistent hunting area for the eagles that live in the area. Both mature and immature eagles can be seen roosting in the trees as they hunt the prairie. Putting a power line through this route would destroy the pond, the environment for the eagles' prey, and the eagles' habitat. It is disheartening that such a rash decision is being proposed without adequate consideration of environmental impact. Please feel free to reach out via email or phone at 320-291-4912 15545 Grover Ave NW Clearwater, MN 55320 Nicole Heberling
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	I am writing to voice my concerns on the powerlines proposed in my area. I live in the country for a good reason. I live amongst my parents 65 acres where I grew up. Now myself and my special needs daughter enjoy our peace and quiet in our own county home. We have animals that freely roam our property as well as we let the local farmer graze his cattle. My daughter knows her boundaries of our property and we do not want that to change with the purposed powerline. We have a few newer homes out here and the fact there is suggestion of placing powerlines in our neighborhood is disheartening to say the least. We have trumpeter swans that have lived in this area for decades as well as more frequent sightings of bald eagles in the past 5 years. Why interfere with our neighborhood and the enjoyment of wildlife. An easement of 150 feet could put you past the 100 year old oak trees that line my yard. In the big picture powerlines will ultimately decrease the value of our property, potential health concerns also comes to mind – my daughter is very sensitive and the potential harm of EMF is very concerning to me. I feel this would put additional concerns for my special needs daughter who enjoys her country living. Frequently you can find her driving her orange golf cart all around the property as well as her grandparent's property. In summary I feel this purposed powerline will greatly affect her safety. I am not in favor of these powerlines coming through 155th at all. It is not safe for any of us. Please consider a different option. Sincerely, Jennifer Dhein – 218-839-6856
3/17/2023	I'm deeply concerned about the proposed route through my property and neighbors. The power line running through our private properties will only result in negative effects to the land and it's owners. Some of my primary concerns are as follows: -The line cuts through the center of property and does not follow any natural boundaries causing disruption to crop farming. -Aerial application of spray to crops will not be optional with the line -Property value decreases significantly with no financial gain for farmer -EMF issues, studies have shown lines have increased cancer causing effects. -Having this line on our property would prohibit building under or near the line. -Farming with irrigation would be limited causing decreased value of crops, well drilling would be prohibited if lines are disrupting the farm land. -Lines near homestead are noisy, and an eye sore that land owners get forced to view for a lifetime and for future generations. -There is an unfair easement for land owners, and little to no compensation for overtaking large areas farmland. -Land owners have little to no option to vote or say no to line on their property
3/17/2023	This line on our property is deeply concerning. Thinking you can come and put a line on private property of your choice with little to no compensation is 100% unfair advantage. Our land value will decrease with these lines and your one time tiny payment covers nothing. There will be a awful view from our home of a huge power line that we would not have chosen to ever live by. So many negative effects of these lines including research proven health effects. I'd love to build a big dog house in your back yard, give you \$5 and tell you it's permanent and you're going to like it, work around it, no options. And this is where you run your small business, so I hope the dog house is not in your way. Hope the rich cooperate engineers of this are enjoying their view at home, sure wish it was of a cancer-causing power line. When land owners have worked years to pay for their land and maintain it as they like it but now there is no option but to have these massive lines going through them? Why don't they take a vote and ask who'd like these before just slamming them where they feel it's convenient. I appreciate electricity but certainly would figure out ways to create it without the twin towers in my back yard. So much for my children being able to build on our land since power lines now have priority over what land owners want.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
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3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	Loon Organics is a pillar of the Hutchinson community, as well as the greater MN area, as their produce feeds hundreds of people throughout the Twin Cities Metro. Their land, business, and family is being endangered by the proposed XCEL Powerline, and I urge you to reconsider your plans.
3/17/2023	We have been members of this co-op since they started. It would be devastating to see 15 years of hard work by these owners, their staff & consumers be negatively affected by the power line proposal. Their farm is an organic diverse ecosystem that they have worked very hard to establish & maintain. Supporting small businesses is what makes America & loon organic supporters are very pleased with their efforts and the wonderful produce they supply. Please find an alternate route for your power line. This route would be a big mistake for this farm that they worked so hard to get where it is today. Please save Loon Organics farm & don't do this.
3/17/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/17/2023	I am submitting comment after attending the open house in Willmar March 1st. I am responding with concerns personally. The Township in which I live and my place of employment. I believe the open house was done very well. Good clear information. The desire to place the new line in existing right of ways as much as possible is a good idea. Particular concern of mine is, I work at an Agronomy Center. We do a considerable amount of aerial application for crop production. It is ever more difficult to hire aerial applicators with the construction of more obstacles. One in particular would be potential route in Swede Grove Township, Meeker County, sections 11 and 12. This would be across an open field with no existing obstacles. This farmer is also looking to add an irrigator to his property, which a new powerline would be in the way. I was also told that a new substation would be constructed. To me it would seem to make the most sense to put it near the population areas. For example close to Hutchinson. Thank you, Loren Pearson
3/19/2023	I oppose the proposed routing along the highway 15 corridor due to safety concerns.
3/19/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.

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3/20/2023	Dear Sir: We already have the CAPX 2020 power line going across our farm to the northwest. Possible routes for this new project include a line parallel to this one, and a route directly to our east, which would mean our home would be surrounded by two large power lines. No one should have to live close to TWO large power lines, but in our case, it is even worse. I have severe neurological problems and am confined to a wheelchair. Our doctors have said exposure to electromagnetic fields could adversely affect my condition. If I lose more function, I may not be able to work (which I currently do from home), and I may not even be able to stay at home by myself during the day as I do now. It is critical to my husband and me that I do not be exposed to any further electromagnetic fields. Please find a route that does not further impact our home. Thank you. -Carol A Schroeder
3/20/2023	There is a pioneer early settlers cemetery in section 20 of Leenthrop Township, Chippewa County, under the proposed line route at the half mile line. I would recommend an alternative route be used.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	Please reconsider the route of the proposed high voltage power line running west of Hutchinson. There's an organic farm that's important to our local food system at risk. Installing the high voltage line on this farm would pose additional costs to your project because of their organic status and the land use and certification requirements that come along with that. I will be sending in a complete letter of support outlining their importance to local food + outdoor education and their key role in feeding 6,300 students through the Farm to School program. Thank you for your consideration.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/20/2023	One of your proposed lines cuts through my farmland. This is highly distressing and I will tell you why. I am working hard to keep my land environmentally sound, with no chemicals being placed on it in many years. I have a large organic garden and have planted many native prairie plants for birds and bees. I also am working on regenerating the soil by using my pastures for holistically grazed cattle by Thousand Hills Grass-fed Beef. This line would devalue my efforts, as well as the danger of living so close to these power lines and the EMF radiation they produce. Also of note, I did not to my knowledge receive any flyer or letter regarding this project. I would have attended your open house without a doubt. I question the method used to contact us-was it a flyer that looks like junk mail? An addressed letter to my name surely would have been more appropriate and seen. Regardless neither I or my neighbors knew of this project and this is a major issue as well. Please schedule another open house for me and others to attend. Thank you.
3/20/2023	Xcel Energy Representatives: I would like to extend my appreciation to you for hosting the virtual open house at 1:00 p.m., Monday, March 6, 2023. This meeting was informative, giving me the opportunity to learn more about the proposed Minnesota Energy transmission line between project endpoints in Lyon and Sherburne Counties. As part of this engagement and review process, you asked landowners for feedback on preliminary route options and to share important land use issues in the project area. It was explained that Xcel Energy is planning to transmit power via a new, double-circuit 345-kv, direct-current line over 160 to 180 miles in Southwest and Central Minnesota. The detailed route map available on the project website shows that one of the routes under consideration will cross a part of my property located in Section 1 of Acoma Township, McLeod County. The civil address is 24264 Tagus Avenue (McLeod County Road 12), Hutchinson, Minnesota, and the fee owner of this century farm is identified as George J. Prieve Living Trust. I acknowledge the need for a high voltage line as we transition to renewable energy and its delivery across the state, but it needs to go in the right place. Because of the predominately rural nature of the route, the line will inevitably affect agricultural and rural vacant land. In some places, the line will go along property boundaries, but in others, the line will cut diagonally across fields under cultivation and/or impact wildlife sanctuaries by coming close to woods, wetlands, and conservation acreage. The preliminary route affecting my property does not appear to meet many of your project guidelines. This route fails to follow existing linear corridors and property boundaries. It also crosses the right-of-way of a county road near my driveway and is close to a sensitive waterfowl area. Hosting a 150-foot wide easement on my property will not mix well with prime agricultural land and will be detrimental to the deer, honeybees, and different bird species. Thus, it would be best to consider another route when evaluating and finalizing your plan. Specifically, the acquisition of a transmission line right-of-way easement on and near my property raises the following land use concerns: The presence of one or more monopoles ranging in size from say 80 to 150-feet in height and placed approximately 900 feet apart will not be aesthetically pleasing for township residents and create inefficiencies in farm operations, while the conductors spanning across the poles will present a number of hazards and have a negative effect on wildlife.- Bisecting 20 tillable acres in the northwest corner of the property, north of the driveway, and extending along Tagus Avenue near another 36 tillable acres toward the center of the property just south of the driveway, will prohibit or limit the ability to aerial spray the fields for weeds each year. -Additional disutility will occur if one or more monopoles are sited in the tillable field in the northwest corner of the property, north of the driveway, because large farm equipment will have to go around the structure(s). -Electricity from this line may flow through farm equipment or a person when passing under or coming near it when working the land --- electric shock or arcing could lead to property damage, injury, or death. -Several honeybee colonies placed adjacent to the west side of the woodlot, north of the driveway, by a commercial grower every year may no longer be allowed or feasible --- bees will be exposed to electromagnetic fields stressing them so they are less capable of pollinating crops, producing honey, and surviving disease or extreme weather. -The line may act as an environmental stressor on the ecosystem of the large wetland at the center of the property, south of the driveway, as well as the adjoining 23 acres of Conservation Reserve Program land, south and east of the building site --- sedimentation and vegetative controls around the right-of-way may affect wildlife habitat, the electromagnetic fields may cause a change in the movement and behavior of deer and other animals, and there is the possibility for collision and electrocution of birds caused by the conductors. This transmission line will also have a negative effect on the salability of the property. -Television and radio reception at the house may be adversely affected by the electromagnetic fields. -The frequency of audible noise could be an issue. It will diminish the quiet enjoyment of rural life, displace wildlife from their habitat, and act as a barrier to wildlife movement. -If the woodlot north of the driveway was to be improved with a new home or homes, there would be limitations and restrictions as to the placement of the structure(s). -If the woodlot north of the driveway was to be improved with housing, FHA and VA financing may not be possible for a homeowner based on underwriting requirements. -Hunting may be restricted or prohibited on part of the property since a gunshot could cause a flashover or the wire to fall to the ground. As I review this preliminary route and examine other options, it is evident that the preference is to avoid densely populated residential neighborhoods and sensitive environmental areas. I am suggesting that this route be eliminated from consideration or adjusted to preserve the area in its "as is" condition based on similar factors. Instead of crossing my property as well as several agricultural/rural properties north of me and linking up with Meeker County Road 18 before connecting to the transmission line at State Highway 15, it may make more sense to extend the route from McLeod County Road 19 (Vista Road) east along 220th Street and connect with the transmission line at the intersection with State Highway 15. It would enable you to follow existing linear corridors and property boundaries, minimize the crossing of existing roads, and avoid causing harmful effects to residential homes, farms, and conservation lands. Then again, there may be other alternatives subject to this review that may provide a suitable route for the proposed transmission line. Thank you for seeking my input and considering my concerns. Regards, George J. Prieve/Trustee of the George J. Prieve Living Trust
3/21/2023	Currently our land is used to raise chickens and is holistically grazed by Thousand Hills Grassfed Beef. Our future plans are to raise our own cattle and other animals. We also plan to use our property for farming corn fields and large gardens. We also currently use our land for hunting and to enjoy wildlife. I feel a power line running through our property will significantly and negatively impact our current wildlife and animals and any future animals and farming in which we plan to do with our property.
3/21/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.

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Date	Comment Text
3/21/2023	To Whom It May Concern: I recently learned of this project and am working to catch up on the status. As a landowner with property on both of the proposed routes you have mapped south of I-94 running west from Hasty to County Road 7, I have several concerns: 1. First and foremost, as owner of Thousand Hills Lifetime Grazed Grass Fed Beef, we holistically graze the land of virtually every landowner in the area described above. Our regenerative agriculture practices rebuild soil, provide wildlife habitat, provide pollinator habitat, sequester carbon and improve water cycles. We also regeneratively pasture hogs in the woodlands and pasture egg-laying chickens in the diverse grasslands we have painstakingly re-established over the past 15 years. Having a powerline erected right through the middle of these all-too-rare food system activities would greatly harm our regenerative efforts while diminishing our ability to make a living. The Thousand Hills brand is the #1 Grass Fed Beef brand in the U.S. This proposed power line route cuts right through our model farm on which the brand is based. We employ hundreds of Minnesotans in farming, production, processing, marketing, warehousing and logistics. Recently, our company was honored to be selected by the Biden administration for a USDA grant, out of thousands of applicants, to support our Climate-Smart Commodity initiatives. The Biden administration understands the importance of renewable energy but also the need to change our agricultural practices. We are on a short list of leading regenerative agricultural companies chosen to further pursue changing our food system through holistic, regenerative practices. 2. Savory Hub. Our farm is one of 14 North American Savory Hubs. Savory Hubs train consumers and farmers on holistic management and regenerative agriculture practices. It takes a considerable investment of time and money to become a Savory Hub. We were awarded this status 6 years ago. Again, having a major power line cross the entrance and run through our land and the land of our 15 neighbors who have entrusted us to steward their land with these same practices would greatly diminish both the effectiveness of our efforts and also cost us credibility. Many of our interested parties would choose to not visit our farm because of the damaging effects of EMF radiation from a power line. In addition, the productivity and vibrancy of our farm would decrease, flying in the face of the very mission of our regenerative farm. One of a precious few in the entire country/world, leading the mission to improve our food system nationally and globally. 3. Woods and wetlands. On a more practical level, the paths you have chosen would mean clear-cutting wide swaths through native deciduous forests that have been untouched for centuries. Clearly, there must be a better route, along a road or through open fields than taking down hundreds, maybe thousands, of trees in just a 3-mile span, which we all know benefit our eco-systems greatly and need to be nurtured wherever we can. In this same stretch of land, there are multiple wetlands, ponds, and streams. Again, all are critical to protecting our dwindling wildlife habitat and water resources. The DNR protects these sensitive areas with much veracity, I'm sure for the same reasons. It is with much anxiety, as we imagine our future, that I present these concerns. Decades of blood, sweat, and tears have gone into building our model multi-species regenerative farm to benefit not just existing farmers to learn new techniques but also future generations. We must build a better food system if we are going to survive as a human race. And our Thousand Hills farm is at the forefront of making this happen. Please don't needlessly set us back another 20 years. It would be an incredible shame to see this power line 'green' initiative produce great harm to the 'regenerative' initiative we have propelled and promoted across the U.S.Thank you for your consideration, Matt Maier (612) 366-0753 Farmer, Owner, Thousand Hills
3/21/2023	Just wondering if you received our email from March 14, 2023? Could you please send an email confirming that you received it. Thank you, Tom and Glenda Deutz
3/21/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/21/2023	I realize common sense goes out the door when big money & government get involved and you don't care about the people you work for AKA the people who buy your product. Common sense would tell you not to decommission Sherwood until you have a proven product. Investors tell you take the money and the government tells you we'll get you more because the American people are stupid and they don't mind paying more for an unreliable product. I'm all for going green when it makes sense, but I look at California with all of their electrical issues and this doesn't make sense. What is the plan for recycling these panels? Are you going to put the cart before the horse again with "we'll figure it out later" and at what cost to consumers. And finally, why do you feel the need to put up more power poles when you have room on the existing Capx 2020 poles. This seems like a waste of land and resources. Since the EMF's are already on the existing lines.
3/22/2023	I am writing to urge you to not put power lines through Loon Organics farm in Hutchinson MN. This farm has provided fresh, organic vegetables to me and my neighbors for over 10 years. The farm gives schools wonderful vegetables and also the food shelf. In addition, Laura and Adam have taught so many of us how to eat and grow food better. They contribute to our sense of community and connect us with nature. Organic farming involves so much time and work with not enough economic pay back. They should be supported not hindered by your proposal. I beg you to consider alternate options for your power lines. Sincerely, Mary and Jeff Horrocks
3/22/2023	To whom it may concern. The following proposed route of power lines going across Grover Ave and to 155th ST or following 155th St would be devastating to my family. The Anderson land has been in my family for 60 years. My grandpas vision for that land was to have all of the grand kids live on it. My family and I plan on building on the land that follow 155th ST, we have already put in the works to building our forever home there. We currently have 3 kids and one on the way. It would be devastating to us if your proposed lines went through there. I suggest using the route down 94 and not disrupting the farmland and grass fed beef cattle that use the land currently. We intend to live out my grandfathers legacy by building on the land and being close to family that he so wished for. Please consider using an alternate route.
3/22/2023	Keep hi-voltage EMF emitting lines away from 155th Street NW Clearwater, MN. Leave the residents to enjoy the peaceful abundance of wildlife and grass fed beef to graze. The presence of trumpeter swans and bald eagle nesting should not be disturbed. The disturbance from hi-voltage line construction will be detrimental to the residents and animals. Thank you, William and Noreen Dhein 1
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/22/2023	A greater effort should be made to route the line through over less sensitive land use, such as Loon Organics . Large conventional farms are much less likely to be negatively impacted by a power line. Although no landowner would choose to have a line run across their property, I do believe most accept the need for these power lines...
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/22/2023	I'm not in favor of the line on a proposed route near Stewart, or between my house and my neighbors house. If as shown on the map there is no way it can meet the setbacks. I would not be in support of this route.
3/22/2023	Was I supposed to be notified of the proposed route since it's only 75' from my house? I heard about it 2 days ago and do not have access to the public meetings any longer. Not in favor.
3/22/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/23/2023	I am very concerned with the proposed route of the new energy transmissions. These are to be placed right behind our home. I come from a thick background of cancer in my family and am aware of how the EMF can be very dangerous due you the ionizing radiation that can disrupt the body's cells and create more problems. Also can cause neurological issues possible brain tumors like glioma, Alzheimer's, leukemia and children with many other side effects, headaches, dizziness etc. I am very much against having any high frequency waves around our area, which also cause effects on plants and animals as well. I think it would be best to take a long interstates or highways and keep it off all of our crop fields to protect dangerous outcomes that could be created in the near future so yes I believe peoples voices and body's should be heard and protected!
3/23/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/24/2023	I am concerned about the property value along with personal health impact around the heavily populated St. Augusta area
3/25/2023	This is my second comment regarding potential routing of power lines through my pasture property. This land is in process of being sectioned off to go to my children for building and land use currently for grassing. I will strongly suggest taking the I94 route alternative. With addl research if feel the amount of health risk potential being so near residential home is too high of a factor. Please consider alternative routing.

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3/25/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/26/2023	To whom it may concern, I am a resident whose property is directly in one of the proposed paths of the power line along Grover Ave NW in Wright County and very near other proposed paths. I am deeply concerned by this proposed path. There are numerous environmental reasons to be concerned about this path including numerous waterways (ponds, wetland, lake, creek) that would be destroyed. I would invite organizers to come and take a firsthand look at this land to see the nature and wildlife they would directly be destroying. Additionally, this path would affect numerous residences along with agricultural residences. The route running along Co.Rd 8 in Sherburne county would be less of an impact to current residences. I am additionally concerned by the increased risk of cancer due to the closeness of these power lines to my home. Our area is out of the city of Clearwater's limits, but there are many homes with young children that would be affected. Please reconsider the route through Grover Ave, parallel to Grover Ave, and on the northside of Fish Lake. These routes would be detrimental to numerous humans, wildlife, and nature. Please feel free to contact me at 320-291-4912. Nicole Heberling15545 Grover Ave NW
3/26/2023	To whom it may concern, Xcel Energy's proposed power line route through Clearwater Township in Wright County along Grover Ave NW to 160th St, Parallel to Grover Ave through Thousand Hills farm, or on the north side of Fish Lake are terrible routes that will negatively impact many people and wildlife. The proposed route on Grover Ave NW would go directly through our property. Property that is grazed by Thousand Hills Cattle. Matt Meier at Thousand Hills has worked tirelessly to build a business that is regenerative and beneficial for the environment. Many residents in the area of the proposed path support this farm by leasing land for grazing. We would be sickened to see a powerline run through and destroy what we have collectively worked to build and restore. As a neighborhood we value the environment and care for the land. There are several residences in the proposed path that have their own livestock and fields that would be shattered by the routes through Clearwater Township. These routes would destroy a way of life for many that are significant supporters of the environment. Please seriously consider an alternative route. Please feel free to contact me at 612-437-6266 Jessie Heberling15545 Grover Ave NW Clearwater, MN 55320--
3/26/2023	I strongly feel putting a power line through populated residential areas will affect numerous families in a variety of ways. A different route that goes through less residential property should strongly be considered.
3/26/2023	Hello. I am asking you to avoid routing the proposed line south of Fish Lake. This route goes through multiple fields where my neighbors graze their cattle for their organic livestock operation. After that it jags north along Grunwald Avenue across the street from my residence. Also a number of my neighbors live right along Grunwald putting the new line near their homes. I believe a better route would be either of the routes to the north of Fish Lake where the lines would be going through larger agricultural pieces of land. Thank you. Mark Boden.
3/28/2023	A power line through Clearwater township is a problem for people, animals, and property. Horses on the property. Hazard to private grass landing strip. Wet land. Crop land.
3/29/2023	I am about a half mile south of the 160th street route. I am concerned about both powerline routes that go through Clearwater Township, as those routes go through a much more populated area. And, I am aware that these transmission lines emit electrical magnetic fields which the National Cancer Institute says increases the risk of cancer. And the powerlines will impact the market value of both the land and homes it passes near. Consequently, I would encourage you to utilize the powerline route that goes west (near Kimble) and then north of Clearwater Township. It then crosses the Mississippi river to run south on Sherburne County 8 to Becker. That route is much less populated and there are already solar farms and transmission lines running along that corridor. So, please utilize that route! And, thank you for moving to carbon free energy sources. Much needed!!
3/29/2023	I spoke with Randy Fordeiss yesterday concerning the proposed MN Connection Transmission Line. While I am pleased to learn of retiring coal-fired energy facilities, I am concerned about how the new proposed transmission system may affect my rural property in Meeker County (ID 07-0058000). This 20-acre property, adjacent to and east of Hwy. 15 between Dassel and Kingston and north of County Rd. 24, is used for hunting and wildlife preservation. Much of the property includes Washington Creek and I observe many types of wildlife there--especially birds. It seems to be a primary flyway--sandhill cranes, swans, Canada geese, pheasants, turkeys, many types of ducks, and migratory birds. Washington Creek is also at the heart of this wetland nesting area. Lines and poles on the west side of Hwy. 15 would be a better route as far as environmental impact. From what Randy told me, this west side positioning is currently the primary proposal. I support this location, as opposed to the east side of Hwy. 15. Sincerely, Mr. Caryl R. Swanson
3/29/2023	This is to let you know that the routes through Clearwater Township will be very disruptive to people, property and natural features. The Clearwater township routes go through a fairly dense area and where they don't go through they will require disrupting and destroying forested areas, lakes and streams. The route that goes west, north and east is better suited with sparse population, big ag lots and then on c.r 8 where it heads south to Becker in Sherburne County, the route is already dominated by solar farms and power lines, one more won't hurt. Please don't cut up our township. Thanks.
3/30/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/30/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
3/30/2023	I am very concerned that the proposed power line coming down 150th Ave NW Grover Ave NW will displace the Sandhill Cranes that have nested in the marsh area the line will impact. I understand that these birds are barely off the protected list. We have other alternatives to choose that then protect this natural habitat as well as not be placed in such a populated area.
3/30/2023	I am writing to you as a concerned friend and family member of a Clearwater Township homeowner regarding the proposed MN Energy Connection Route. I am urging you to please use the Northern route that cuts south along County Road 8 to Becker and to avoid Clearwater Township. The line through Clearwater Township would pose a big problem for the residents including increased cancer risks, loss of animal habitat, loss of wetland, livestock risks, risks to our children's safety, and diminished property values. Please take the more preferable Northern Route as it is far less populated, there is less environmental habitat.

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4/1/2023	<p>Health: We would need to drive under a high power line multiple times a day exposing our family to unsafe levels of EMF radiation. Despite claims made by this company, it is not safe to live in close proximity to these power lines and there are multiple sources which show measurable harm caused by EMF radiation.</p> <p>Property value: I would never purchase a property with one of these huge power lines on it due to health and aesthetic concerns, no matter the price. Many health conscious people would feel the same. Building this power line would dramatically reduce property values in the area and the pool of potential buyers. Perhaps that's the goal?</p> <p>Wildlife impact: Eagles are active along this stretch of the Mississippi River year round because of the abundant fish. There is a large tree on the river bend close to one of the proposed river crossings that the eagles used as a roost last year with as many as 9 eagles flying in from different directions to roost on the same tree. It was an amazing thing to see, we watched it from a kayak. Eagles are sensitive to disturbances in their environment. The construction alone would scare them for the roost. Also, there is a nesting pair who live on the river year round close to the existing power line (with the colored balls on it as a plane deterrent) which crosses the river. They fledged two young last year. We watched one of the adults catch a fish and give it to its young. The two juveniles and the parents are still here. We have video of them.</p> <p>Scenic/Asthetic: Have you kayaked down the Mississippi River from Clearwater to Monticello? Try it sometime and Listen to the ticking, hissing sound that the big power line makes near Monticello. It's an unsettling feeling to pass under that. The kayak trip from Clearwater starts out peaceful and beautiful, but approaching Monticello becomes industrial as the power generation/transportation infrastructure overtakes the landscape. We do not want the cold, industrial infrastructure to change the natural scenery of this rural and residential neighborhood.</p> <p>Personal: Our children are homeschooled and have benefitted immensely from being able to learn directly from nature. They do school in the woods, on the creek, in the barn, and on the river. The proposed lines would go through my children's classroom.</p>
4/2/2023	<p>In Kandiyohi County Harrison Township section 24, Bernard Gratz owns an eighty acre field. We are wondering whose side of the property line the poles would go. We have tile in the low areas. We have plans for an irrigation system there. We have concerns about crop duster spray with poles on two sides of the field. In Meeker County Swede Grove township section 17, Brad and Bernard own 145 acres. We have put in pattern tile, will the proposed line be on the south of the property? In Kandiyohi County Harrison township section 34, David Gratz owns an 80. That field is heavily tiled. Will the poles be on the south side of the gravel road? I feel that the lines should be positioned on US Federal Land and Minnesota State land and less on privately held land.</p>
4/5/2023	<p>We attended your open house at Marshall, MN, on February 27, 2023. We had a couple of maps printed out there to determine just where the lines might go. One of the proposed routes (Map F6) runs just north (Section 18) and south (Section 7) of our farmland. In Vesta Township, it comes from the west, running east, parallel to Redwood County Highway #30, between Sections 7/18, 8/17, 9/16, 10/15. At the western edge of Vesta Township is Redwood County Road 59 (aka Dayton Avenue), a gravel road, running north/south.</p> <p>Between Sections 7/18, the northern edge of our property, between Dayton Avenue and Derby Avenue, there is a windbreak/shelter belt running west/east, which has been in place for over 40 years. It not only helps stop erosion, but it provides wildlife habitat. Running through the shelter belt from southwest to northeast is Judicial Ditch #37, and its banks are quite steep. At the corner of Derby Avenue and 320th Street is our son's land parcel, where he plans to build a new home in the next few years.</p> <p>320th Street, the next section of the proposed route, is a gravel road that runs between Derby Avenue and Duncan Avenue. At the corner of 320th and Duncan (16908 320th Street) is the home of Luella Gustafson, and her house is about 100 feet south of 320th Street. That half-mile section of 320th Street is the ONLY road along this proposed route in this part of Vesta Township, so the route does not follow existing infrastructure. The rest of the route mostly runs though farmland, except where it goes along the Vesta Cemetery in Section 10! If the towers are erected along this route, how will maintenance be handled? Drive across the fields, through the cemetery? Also, there is an air strip in Section 18, Vesta Township, less than a mile south of this proposed route.</p>
4/7/2023	<p>I've recently learned about the proposed project of power lines being run from Marshall to Becker. The routes that are being looked at are very upsetting to me and my family. We have owned our property for 17 years...originally our cabin and for the past 9 years our home. It was very upsetting when the gigantic I94 power lines went up years ago completely changing the beautiful lake view that we once had. Now having the possibility of more Major power lines potentially coming around either one of the sides of our Lake (Fish Lake) is extremely upsetting and concerning for many reasons. Health reasons, visual reasons, our property value with being surrounded by lines on both sides of our lake, health of livestock and wildlife. We have so many Bald Eagles, Loons and so much more. These roads also have beautiful sunsets with rolling hills that will forever be ruined. I'm a runner and have run these beautiful, quiet, peaceful country roads for 19 years. It's also VERY concerning for my health and the health of others being directly under these power lines loaded with EMF while we are outdoors enjoying our peaceful exercise. So many of us walk and jog these dirt roads that surround Fish Lake. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE CONSIDER THE PATH OF THESE POWER LINES TO STAY ON MAIN HIGHWAY ROADS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLY POSSIBLE. I have looked in DETAIL at the map routes. THE FAR NORTHERN ROUTE COMING UP 15, CTY RD 142 TO 44, DOWN RIVER ROAD CTY RD 8 MAKES THE MOST SENSE. THIS ROUTE STAYS MORE ON MAIN BUSIER HIGH TRAFFIC HIGHWAY ROADS (KEEPING THE QUIETER RESIDENTIAL ROAD'S PEACEFUL NATURE INTACT). AFFECTING LESS PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES. CTY ROAD 8 IS BECOMING A MAJOR SOLAR PANEL FARM AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE SOLAR PANEL GROWTH. IT JUST MAKES SENSE TO RUN THESE PROPOSED POWER LINES DOWN CTY ROAD 8 TO AVOID THE HIGHER POPULATED AREA OF CLEARWATER AND CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP.</p>

Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
4/8/2023	I am writing to comment on the proposed transmission line route that crossed US Hwy 55 at 647th Ave between Eden Valley and Watkin, MN. My neighbors and I have been reviewing this route which comes very close to many of our homes. As the proposed routes give wide berth to towns and cities, I feel the same consideration should be made to homes along your route. I operate an organic grass fed cattle and sheep operation as does my neighbor and we are both concerned about the impact on our small farms both in loss of our land and animal behavior. There are many open field options or routes along major highways such as Hwy 15 that already have a large right of way and would be less disruptive to the lives of a person living along the proposed routes. I am not opposed to the use of alternative energy and have a wind generator and solar panels powering my home. Creating ways to generate electricity closer to where it is needed should always be considered when possible. In the proposed transmission lines, there are many more communities closer to the generation point that could benefit from the electrical generation that will with this proposed line be bypassed and still have the the impact of the lines on their land and affecting their communities.
4/9/2023	I live on Fish Lake in Clearwater township. Two of the proposed pathways run along either side of the lake. A third proposed pathway goes along Hwy 15 by Kimball, along CR 142, CR 7, CR 8 to Becker. That third route is the one I hope will be chosen by you. By Fish Lake and along those two pathways there are many more homes than the CR 8 path, which is mostly all field where there are already many solar panels. Keeping the powerlines and solar panels on that same path keeps the similar businesses together. Leaving our residential neighborhoods free of the clutter as well as the injury to people, livestock and wildlife that live by or on Fish Lake, as well as many ponds in our area. EMFs are of a great concern to the health of families with children, elderly and cattle. www.cancer.gov is one of many sources with studies proving dangers of EMFs. Please choose the Sherburne CR 8 pathway through those fields rather than near Fish Lake. I feel it makes good sense to put the powerlines pathway on agricultural land which is mostly fields, rather than through residential areas where there's risk of injury to many people and livestock.
4/10/2023	Form comment in support of avoiding Loon Organics Farm.
4/11/2023	We have farmland in Redwood County - MN Section Number 32 - Township 112- Range 38 or property that is bordered on the west with Duncan Avenue and on the south with County Road 12. We participated in your recent informational meeting and I am writing to ask that you please AVOID our property as we have already been affected by the Great River powerline on the south side of our farm (bordering County Road 12). The ground was VERY compacted in the building process and we got almost no crop in the early years due to this soil situation and now forever have to farm around the huge powerline bases. I understand the need for statewide power and appreciate what you are doing; however, it is NOT fair to have the same landowners/farmers experience more lines and financial hardship once again. I realize that you are making a ONE TIME payment - but that is not sufficient due to potential limited crop and income/tax consequences for the farm owner. Please be respectful and AVOID those properties already impacted by Great River.
4/11/2023	I am writing in regards to the proposal to run large power lines into the Becker area through our beautiful lake, wildlife, farming, and ranching community. We are a growing area and families are raising their children here. We are very concerned about the farmland and livestock as well as our own health. We see absolutely no reason for running your power lines down smaller roads and through our neighborhood. There are larger, main roads that could accommodate for this project. The furthest northern route in your proposal is the closest to being acceptable.
4/13/2023	I am a resident of Clearwater Township MN. I am writing to you regarding the transmission line that may run through our small area. I do not want it here to destroy our small beautiful area. I this is going to happen please take the northern route number 3.
4/14/2023	It has come to my attention that Xcel has a project called the MN Energy Connection which would create a new transmission line from Marshall to Becker. Two of those proposed routes go through Clearwater Township and would certainly have a huge negative impact to this area for people, animal habitat and property. I oppose both routes in Clearwater Township. The route along County Road 8 seems like a more favorable route for Xcel to use. Transmission lines for the large solar farms are already an established part of the Xcel network and could be used for this new project as well.
4/15/2023	We have family who live on Fish Lake in Clearwater Township. It is a thriving community of people, wildlife and cattle. The effects of power lines would be harmful to them all. Please finalize the powerline route to go north of them on Sherburne County Road 8, where there is already a lot of solar panals in fields. Also, there is much less population of people.
4/15/2023	Clearwater Township is a beautiful part of Minnesota that I and a group of friends enjoy regularly with close friends that live there. Power lines would ruin the areas natural beauty. As well as, would be harmful to its plentiful wild life and their habitat. Environmental impact of power lines is documented as harmful, which would certainly change this vacation and residential area negatively. Please make a final decision of the powerlines to go on the most northern proposed route on Sherburne County Road 8, where there is already a lot of solar panals, wide open fields and has a very low population of people.
4/15/2023	Clearwater Township is a beautiful part of Minnesota that I and a group of friends enjoy regularly with close friends that live there. Power lines would ruin the areas natural beauty. As well as, would be harmful to its plentiful wild life and their habitat. Environmental impact of power lines is documented as harmful, which would certainly change this vacation and residential area negatively. Please make a final decision of the powerlines to go on the most northern proposed route on Sherburne County Road 8, where there is already a lot of solar panals, wide open fields and has a very low population of people.
4/15/2023	Clearwater Township is a beautiful part of Minnesota that I and a group of friends enjoy regularly with close friends that live there. Power lines would ruin the areas natural beauty. As well as, would be harmful to its plentiful wild life and their habitat. Environmental impact of power lines is documented as harmful, which would certainly change this vacation and residential area negatively. Please make a final decision of the powerlines to go on the most northern proposed route on Sherburne County Road 8, where there is already a lot of solar panals, wide open fields and has a very low population of people.
4/16/2023	As a land owner in Redwood County, MN, Section Number 32, Township 112, Range 38, bordered on the west with Duncan Avenue and on the south with County Rd 12, we were interested in the recent informational meeting you had. We would like to request that you avoid our land since we already have dealt with the Great River power line on the south side of our farm. This resulted in compaction of the ground and the long term effects of farming around the poles. It may also have reduced the yield in and around the line form the high frequency or energy around the line. There certainly is a need to transmit power from the source to your station, however it seems unfair to run them through the same farms. The one time payment does not make up for the lasting effects of the soil and crop damage. As such, please consider our respectful request to find an alternative route from those already affected by the Great River line.
4/16/2023	I understand a few options are being considered for new power line routes under the MN Energy Connection project. Please avoid selecting any route close to Fish Lake in Clearwater Township, MN. I am concerned the local population and environment may be affected negatively by EMFs. Please DO choose the proposed route that places the new power lines near Sherburne County Road, well north of Fish Lake. This is a less populated area, therefore, it is a better choice of route.
4/16/2023	I my prior email to you just minutes ago, I mistakenly omitted the number 8 when describing Sherburne County Road 8.
4/16/2023	The two proposed powerline routes through Clearwater Township are highly populated areas with many homes located close to the line. Powerlines are a risk for people, waterways, forests, and threatens wildlife and their habitats. The northern route along Sherburne County Rd 8 is preferable. It is much less populated with homes set far back from the road on mostly large agricultural lots. There is less habitat and less trees to be destroyed. Please choose that route.

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Date	Comment Text
4/14/2023	My farm is in Grandview township Section 15, of Lyon County, one of the possible power line routes (the only route west of Marshall). This route would cut through the center of my farm. All towers would have to be farmed around with a great inconvenience for farm operations! This route where it turns east on township road 310 would be less than one mile from the city limits of the town of Ghent Minn. Other towers in Lyon County, are already causing problems for agricultural crop airplane sprayers, making it impossible, and dangerous, to spray crops for weeds and insect control. Just west of my farm is located, The Marshall Airport runway approach Outer Markers, about five nautical miles from the airport, this is right in line with the airport runway. If towers are located on this western route it could cause problems for aircraft traffic.
4/13/2023	A power line through Clearwater Township is a problem for people animals and property. It causes HAZARD to private landing strip, horses, deer, turkeys. Destroys woods, animal habitat property values. EMFs
4/13/2023	Hello, I attended the Big Oaks/Alexandria open house yesterday and am thankful that Xcel energy has decided to place the crossing of the River on their properties between Monticello and Becker instead of my neighborhood. My question now becomes, where will you cross the river for this MN energy connection project? I was told that "We are evaluating the most appropriate location to cross the Mississippi River. The rules governing transmission line route development and major river crossings generally ask us to follow some sort of existing crossing such as an existing transmission line bridge or roadway." According to the Maps page the proposed routes do not have any crossings at existing crossings like transmission lines bridges or roadways. Therefore Xcel energy is not following the guidelines and will instead be making a new crossing right in our neighborhood. You can see how this is concerning. Looking at the proposed routes it does not make sense to have the power lines run through either 145th St or 155th St as there are many homes, organic farms, trees, and people! There is a transmission line near Hasty and a bridge in Clearwater. Why would Xcel energy choose to disrupt peoples lives and homes to put a new (huge) power line in their neighborhood as opposed to following the guidelines and using an existing crossing? You will be disturbing so many people by coming through this neighborhood. The other routes are better that use existing crossings as (per your words) are the rules governing developing new power lines. Even continuing down 75 to Xcel at Monticello would be better than disrupting neighborhoods and families. Keep the disturbances on your own property.
4/13/2023	We would prefer to use the route that runs through Sherburne county - from Hasty up 95th Avenue SE to CO RD. 8 / River Road SE.
4/11/2023	I realize this is just a feel good website link, so my expectations are low. There may not even be anyone who reads this, but if you review my address one of the proposed routes along MN Highway 15 goes right over my house. Given the terrain, if this route were proposed and you somehow squeezed in a power line with a 75 foot setback from the highway and my house, my property wouldn't be worth anything with a huge transmission tower in the middle of the back yard. Am I allowed a buyout option if that is what the situation dictates? Or am I stuck in a house I'll never be able to sell with just a paid easement because of this possible route? Please reply if you get this.
4/11/2023	I am strongly opposed to both potential MN Energy Connection heavy transmission routes that would negatively impact my properties on and near Fish Lake in Clearwater township. We have already been negatively impacted by the heavy transmission powerlines that were installed on I94, to surround our small area with more heavy transmission powerlines would be highly discriminatory. When I94 was determined to be the selected route for the first set of heavy transmission powerlines, the message from Xcel was it is the best practice to follow well developed infrastructure and commercial areas when determining where to locate these heavy transmission lines; hence I94 was chosen. CR 8 which now has multiple solar farms and Hwy 15 with its significant connection to I94 and commercial areas will naturally continue to develop more commercial properties along its route. Placing the new heavy transmission lines on this route makes the most sense from a community development perspective. Both routes near Fish Lake are rural areas with minimal infrastructure and little to no commercial development. The rolling countryside and multiple water ways will naturally development into residential areas unless of course they are decimated with dangerous heavy transmission lines significantly lowering property values and potential. These water ways and wetlands need to be developed properly because they all flow to the Mississippi, a significant water source and heavily impaired. Our community has been negatively impacted already by heavy transmission lines to concentrate more in this area would be vindicative. Karen Durant
4/7/2023	I've recently learned about the proposed project of power lines being run from Marshall to Becker. The routes that are being looked at are very upsetting to me and my family. We have owned our property for 17 years...originally our cabin and now our home for the past 9yrs. It was very upsetting when the gigantic I94 power lines went up years ago completely changing the beautiful lake view that we once had. Having the possibility of more major power lines potentially coming around either one of the sides of our Lake (Fish Lake) is extremely upsetting and concerning for many reasons. Health reasons, visual reasons, our property value with being surrounded by major lines on either side of our lake., health of live stock and wild life. We have so many Bald Eagles, Loons and so much more. These roads also have beautiful sunsets with rolling hills that will forever be ruined. I'm a runner and have run these beautiful, quiet, peaceful country roads for 19 years. It's VERY concerning for my health and the health of others being directly under these power lines loaded with EMF while we our outdoors enjoying our peaceful exercise. So many of us walk and jog these dirt roads that surround Fish Lake. PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE CONSIDER THE PATH OF THESE POWER LINES TO STAY ON MAIN HIGHWAY ROADS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLY POSSIBLE. I have looked in DETAIL at the map routes. THE FAR NORTHERN ROUTE COMING UP 15, CTY RD 142 TO 44, DOWN RIVER ROAD CTY RD 8 MAKES THE MOST SENSE. THIS ROUTE STAYS MORE ON MAIN BUSIER HIGH TRAFFIC HIGHWAY ROADS (KEEPING THE QUIETER RESIDENTIAL ROAD'S PEACEFUL NATURE INTACT). AFFECTING LESS PEOPLE AND THIER HOMES. CTY ROAD 8 IS BECOMING A MAJOR SOLAR PANAL FARM AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE SOLAR PANEL GROWTH. IT JUST MAKES SENSE TO RUN THESE PROPOSED POWER LINES DOWN CTY RD 8 TO AVOID THE HIGHER POPULATED AREA OF CLEARWATER AND CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for your MUCH CONSIDERATION OF STAYING AWAY FROM FISH LAKE AND THE CLEARWATER AREA. Kristi Smith 763-442-6172
4/5/2023	There are two proposed routes that are mapped for land that has been our family for generations. Both tracts of land are in environmentally sensitive areas and contain undisturbed wetlands that we have fought to maintain. Please contact me further discuss the routes and any open or private meetings that are available. I was unable to attend the public meetings due to my travel schedule and minimal notice of the far-away locations. Thank you, Martin Ellis
4/5/2023	Route options should not divide farm parcels or take away from actively farmed parcels. Rather make route that use right of ways next to wide state or U.S. Highways that are already NOT currently being farmed.
4/1/2023	I have been reviewing the options for the MN Energy Connection project and doing some research on the project. After a review of the three options, the third (northern) route appears to be less populated with homes and less of an environmental impact. It looks like the route is near the large solar farms and there are numerous transmission lines already situated there. Please consider making your option 3 the route for the MN Energy Connection Project. Thank you for the opportunity to give you feedback.
4/1/2023	This project was brought to my attention yesterday 3/31/23 by fellow property owners also affected by the proposed line. Our parcel is highly affected by this proposed line as it would border both the east and south lines of our property. For easy reference, our eastern property line is shared with 1975 155th St NW in Monticello. Our family has been designing and planning a new home build on this property for several years. We just completed getting bids for this build two weeks ago. Our entire reason for uprooting our family and moving to the dense woods was to get away from intrusions such as this. If this proposal was to become a reality, it will 100% negatively affect the enjoyment of our private property and we highly disapprove. We look forward to transparent and open communication regarding this project. Thank you, Kyle Erickson
4/1/2023	I'm concerned that one of your routes comes right through my properties and I had no idea. No notification in the mail. I do not want to stare at my woods and all of sudden now have majority of it ripped up. I would need to be bought out.

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Date	Comment Text
4/1/2023	Hello, We are a family of five who live on a scenic 40 acres which is half wildlife habitat and half agricultural fields. We moved here in 2020 and have invested much in renovating our house. Our Ag fields have transitioned from conventional corn to organic hay. We grow, produce, and sell eggs which will be eligible to certify organic provided that no pesticides are used on our property. One of the proposed routes passes along our property. The "land use impacts" for us are the following: Health: We would need to drive under a high power line multiple times a day exposing our family to unsafe levels of EMF radiation. Despite claims made by this company, it is not safe to live in close proximity to these power lines and there are multiple sources which show measurable harm caused by EMF radiation. Property value: I would never purchase a property with one of these huge power lines on it due to health and aesthetic concerns, no matter the price. Many health conscious people would feel the same. Building this power line would dramatically reduce property values in the area and the pool of potential buyers. Perhaps that's the goal? Wildlife impact: Eagles are active along this stretch of the Mississippi River year round because of the abundant fish. There is a large tree on the river bend close to one of the proposed river crossings that the eagles used as a roost last year with as many as 9 eagles flying in from different directions to roost on the same tree. It was an amazing thing to see, we watched it from a kayak. Eagles are sensitive to disturbances in their environment. The construction alone might scare them for the roost. Also, there is a nesting pair who live on the river year round close to the existing power line (the one with the colored balls on it as a plane deterrent) which crosses the river. They fledged two young last year. We watched one of the adults catch a fish and give it to its young. The two juveniles and the parents are still here. We have video of them. Scenic/Aesthetic: Have you kayaked down the Mississippi River from Clearwater to Monticello? Try it sometime and listen to the ticking, hissing sound that the big power line makes near Monticello. It's an unsettling feeling to pass under that. The kayak trip from Clearwater starts out peaceful and beautiful, but approaching Monticello becomes industrial as the power generation/transportation infrastructure overtakes the landscape. We do not want the cold, industrial infrastructure to change the natural scenery of this rural and residential neighborhood. Personal: Our children are homeschooled and have benefitted immensely from being able to learn directly from nature. They do school in the woods, on the creek, in the barn, and on the river. The proposed lines would go through my children's classroom. Please locate these power lines along some freeway, or industrial area, or vast empty land that doesn't have houses anywhere around.
4/1/2023	Greetings. Hope all is well. Looks like one of the proposed lines is on our property line. I have no interest in giving an easement for this type of endeavor. I appreciate the need you have but we will be building a home where your proposed line is. That will not work for us. Reach out with any questions. Good luck!
4/1/2023	Due to the sensitive areas of the land, I am not in favor of the transmission line crossing on my parcels. We have worked four generations to make this land productive; installing drainage which includes pattern tiling and main drainage structures. With the advancement of aerial technology in agriculture, we do not want to compromise the capabilities that would lie ahead for us.
3/31/2023	Proposed electrical line near our address is highly opposed by many of us living in this vicinity! 1. No written notification was sent to this address! We were notified by a neighbor who discovered this on website while searching for different topic! 2. This poses a negative affect on public health... 3. It poses a negative affect to all property values located in this area! DEVALUES PROPERTY while taxes and expenses INCREASE. We live on a FIXED INCOME. ... There's a gravel pit to our south that is NOISY DUSTY AND HAS A TAR PIT that is ANOTHER PUBLIC HEALTH nuisance concerning pollution...and now you propose a power line to our NORTH SIDE of our residence! 4. ENVIRONMENTALLY IS a nuisance to wild life and destroys the quality of life for human and wildlife... I AM HIGHLY OPPOSED TO THIS POWER LINE PROPOSAL NEAR PRIVATE LIVING RESIDENCES!!!! Stop it! We moved to MN to enjoy a retirement of quiet country life... it seems you don't want people moving here!!!!
3/31/2023	Hello everyone. We do not want a high powered voltage line put up by our home. It is bad on the environment and the people who live with in the lines. We have senior citizens here kids and pets. The lines would not benefit us. It would do more harm then anything. We moved here for the quiet and the wild life around us.
3/31/2023	The proposed route crossing silver creek between 150 the and 155 the would lower the property values of many properties. The route by highway 75 already has a power line there so that would be ideal.
3/31/2023	So I know the proposed map is preliminary, but is there specific routing options you are looking at, or just any route along your proposed map? There's no sense in making a big issue of something if it's not coming through my property, but it seems odd to me that you'd want to run that distance down vacant land as opposed to following a roadway. When is the projected date of having a determined route?
3/31/2023	We didn't receive notification about this and you are suppose to notify people. We really don't want that right in our back yard!! What is wrong with using the one side of the poles along Cty. Road 75??
3/31/2023	I am writing this as I would like to have a formal complaint on file: I do not want a high voltage power line anywhere near or on my property. It would lower our property value and negatively affect the health of my children and animals.
3/28/2023	My wife and I farm in Redwood County Section 5 and 6 of Underwood Township. The line you are proposing would go a mile through our field. You would not be following a property line or road ditch. The line will devalue our farm and lower our cash rent when we rent it out. We have our farm patterned tiled, it is tiled every 60 ft, within a 24" main, a 15" main, and a 12" main line, that the line would cross. The compaction of putting in the line would destroy our tile system . Yield loss would result for years going across our land! Just follow the roads!
3/28/2023	We don't think going to all electric is feasible for MN. Fossil fuel is still needed. Is this project even necessary.
3/28/2023	We the undersigned, hereby petition that we do not want the above-mentioned transmission line to be constructed on/near our property in Forest Prairie Township and Luxemburg Township in Stearns and Meeker Counties.
3/30/2023	I own and operate the SE Qtr of Section 13 in Lucas Township. It would be a major inconvenience if there is highline poles 300 feet out into the field. If those poles need to be on the north side of this property. There is no reason why they couldn't be on the fenceline in nobody's field. There are no other lines there and the new line can be moved southwest of my quarter.
3/29/2023	Why would you go through good farm land. We have pattern tile through the farms. We have to farm around the steel poles with our big equipment. Some will get hurt farming around the steel poles hitting them with our big equipment.
3/29/2023	In placing a powerline on a farmer's land you would be taking land out of production affecting the farmer's livelihood decreasing his income for his family. Declaring 'eminent domain' to take private property using it for a powerline should be considered a violation of property rights. The powerline should be put underground because it is an eye sore. Concerns about renewable resources: while our government is closing many coal powered plants, China are building many. Solar gardens are taking farmlands out of production. What will MN do when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow. Will blackouts occur? Where will the worn-out solar panels and wind turbines go for disposal? What is the guarantee that people who are exposed to the electro-magnetic fields from the powerlines won't get cancer? Some studies show this is happening. Some will be profiting from these projects, but it won't be the American people. The longer this so called global climate agenda continues, the closer we are to losing freedoms we enjoy on this sovereign nation. (See comment for attached map)

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Date	Comment Text
4/13/2023	1. I am an impacted landowner whom Xcel has not directly been contacted or informed of your projected powerline project. 2. I am strongly opposed to Xcel constructing a powerline across or close to my property. A. Impacts on personal health, livestock health, and plan health as outlined in attached study. B. Economic impacts, loss of farmland value, loss of rent potential, loss of ability to use technology necessary to remain efficient/competitive today and into the future of agriculture, restrictions relating to aerial crop spraying. C. Loss of future flexibility or expansion opportunities. 3. During my 40+ year tenure working in agriculture, I have had numerous occasions were public utility projects have impacted my operations. Power, phone, fiber-optic, gas line companies projects, a fuel pipeline, a township sewer project, a city waste water pipeline, a city well and water line together with numerous road/hwy projects. Unfortunately, my experience has given me reason and cause to be extremely reluctant of public utility projects. The extreme disregard and gross negligence I have encountered/endured during and after many of these projects has caused me to resolve, it is better to start in court than to end in court, after the damage is done. 4. Xcel has been one of the most difficult utility companies to encounter working with. 5. Having lived and worked the entirety of my life in agriculture on this land, having recently renovated the house my grandfather built on the land his father homesteaded in 1887, my wife and I have decided this home is to be our last stop. Allowing any projected Xcel powerline to compromise our already challenged immune systems in our home/work environment would be met with strong resistance. (See comment for attached map)
4/13/2023	(Duplicate of 4/13/2023 comment form with different map)
4/13/2023	(Triplicate of 4/13/2023 comment form with different map)
4/14/2023	We have included maps showing our concerns on the possible routes that affect our farming operation in Yellow Medicine County, Hazel Run, and Stony Run Townships. It seems to us that Minnesota Energy Connection isn't trying to address the issues that are important to us when identifying a transmission line route. For one, the proposed lines in our area interfere with our farming operations by cutting directly across some of our farmland multiple times. This is a major inconvenience when it comes to a large-scale farming operation and would require us to farm around the pole settings. In Section 14 of Stony Run Township, it looks to us that we have been singled out for an area to cross the Minnesota River just because it's farmland and not in a conservation program. If we would ever decide to put the farm parcel into a conservation program, the power lines would make a terrible impact on our land. In addition, there are bald eagle nests just a short distance from the proposed line. Finally, in Section 25 of Hazel Run Township, you have circled a farm site on all sides with major power lines, one existing already to the east of their home. It looks to us that you just pulled out a map and started drawing lines without any concerns as to the impact you would have, and with the intention of confusing the property owner as to where the lines will actually be built. We ourselves are confused as to why the existing infrastructure is not being followed in our area -- for instance, State Highway 23 between Marshall and Granite Falls. This route is shorter and will save money, as well as stay out of our farmland. (See comment for attached maps)
4/14/2023	My first comments are in regard to a route option impacting my acreage legally described by the following: 118 76 acres in SECT 35 TWP 118 RANG 35 N1/2 of NW1/4, SE 1/4 of NW 1/4 EXC the ROW. I would like to express my opposition at the out-set considering the following reasons. This farm is one of the most productive in the county. Corn yields in excess of 200 bushels/acre. Surely there must be much less productive real estate for this proposed route corridor to traverse. It is valued at well north of \$10,000/acre. It would definitely involve interference with farm operations. A home on the building site would also be negatively impacted. I would highly endorse following existing infrastructure which could include marginal farm land as well as roads, transmission lines, pipelines, etc. I also have a question about the distribution of the information sheet. My renter received these materials many weeks in advance of myself, the landowner.
4/13/2023	Main county tile line runs adjacent to township road in addition to pattern tiling branching off from main line. Area where line would be constructed has been pattern tiles. Yellow Medicine County. Hazel Run Township, Section 7. SW 1/4. (See comment for attached map)
4/13/2023	NA
4/13/2023	I don't want to look at this out my living room window. My house faces southwest toward line. Thank you. (See comment for attached map)
4/13/2023	Main county tile line runs adjacent to township road. Additionally, field has been extensively pattern tiled in area where line would be constructed. Yellow Medicine County. Hazel Run Township. Section 7. W1/2 of NE 1/4. (See comment for attached map)
4/25/2023	<p>I am the District Engineer for the Clearwater River Watershed District in Annandale Minnesota (covering parts of Stearns, Wright and Meeker Counties). I recently heard from some residents that there is a proposed/potential alignment for new power drops in the northeastern portion of Meeker County MN which would cross Willow Creek, a trout stream. Trout streams are rare and sensitive ecosystems that are highly susceptible to damage from disturbances in the watersheds that drain to them. In fact, significant concern was raised by residents of our watershed district. As the District Engineer - I share that concern. Significant state and local funding has been invested in protecting and improving Willow Creek. I also understand you're proposing crossing of the Clearwater River, at a minimum we would like to review these to limit erosion and damage the river.</p> <p>First, I would strongly encourage a different route with less potential environmental harm, second I would like to see the proposed alignments. Would you be able to provide them to me? If not can you direct me to the person who can take these comments and register them? I've cc-ed our DNR Area hydrologists who would likely review the crossings as well.</p>
4/28/2023	I have attached page of a plat book for properties north and north east of Kimball. I have drawn in red an alternate route from the west to MN Highway 15, then north 1 mile, then due east to County Road 7. I believe there are no homes within 75 feet either side of this line, with the possible exception of Section 28. The property at 14930 State Highway 15 was recently sold, is vacant and being demolished. There are no plans to rebuild a home there. This enables the line to be located along the east side of Highway 15 as drawn. If you cannot cross the Murray Lake WPA, you can shift to the west side as no homes are near to the highway. Please acknowledge receipt of this email. (See comment for attached map)

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Date	Comment Text
4/21/2023	<p>We have made several attempts to send Comment #4 by email, we figure snail mail may be the best way to get it to you. I realize Xcels server security is very thorough, we get a msg even tho the emails are in our gmail sent folder, the emails with attachments include a red notice "EXTERNAL-STOP & THINK" before opening links and attachments. The last email comment #4 was sent with the attachment link removed. We hope this copy of comment #4 will get to you. Your IT people will need to retrieve the "White Paper" referenced in this comment #4.</p> <p>As a property owner, a substantial owner of Xcel common stock, I am concerned that the route proposal for the Xcel Connection provide a quality end product to the Xcel rate payers. Connecting Lyon County via the proposed route to the Sherco retired substation facilities brings back the inherent problem that was exacerbated by the incremental addition of the Sherco coal fired units to the northern sector of the TC Met Grid. That problem is (Voltage, Amperage, Resistance) VAR control (see white paper 1). This situation was somewhat controlled by adding of gas turbines to the Blue Lake generating station by Shakopee, MN. However, with the Zero Carbon Mandate by the state of MN, those turbines will be retired. With the enthusiastic response by the Sherburne County landowners to participating in leasing their land for solar fields, the local solar generation to Sherco has the potential to far exceed the present carbon generation, not to mention the Alexandria to Big Oaks line added to the northern sector. I would like to caution the MN PUC which requires "integrated resource planning(IRP)" (2), that I contend these policy makers are a major partner with Xcel in the design and layout of the source power to the TC Met Grid, they have major interest in the stability of the operating grid in the future. ((2) See page 22 of the attached white paper "Part 3 Policymaker Perspective"). Much propaganda is given by the utility industry in repeated mantra "Reliability." Reliability is only the catastrophic end of the stability of a major power grid. There are such things as fluctuations in power, phase shifting, interaction of VAR influence that affect the quality of product Xcel provides to the rate payer. I would like to suggest to minimize VAR influences on MN Met Grid, that the Lyon County HVTL proposal be changed to route that line to the Blue Lake Generating facility near Shakopee, MN. Also, the Alexandria to Big Oaks HVTL proposed route can be routed to the Sherco retired substation facilities. Since the MN Benton County line is near the Sherco facilities, an existing tie can satisfy the CapX partnership. (See comment for additional topics)</p>
4/14/2023	<p>Land operator: Paul Hacker 3638 450th St, Montevideo, MN 56265. Existing infrastructure - new lines will damage or destroy existing pattern tile and county laterals. Addition of lines will interfere with farming operations - Damaging tile and thereby making wet weather operations difficult. Introducing additional obstructions that require additional time and small equipment to work around. Reducing potential rentability and profitability of the land. Reduction of land value - Damaging tile thereby making drainage problems worse. Introducing obstacles that impact field arrangement. Making land less desirable for renters/operators (potential buyers). (See comment for attached map and land appraisal)</p>
4/18/2023	<p>Aerial spraying option will be eliminated on properties with transmission poles. Seneca foods uses aerial spraying on fields and poles would eliminate the possibility of growing canning crops with them. Poles are difficult to farm around and difficult to control weeds by poles. Farmland is devalued by presence of poles and transmission lines. (See comment for attached maps)</p>
4/22/2023	<p>I am herewith enclosing a map of Harvey Township, Meeker County. I have drawn a red line to represent two of the proposed Xcel Energy transmission lines going through Harvey Township. Also marked on the map are yellow markings to represent the location of homes that are located across the road from the proposed transmission line. The two homes marked on Section 5 on 340th Street are both located 100 feet from the center of the road and the other homes are also in very close proximity to the road. These six families are concerned about having a transmission line so close to our homes where we would be exposed twenty-four hours a day seven days a week year after year. I live in one of these homes on 340th Street therefore I have a personal interest in this transmission line. We currently have a powerline going west to east on our land. There is a constant hum and crackling sound coming from the lines and you don't have to be very far from the line to hear the noise and it isn't even a humid day.</p> <p>On behalf of myself and other families that are located within close proximity of the proposed Xcel Energy transmission line in Harvey Township, we oppose this line by our homes. We propose a straighter route to follow would be the one located in the eastern part of Meeker County which follows Highway #15 by Dassel and going north to Kimball.</p>
4/22/2023	<p>I own 80 acres near Lady Slipper Lake and School Grove Lake in Lyon County. This proposed transmission line is proposed to be placed 300 ft into my farm land. This will lower my property/rent values. This will also be a great inconvenience for farming around. Compaction is also a concern for me. My husband and I farm land near where windmills were placed 7 years ago. The company placing the windmills drove equipment across our land causing compaction. They did some deep tillage afterward to try to correct the compaction, but 7 years later we still see a decrease in yield along this path. So we are concerned about the long term yield losses around the placement of this transmission line. (See comment for attached maps)</p>
4/22/2023	<p>Concerning Melville Section 34, Palmyra Section 10 and 15 in Renville County. This proposed line would affect properties that I farm. I am opposed to this line going by these farms as it will cause problems framing around them. Also it will cut through areas of tile in the fields. This will decrease the property values because the line will have to be farmed around. It takes away from productive farm land. Also it will be a visible eye sore from my place!</p>
5/9/2023	<p>I am writing to provide comments regarding the MN Energy Connection project. The powerline through Clearwater Township is a problem for people, animals and property. The two Clearwater Township routes traverse populated areas with many homes located close to the lines, and according to the National Cancer Institute (www.cancer.gov), electrical magnetic fields (EMFs) from powerlines increase cancer risks for adults and children. EMFs are also risk for non-human life along the routes' waterways, forested areas and pastures. A regenerative livestock ranching operation directly beneath the line where it veers cross-country is also threatened; habitat and many trees will be destroyed; proper values will diminish (we just built a new custom home < 3 years ago), creating economic hardship and a loss of tax revenue. The third route (northern) that circumvents the township is preferable. It is far less populated with homes set far back from the road on mostly large ag lots; there is less environmental diversity and habitat; along Sherburne CR8, the route characterized by mostly large solar farms, with numerous transmission lines already situated there, which could possibly be used for this project as well.</p>
5/22/2023	<p>I am writing to convey my vehement objection to the 2 power line routes through the south clearwater township area. I have lived in the area for over 35 years and we have a beautiful country setting without the sight lines of large power poles and lines. I understand the need to get power to where it is needed, (although this is not that. It is replacing power with what I believe will in the long run result in higher costs and less reliable power) it would seem that it would make sense to keep everything more in the existing power corridors such as the route that travels along county road 8 that has the lines and solar farms already covering the landscape. The MN landscape is already peppered with lines almost everywhere you look, and now you are looking at putting poles and lines in one of the few open areas left. We also have many houses, water systems, animals, trees and such that become victimized by this expansion. The potential EMF problems you are aware of so I wont belabor that..</p> <p>Another interesting point is most of us in the area are not serviced by Xcel but Wright Hennepin Coop. So we would potentially get poles and lines in our backyard from a power company we don't get electricity from. Hmm...</p> <p>Again, I ask that you install your new poles and lines in corridors that have been committed to power infrastructure.</p>

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Date	Comment Text
5/24/2023	<p>My name is Raquel, and my husband, daughter, and myself live off 160th St, 700ft from the proposed power lines. My family, extended family, neighbors, and the entire community are extremely disturbed and frankly, furious, over the 1st & 2nd option proposed line routes. They are extremely hazardous in so many ways to human health and well-being, as well as our homesteads, local regenerative livestock ranching operation, abundant wildlife (including bald eagles - a protected species, integral to the health of the ecosystem), and our natural ecosystem. On the Xcel website it states there is no personal health risks caused by power lines. This is simply not true, and I ask you, even if the risk would be considered minimal- would YOU feel comfortable exposing your family, your children, or any innocent child to these dangerous EMF's that can potentially cause cancer? I would like to include the following information directly from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences website for further reference:</p> <p>“In 1997 a working group of 45 scientists from around the world surveyed the evidence for adverse EMF health effects. They reported that, "taken together, the findings of all published studies are suggestive of an association between childhood leukemia and EMF magnetic fields.”</p> <p>“The WHO reported that living in homes near power lines was associated with an approximate 1.5-fold excess risk of childhood leukemia. The panel classified power-frequency EMF as "possibly carcinogenic to humans" based on a fairly consistent statistical association between a doubling of risk of childhood leukemia and magnetic field exposure above 0.4 microtesla.” My daughter is a lively, healthy, nature loving little girl that loves her home and this neighborhood. My husband, who also deeply loves his home, has battled severe health issues since the pandemic in 2020 that are still ongoing. Their health and well-being, to me, is paramount. I will do absolutely everything in my power to protect their health and I will not sit quietly by while falsehoods of the true dangers of EMF's are being told. In addition, my family (as well as our neighbors) moved here to enjoy the beautiful country life, create homesteads, experience the abundant wildlife, and live in peace. Not only are the power lines going to ruin so many of those aspects, they will also severely affect our property values- and that is EXTREMELY unfair to us.</p> <p>This neighborhood is filled with families with young children who love to run and play on our quiet and peaceful dirt roads, as well as neighbors who love to get together for walks, and folks who love to go for runs enjoying the beautiful scenery and rolling hills. Are you really going to take that away from us while also exposing these innocent children to KNOWN harmful EMF's?</p> <p>I ask you please, from the bottom of my heart, as a loving mother who wants only the best for her family and community, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE consider the path of these power lines to stay on the main highway roads as much as possible, and keep them OUT of our neighborhood.</p> <p>I have looked in detail at the map routes:</p> <p>THE FAR NORTHERN ROUTE COMING UP 15, CTY RD 142 TO 44, DOWN RIVER ROAD CTY RD 8 MAKES THE MOST SENSE - THIS ROUTE STAYS MORE ON MAIN BUSIER HIGH TRAFFIC HIGHWAY ROADS (KEEPING THE QUIETER RESIDENTIAL ROAD'S PEACEFUL NATURE INTACT) - AFFECTING LESS PEOPLE AND THEIR HOMES. CTY ROAD 8 IS BECOMING A MAJOR SOLAR PANEL FARM AND IS CONTINUING TO HAVE SOLAR PANEL GROWTH. IT ONLY MAKES SENSE TO RUN THESE PROPOSED POWER LINES DOWN CTY ROAD 8 TO AVOID THE HIGHER POPULATED AREA OF CLEARWATER AND CLEARWATER TOWNSHIP.</p> <p>THANK YOU so very much for taking the time to read this and understanding why it is of the utmost importance these power lines stay AWAY from Fish Lake and the Clearwater Township area. I look forward to further communication and confirmation that route options 1 & 2 will be avoided.</p> <p>Have a great rest of your day, you are appreciated.</p>
6/2/2023	<p>I attached this map for a visual of my property and the proposed location of your power line so you can see how close this is to the housing and commercial property in the city of Kimball and how the power line in this location will stop further growth of Kimball at this location. Let me know you received this, if you need more details I can provide them, but it may be better to just drive to the end of the housing development and see it up close when you are at Powder Ridge. I will be out of town and unable to attend the meeting at Powder Ridge. Also take note of all the gravel pits in the area. I think this would be a good location to add solar to the system. (See comment for attached map)</p>
6/5/2023	<p>Hello. My wife and I attended an open house in Redwood Falls in March, at which we provided feedback regarding the proposed transmission line routes. One of the proposed routes borders our property and we don't want the transmission line built on our property line. The “updated” route still runs along our property line and we still don't want it built along our property line. We want the transmission line built as far away from our property as possible.</p> <p>The northernmost route between Eden Valley and Willmar borders and runs along our property line at XXX 135th St NE Atwater, MN 56209, just before the route crosses Highway 12 and heads south (when going east to west). Our property is south of the 30th Ave NE and 135th St NE intersection and is bordered to the north by the proposed route. The line can't be built here because it would destroy our driveway, as well as destroy a line of 100-year-old oak trees, which house various species of birds and other animals, some of which are protected and, perhaps, even endangered (Pileated Woodpeckers, Owls, etc.). The proposed line runs directly on top of/over our driveway and the tree line. Therefore, building the line here would devastate wildlife and existing infrastructure. Additionally, a portion of our property is a wetland area, home to many waterfowl. Building the line here would disrupt this wildlife. The proposed route also borders an “Avoidance Area” (a waterfowl protection area) adjacent to our land. Building the line here would negatively impact protected wildlife.</p> <p>My wife just gave birth to our son and we are planning on building a house near the property line where the transmission line would be built. Building the transmission line here would prevent us from building our house and cause severe setbacks to our lives. It would also negatively impact our existing garden that is near the property line. I know that the farmer whose land the proposed route cuts through just to the north of our property is also entirely opposed to the building of the line. The proposed line cuts through the center of the neighboring farmer's fields, which would be detrimental to the farming operation. Surrounding our property, a single farmer owns the land to both the east and west, and the proposed line cuts into their land on both sides, in a major way. Cutting through farmers' fields and other private areas (like our property) is unacceptable when there are existing public roadways and existing easements that can be utilized. You can expect legal troubles from the farmers and residents of this area if you try to build the line here. In summary, we urge and particularly demand that the transmission line not be built along our property line. Please move the transmission line as far away from our property as possible. (See comment for attached map)</p>
6/7/2023	<p>Our family has land in one of the proposed MN Energy Connection routes. Our land is in Harvey township, northwest of Litchfield, and we have concerns of the route going through our agricultural land, and also a building site that we have and intend to build on. I know there is an open house tomorrow in Litchfield from 4-7. Is this the best place to express our concern? Also, is it a come and go open house, or a meeting from 4-7? I included a snip below and this route would go directly over one house that is currently being constructed, and right over another house that is planning on being constructed. This would greatly impact these homes. (See comment for attached map)</p>

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Date	Comment Text
6/6/2023	NOT INTERESTED (See comment for attached map)
6/6/2023	NA
6/6/2023	We would prefer the northern most route around Kimball, which would take the line along 150th Street 1.84 miles from our home rather than 0.83 miles for the southern route along Balsam Avenue.
6/6/2023	NA
6/6/2023	The route north of Kimball which runs north of Powder Ridge Rd would travel directly along Powder Ridge's driveway - P.R. needs to land helicopters on occasion - could be an interference. It would also cross a body of water, and run very close to a resident on Drumlin Road and near 2 on 93rd Ave.
6/6/2023	North route with helicopters on northern route when picking up injured at Powder Ridge. Close to Eric Lodlow house, Chuck Nystrom's house, Andy Knaus and other homes. Crossing over water (ponds).
6/6/2023	Why not follow existing power lines... Or go north of Kimball and back east along the freeway.
6/6/2023	Within map B2. There is a grave site (my brother) located in the wood N of my property, just south of line with Powder Ridge. At least six homes in close proximity of Powder Ridge. Powder Ridge needs to be clear of lines when a Life Link helicopter is needed in emergencies. This route would take out virgin forest and prime hunting land. Gas line goes through the vicinity. Pretty heavy rock.
6/6/2023	Cutting trees - effects road noise for property and pound.
6/6/2023	Regarding specific route options - for several reasons our preference would be straight east from the Kimball area and NOT the hwy 15 north to 142*. *Please avoid the longer, more costly option (short length to repair) that goes north of Clearwater. Due to residences, cost, distance, traffic/accidents, and natural resources. It seems to have less impact going with the option that avoids 15 and Clearwater. More info on a timeline and potential pros/cons would have been helpful to the public, as it's probably too late for a resident to have much to say, but seems much is already decided. Lesser of 2 evils. Thank you that we did get our answers and this info at the event. Just wish earlier input.
6/6/2023	NA
6/6/2023	As the line currently sits, it would go directly over our house. We do not want our kids growing up playing under power lines. It would ruin our beautiful property. We have wildlife that continually goes through from the woods to the creek. It would disrupt their habitat. Trees would more than likely need to be cut down. Although it supposedly doesn't effect land value, who would want to buy a house with a power line directly over it? We sure wouldn't!
6/6/2023	NA
6/6/2023	We live on a refuge with lots of wild animals. There is also a lake that is home and a stopping place for waterfowl. I would definitely be concerned about them hitting the lines. (See comment for attached map)
6/7/2023	Please stay on the Sherburne County side as much as possible and stay on existing line routes. If you had to go in Wright County, it should be placed directly south of Sherco and follow the I-94 line (straight south of the plant to Co Rd 75, which is mostly owned by Xcel).
6/7/2023	I would strongly suggest the northern route/A2 through Kimball then across Hwy 94 to Sherburne County 8 down to Becker. The routes through Clearwater Township go through organic farms and is a far more populated area. Also - County 8 already has powerlines. Solar farms in place - so easy to add the new line??
6/7/2023	I do not want your transmission lines through my property due to severe impact to my trees, property values, unsightly towers, my bills will increase due to lack of tree coverage, I prefer Xcel Energy uses existing right of ways and open tower lines along 94.
6/7/2023	Notice my three boxes above - all are related to the same concern: needed infrastructure impacting previously minimally land - open land, woods, water, etc. Highways, RRs have already impacted our way of life - they are necessary as are power delivery. My point: One route least impacts our surroundings - the one that most follows existing infrastructure and will the least damage: please choose the route that most runs along County Road 8, and CR 142.
6/7/2023	The proposed line route option that appears to be less intrusive is the northern route - less residential and has proximity to roadway. I live in Clearwater Township near (within 1/2 mile). I selfishly say, "Not in my backyard".
6/7/2023	Please let us know about the next meeting.
6/7/2023	We feel a straighter line from the SW would be more sensible and perhaps cheaper. I do feel the route on 160th Street involves too many close homes and lakes and waterways. Also takes many rivers that are holding very sandy ground in place.
6/7/2023	(See last page of PDF for map)
6/8/2023	Locate lines on property that is not being farmed or used like cropland or other land not used for ag production.
6/8/2023	We are very concerned about possible health effects and the effects on the water resources for the line proposed to be placed within 2 miles of Lake Louisiana in Fairhaven Township, Stearns County. We are also highly opposed to the loss of agricultural production which will result from the conversion of farmland to solar and wind generation, people cannot eat electricity.
6/8/2023	Keep the coal fired plant, don't rely on Chinese made production
6/8/2023	Between Sec 15 to Sec 20 of Harvey Twn in Meeker Co be sure to add bird diverters to the line as this is significant trumpeter swan nesting area on Lake Mary and Half Moon Lake.
6/8/2023	The proposed route crosses wetland managed by Public Water Inventory needing permission from DNR - Our family has protected this wetland for over 100 years. The power line at this location along our parcel would cause the destruction of virgin plants, trees, pollinators. The adjoining property the power-line would go between our property and CRP land - so does this mean the line and ROW would need to be totally on our land?
6/12/2023	I would like Xcel to consider a route through Stanley Township that follows the existing 69 kV line. Ideally this route would be co-located (triple circuit) with that line. By co-locating, it reduces the amount of additional ROW. Also - this is a nice straight shot that stays far away from houses. (See comment for attached map)
6/12/2023	I would like Xcel to consider co-locating this line with existing lines wherever possible. CapX2020 did this with an East River electric 115 kV line as it went past my place and it worked well. There is now triple circuit line where the 115 kV line was, and not only did it keep to the same route and minimize the impact, but it actually reduced the number of poles that farmers had to navigate around.
6/12/2023	If Xcel continues to need a route in this location, I would propose that rather than follow the field lines, the route be moved just to the west side of the existing CapX2020 line. I live on the star in this map, and placing it where Xcel has it marked would destroy the visual beauty of the landscape for me and my neighbors to the south. We would be surrounded! By putting it next to the existing line it would mitigate the visual impacts it would "blend in" better. Additionally the triangular-shaped area to the north of us is our wetland conservation area that I intend to protect and make into a place of scenic and natural preservation. I have not activated my specific plans for this but if you put the line where it is correctly drawn, what's the point? Nobody will want to come enjoy the wildlife and the natural view if it is almost completely surrounded by industrial power lines. (See comment for attached map)

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Date	Comment Text
6/12/2023	Attn: Matt Langan. I was given your name by Tom at the open house. I want to let you know that I have 2 morton buildings located at 1018 County Road 63 Balaton, that would be excellent for an O&M building. I realize that it may be a while till these buildings could be used for this. But I wanted to inform you of them and their locating. The main building has offices, kitchenette, bathroom with shower and plenty of open shop space. This building has infrared tubular heat in the main building. Is approximately 54 x 80 with concrete floor. 14 foot garage doors. The second building is approximately 54 x 80 with heat and gravel floor. You can email me if you want pictures at karenkaylarsen@gmail.com.
6/13/2023	Main concerns are try to avoid building, water, and ag disruptions. Also need to learn more about electric and magnetic fields and how they may interfere with internet reception.
6/13/2023	Your south route will encounter flooding in both Ammet (Lyon) County and Gales (Redwood) County. When you get into Gales Twsp Sections 16 and 9 you will find we have tiles lines every 50 feet. There will be tremendous cost to repair the drainage system that is integral to our business. (See comment for attached map)
6/13/2023	1. We already have the Great River power line on the south side of our property. 2. This proposed line on the north side will also permanently reduce yield. 3. Short term yields and disruption are significant. 4. It's very close to the Rohlik Slew and will be detrimental to that wildlife habitat. (See comment for attached map)
6/13/2023	Route goes through the family farm. The line would interfere with the pasture which is used for grazing cattle. And also would ruin the beauty of the river valley. The line would go within the 1/4 mile of the farm home. (See comment for attached map)
6/13/2023	The proposed line splits my farm. The parcel in section 2 of Kintire. Charles Grannes land will be owned by me soon and it is farmed as 1 field now. Lots of tile lines. I have it sprayed with airplane every year. If I have line through field and on north side of property he won't spray it. Too dangerous. I'm also concerned with stray voltage and being concerned by lines on 2 sides of me. I think it should be moved to the east 1 mile or at least 1/2 mile. I don't want to be surrounded by power lines! (See comment for attached map)
6/13/2023	NA
6/13/2023	Please see our farm as shown on the attached map. We ALREADY have the Great River Line along the south boundary. Please do NOT.
6/14/2023	Already affected by two other existing pipelines and possibly a third pipeline Summit Carbon Pipeline. Petroleum pipeline people have already screwed us over also.
6/14/2023	We already have existing pipelines and possibly a third pipeline the Summit carbon pipeline is coming.
6/14/2023	Affected by 2 pipelines. Summit Carbon also wants to put their pipeline thru my land. Line would go thru the middle of our farm. Use right of roads.
6/14/2023	The circled area on the enclosed map is prone to flooding every year (spring especially) and it is all peat dirt. We also pasture our cows there. I have concerns on how the line would affect them and their grazing.
6/14/2023	Part of the proposed line cuts right through the middle of my farm. Why don't they follow Highway 23? (See comment for attached maps)
6/14/2023	This one was great y'all should have tomato plants at every one.
6/14/2023	Proposed line crosses middle of field so there is no easy access to towers. Poles may effect tile lines. Towers would disrupt farming operation. (See comment for attached map)
6/14/2023	I currently am impacted by a 69 kV line. I was concerned that the new line would follow this line which would have put the new lines within 100 feet of my house and the easement would be within 75 of my house. I'm relieved that the proposed line is 6 miles east of my homestead. The new line would also be within 50 yards the lake (the existing 69 kV line).
6/14/2023	Your plans right now go right past my house. I do not want this here or close to my farm.
6/15/2023	It was a fantastic showing!
6/15/2023	Follow the road right of ways!!
6/15/2023	Should "illustrated" powerline route north of G. Falls I do not have personal property concerns. I do, however, have concerns regarding power disruptions to area industries, like Granite Falls Energy, that must run 24/7 year around except for controlled maintenance outages (3 days each, twice/yr). Even a few second power bump is costly to that plant and especially so from 1 Dec - 1 Apr.
6/9/2023	Please Follow Hwy 15. Eliminating trees and ruining views to the country residence is cruel.
6/15/2023	<p>I am writing you today after attending an open house in Marshall MN regarding proposed project line routes. Along with my family, we own and operate a farrow to finish pig, Boerboom Ag Resources, and we have concerns with three of the proposed routes. We all also live in the area and have for all of our lives.</p> <p>First, where the line crosses through Section 4 of Clifton Township in Lyon County. Our family owns and farms land on both sides of the proposed route. We also own and operate two 2400 finishing barns in the same half section. To spread manure from those barns we utilize a drag line system where manure is spread via 8" hose that is drug behind an applicator. To conduct this process open fields are necessary. This proposed route would have the new line next an existing line. From talking with the representative at the open house, there would likely be an offset of 200' from that line. If that is the case it would make manure application in that area between those lines impossible and in our operation, render those acres nearly useless. I would estimate that around 10 acres would be useless. We placed the barns in manor that we did on this section to make manure application efficient and maximize the use of a valuable resource. If the line is built as proposed, it would greatly decrease our efficiency and increase our need of fossil fuels. Both the through increased diesel use for manure application and farming and the need for commercial fertilizer.</p> <p>Second, where the line passes through section 34 of Underwood Township in Redwood County. The proposed route would have the line running nearly on top of a 5,800 Swine Nursery barn that is owned by our family. The proposed line is on the half mile line and our barn is about 50' offset from that half mile line. The barn has feed bins and a roofline that extends over 20' into the air. I have a high level of concern with the proposed line being so close our facility. A solution may be to move the line out into the field; however, it would create similar issues as referenced in my first point. We spread manure via a drag line to neighboring fields. If the lines are moved into the middle of the field, it would create the same issues.</p> <p>Lastly, the line is proposed to run on the west end Section 21 of Underwood Township in Redwood County. In SE quarter of Section 21 we operate a 3,600 head sow farm. With its size this farm requires that about 1,400 acres be included in the manure management plan. Again, all this manure is spread via a drag line. Efficient operation is critical and where the proposed line runs it would decrease our efficiency. We typically spread in a two-mile radius of the farm, so keeping the line out Sections 20, 21, 22, 27, 28, and 29 would allow for us to continue to operate as we have historically. At a bare minimum, if this route is used it must follow right of ways to minimize the impact on our ability to operate.</p> <p>I understand the need for this project. I would like to see that the poles and bases are placed in locations where is a net zero effect on our ability to operate. The locations mentioned above would all increase our need to burn carbon either because of increased diesel use for application or need for fossil fuels to make commercial fertilizer. If you would like more specifics on this, I would be happy to provide you with those.</p>
6/20/2023	After looking at the line, it splits 3 of our fields, they are patterned tiled and have lift stations to remove the water. Also it's going through old lake Fanny which is a flood zone and is solid peat ground. Attached is a picture of the standing water every spring. Our land is Fixsen Properties and Lucy Larson. (See email for attached movie)

Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
6/20/2023	<p>I am a landowner of farmland in Renville County, Wang Township, Section 8 (888th Avenue, Maynard, MN). One of your proposed routes cuts diagonally across my farm's southeast corner, a similar route to an existing electric line.</p> <p>I DO NOT WANT ANY ADDITIONAL ELECTRIC POLES CUTTING ACROSS MY FARM LAND, ESPECIALLY DIAGONALLY ACROSS MY FARM! The poles are a hassle to farm around and they will be a nuisance FOREVER.</p>
6/20/2023	<p>Hi this is Charles Johnson from Hector, MN. I have land in Palmyra Township and Mandan Township. I do not think that a power line would not be great for our farm because we like to do a lot of flying on the chemicals and things and the lines screw it all up and mess it up for us and it's not something we're looking for. We don't want any windmills either. People that got them are not real happy with them. That's my comment. Thank you. Goodbye.</p>
6/13/2023	<p>I am attaching a document from the client, Anderson Trucking Services in St. Cloud, that includes a letter they sent to Xcel through the normal public comment process, as well as maps of the properties in question that as of now have NOT been previously shared with anyone at Xcel. The land parcels potentially impacted include a) Anderson Trucking's maintenance facility (where large and heavy equipment is sometimes moved/parked); b) Anderson Trucking's headquarters (including surrounding parcels where the company was planning expansion of new facilities); and c) other family land parcels that technically have nothing to do with the Anderson Trucking business but that contain center pivot irrigation systems. It's all a little hard to understand, so I will try to boil it down to the following requests/priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. As indicated on the map on page 4 (and page 5) of the attachment, the "northern" proposed route – emphasized with a black line next to the red line – is our preferred route and would result in minimal impacts to Anderson Trucking or family agriculture lands. Though we do have some questions on exact route placement given the size of equipment sometimes moving in and out of the maintenance facility. The second map in the attachment, on the 5th page, reflects this parcel and the existing maintenance facility. As we understand the proposed route, if this "northern" route were selected, we believe it would have minimal to zero impacts to the maintenance facility, and no impacts at all to the agriculture parcels (mentioned below). (If this route were chosen, #2 and #3 below would be moot points.) 2. If the "southern" route option was implemented by Xcel, a greater concern is depicted on the map on the 6th page of the attachment, concerning family agriculture land adjacent to the Clearwater River just west of State Highway 24 and south of County Road 40/46 (or 160th Street NW). 3. We have other minor concerns or questions, depending on routing options ("southern" routes), concerning family agriculture lands containing center pivot systems and also limitations the transmission line could place on converting these agriculture parcels to future Anderson Trucking facilities. We think these modest concerns can be clarified by your team and likely resolved easily. (See comment for attached PDF)
6/24/2023	<p>We have become aware of a power transmission line proposed by Xcel energy across Lyon and Redwood counties MN. Although we understand the need for these lines to supply green energy, we ask that this line has a slight adjustment to location. We have a family park, Wild Acres, located in the southwest corner, of the SE corner of section 12, Amiret township in Lyon County MN. The park is in an LLP and has been in existence over 21 years. This park is used by our family, neighbors and has hosted weddings, family reunions, graduations, Knights of Columbus meeting etc. Is there a way to move the line slightly south to make it less visible to our park. A power line right in this 10-acre park would be very disruptive of the park use when setting tents etc. This proposed, by me southern, relocation also would disrupt less trees and wildlife in my opinion. Please let me know if you have any questions. My contact information is below.</p>
6/26/2023	<p>My family has a park located in Lyon county. Amiret township 12 section 12 southeast 1/4 address 2002 County Road 11 Tracy MN 56175. This park was built so we could get out of the city to enjoy nature and listen to the birds and relax. We all want our grandchildren to play where it is safe. We most certainly don't want electric lines running through our property. We have had many family reunions, weddings & graduation parties. Last year we were a host site to the Tracy area garden & quilt tour. PBS came and did a feature on our location. It is a beautiful location we don't want ruined with power lines. Thank you, Mary Schlemmer</p>
6/27/2023	<p>I am writing as a home owner who lives on 592nd Avenue, Litchfield, MN 55355. It may come up Eden Valley as well. The route recently moved to this road because of some complaints about the crow river, so that original route option further west was abandoned, but I think the original route would still be a much better option as there are no houses on this route that was previously on the map. The crow river is not a big deal and you have to cross it at other points anyway so whoever was complaining about that really didn't have legitimate complaints at all.</p> <p>This new route on 592nd Avenue has 4 houses on it and all the houses are very close to the power line, 3 of them so close its like right in front of their houses. I have attached 2 other really good route options, and one option that stays away from 2 properties.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Option #1 I feel is the best option as it stays away from houses/residences. I have attached 2 pages showing it and just to the south of it is the route it would already be connecting to. 2. Option #2 is also a good option, and I think a lot like the original option that was changed which again was not a bad option because it isn't affecting homes/residences. 3. Option #3 is better option than what's currently on map, going further west where you are already are crossing a road, it just keeps going a little further west and then misses 2 of the properties and ends up connecting again to where line already was, more in fields where it crosses <p>This new Xcel power line is awful for the people and residences that it will be affecting. It will wreck the value of our property, it could cause health hazards from being so close to our homes. The power it's going to produce does no one on this route any good and it just is not going to work long term, just does not make sense.</p> <p>My husband Tom and I bought this property in 2000, built a home and have lived there and raised our children for the last 23 years, we have worked hard to build the value and make it a safe and happy place to live. Now, Xcel is coming in and putting power lines right across from our driveway and it's going to have a very negative affect on the value and what we've worked so hard to build. There are other routes in the county that would be out in fields and away from homes/residences/people and animals. There is also a dairy farm just south of us on this route and these cattle are in the pasture and could have stray voltage affects and it could be very bad for their health.</p> <p>I am very against this route and will do everything in my power to have it changed. Maybe the route can go through the properties that it's supplying power to, wouldn't that make more sense than hurting those residences that don't get any benefit of it. It also is not on our property, it's just across the road and very close, still very negative affects for us but does all harm to us.</p>
6/28/2023	<p>Please see the attached video for our public comments on the 160th St. / CR7 option for the proposed transmission line route. (See comment for video showing drone footage of the property and outline impacts to the property including residences, wetlands, drainage pond. In favor of Hwy 15 route)</p>

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Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
6/29/2023	<p>I live in a rural area outside of Manannah MN, and after seeing the map of your power line route, not only did it crush my heart but it crushed my entire family's. Growing up in a rural location is something special, not having neighbors on top of you, not hearing loud traffic, having the room to run and play loudly without anyone getting upset, having land and space for all of our family's special activities. All of these things are most important to me and my family. My parents built our home over 20 years ago out on a gravel road, in the middle of the country and it has been a special place for my siblings and I to grow up.</p> <p>My parents have a couple grandkids now with another one on the way and it has always been their dream to have their grandkids grow up out in the country on their land just like us kids did. But with these power lines supposedly coming in and going literally right across from my parents driveway, our hopes seem to be falling apart. Not only are they loud and noisy because of the electricity but they also are harmful. How are we supposed to let our kids run around outside and play when these power lines are harmful to them? It's quite upsetting this is even happening when the power lines could go 100 yards farther into a field. But instead, you chose to put them on top of someone's house. And now, the value of my childhood home will decrease in value significantly, another major reason this is heartbreaking.</p> <p>For me and my family's sake, I really hope you decide to move this route or at least move the route 100 more yards into a field. Not only for the sake of my families happiness and safety, but also for the sake all of our health. I want my kids to experience the childhood I got to have out in the country with room to roam and live without having to worry about stupid power lines and the affects it will cause.</p>
6/29/2023	<p>I am writing concerning the potential plan to build a power line on and near our property in St. Augusta, Minnesota. If you proceed with this plan, it will be devastating to the property, the livestock, the wildlife, our neighbors, my family and our farming business. Small farmers are a highly overlooked, yet vital business in central and northern Minnesota. We farm land that is riddled with challenges such as an ultra short growing season, extremely cold winters and frequent droughts. We do all of this while being stewards to the environment – trying not to disturb wildlife or deplete our natural resources.</p> <p>The installation of power lines would not only decrease our square footage as far as tillable crop land and pasture, but the intermittent stray voltage would increase the stress to any livestock grazing on the property. I am a veterinarian and have devoted my life to animal welfare. Stress on livestock (and neighboring wildlife) is not only inhumane and cruel, it decreases their productivity. I am ready to supply many papers written and research done supporting the adverse effects of stray voltage on farming.</p> <p>R. D. APPLEMAN and R. J. GUSTAFSON state: "Many different problems associated with management and milking of dairy cows occur when relatively small currents of electricity pass through cow's bodies. Producers are experiencing cow health problems and lowered milk production because of currents from "stray" voltages... Depending on the region, off-farm problems [stray voltage] may be involved in approximately two-thirds of all problem farms." Rodenburg in Ontario found the principal sources of stray voltage on 76% of the farms surveyed were attributable to neutral resistance of the distribution system.</p> <p>My family has owned this land in St. Augusta, Minnesota for over 100 years. We respectfully request on behalf of our family, farm, neighboring farms, livestock, wildlife and wetlands/environment that you find an alternate route to put your unsightly, intrusive and hazardous power lines through our state.</p>
7/6/2023	<p>I just watched the virtual meeting online. I looked up the online map and the proposed line runs along side my farm that I live on. I have an irrigator that hugs the property line and would be affected if the line was put in. I'm not a fan of this project and hope the line doesnt affect my farm land.</p>
7/6/2023	<p>I am following up on the status of the proposed transmission line route based on my previous email and comments, to verify that you were able to adjust the route so that it doesn't border or cross our property. As I previously explained, building the transmission line on or along our property would decimate our land and crush my family's future. This land is all that we have. We have big plans to build our home on the property and we won't be able to if the transmission line is built where proposed.</p> <p>I'm attaching some photos of our driveway and treeline, directly on top of which the transmission line would be built, utterly destroying everything we've worked so hard to make our own. I can provide as much information as you need to identify the property or other information to help.</p> <p>All you need to do is keep the transmission line on the road (30th AVE NE) to the north (where it is already proposed, a few miles down), until after you pass our property. This saves the line one needless turn and also saves our neighbors' fields from being cut in half by the transmission line.</p>
7/7/2023	<p>The PDF is a visual of what I think is the best location for the power line between Kimball and Powder Ridge. If you cannot open it let me know. (See comment for pdfs).</p> <p>In an earlier email I suggested there was a better location North of the Powder Ridge Road for the power line. This map helps explain what I am suggesting in order to move the line away from the City of Kimball and Powder Ridge. The red lines are your proposals, the blue lines are my suggested changes. I marked an old house that is going to be removed and also marked the adjacent property the existing gravel pit is moving to.</p> <p>I worked as a Powder Ridge Ski Patrol for over 45 years. A power line that close to the ski area is going to get ice on the wires from snow making and make it more difficult to get rescue helicopters into the landing zone. You will also encounter huge rocks on that hill adding to the construction cost. When the gas line came through I wanted some rock for landscaping, they were going to pile the rock by me and I had permission to take what I wanted. Later I asked why there were no rock at the designated site. There were so many rock and they were so large they had to hire someone to pick and haul the rock away. I was told they had big equipment and would not move the line 4-inches as the cost would be too high. Later I was told they ran into rocks that were so big their huge equipment could not move them. There will also be the added cost of removing the old oak trees at the Powder Ridge site in the name of green energy. My suggestions will reduce your construction and maintenance costs while saving some trees.</p> <p>The property by Highway 15 North of Kimball is prime commercial property. On the center bottom of the map, note the 1/2 circle indicating an adjusted irrigation pivot to accommodate the 13.4 acre industrial property purchased this year for \$350,000. There is another business in development just south of that property. Also note current location of the city sewer and water in the housing development in which 3 new houses are currently being built. Also note how the roads stop at my property line to accommodate future growth. A power line here would stop any further growth for the city of Kimball at this location.</p> <p>The above map shows the approximate location of the irrigation pivots. I understand you can work around the irrigation, but there are options to totally avoid them and leave more room for the city to grow. We are already adjusting the irrigation to allow the city to grow. A power line here would stop that growth.</p> <p>I believe you have a better proposed route north of the Powder Ridge Road. There are several gravel pits north of Powder Ridge Road and some larger gravel pits just east of highway 15 with several small fields that have little farming value making this a better location for a power line. This would also be a good location for a strategically placed substation to add solar to the system.</p>

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Date	Comment Text
7/10/2023	There is an active eagle nest south of Eden Valley and east of Hwy 22 in Meeker County. There is at least one, and maybe two eaglets in the nest. I could watch them from my living room earlier this spring before the trees leafed out. About three weeks ago, one of the parents flew over my back yard in EV carrying a rabbit to feed its family. PLEASE be aware of our precious resource and keep the power line far away from the nest.
6/1/2023	From the map we received, we cannot tell what the exact route is. Do you have a map with roads listed? How close to us will the proposed route be?
6/5/2023	I and our neighbors strongly oppose the proposed power line coming through on the 'Northern-most' route through the Kimball Area. Many houses in this stretch are perched up on the hill looking down (to the South) which would have us looking directly onto the power line and destroying the beautiful natural view we have here. The homes built in this area are built on 'dream properties' as people's forever homes. This area near the Powder Ridge and Stickney Hill have a very natural setting with rolling hills and mature trees, that would be destroyed with the power line coming though (not to mention far more construction site prep work needed by Xcel to install the lines). It does also surprise me that you are proposing the line going up the steep hills near Powder Ridge, from a construction standpoint. Transmission lines like this should be run closer to a town/city where people are more used to seeing industrial type elements, not through beautiful natural habitat areas that would be destroyed. This Northern route places the line very close to homes, and almost directly over the top of a few others in my immediate neighborhood. Not to mention, running very close to a handful of farms raising livestock (I have heard many past stories with lines of this caliber and stray voltage in cattle herds). I am wondering what happened to the original proposed route that had the line going through south of Kimball? I felt this would have been a much better option, and in-fact, why wouldn't you follow the existing Xcel line that runs through south of town, with this new line as well? The reason I feel south of town is a more viable option is that ALL of the expansion happening in Kimball in the past 20 years has been on the North side of town. People from South Saint Cloud are coming to Kimball (primarily for the school, to get out of the Saint Cloud school district). Kimball has great potential of expansion in years to come, which will almost certainly happen to the North of town. Having a large transmission line in the way would have great chances of interfering with the expansion and progress of the town. My understanding is that at least (1) of the larger farms/landowners to the South of town has no problem with the line coming through their property. I also am wondering why the line is being forced through Kimball in such a narrow route option? Where it starts in the Southwest, there is a very wide/vast route option being proposed, and then when it gets to Kimball we have a tight window that it would come through. Would another option be to go up to Wilmar and follow Highway 23 towards Saint Cloud, and then cut over? With some of the other routes you are proposing, the mileage of installation wouldn't be all that different. In conclusion, we strongly oppose the line coming through the North side of Kimball. But if ultimately it will be coming on the North side of Kimball, I would much prefer the southern proposed route verses the northern route as this would have far less impact on our beautiful/natural habitat to the north of town.
6/5/2023	I own a number of acres in each of the above counties. Do you have any maps of those counties, showing by section number, the various options that are being considered for those counties. Thank you.
6/5/2023	Hello. My wife and I attended an open house in Redwood Falls in March, at which we provided feedback regarding the proposed transmission line routes. One of the proposed routes borders our property and we don't want the transmission line built on our property line. The "updated" route still runs along our property line and we still don't want it built along our property line. We want the transmission line built as far away from our property as possible. The northernmost route between Eden Valley and Willmar borders and runs along our property line at XXX 135th St NE Atwater, MN 56209, just before the route crosses Highway 12 and heads south (when going east to west). Our property is south of the 30th Ave NE and 135th St NE intersection and is bordered to the north by the proposed route. The line can't be built here because it would destroy our driveway, as well as destroy a line of 100-year-old oak trees, which house various species of birds and other animals, some of which are protected and, perhaps, even endangered (Pileated Woodpeckers, Owls, etc.). The proposed line runs directly on top of/over our driveway and the tree line. Therefore, building the line here would devastate wildlife and existing infrastructure. Additionally, a portion of our property is a wetland area, home to many waterfowl. Building the line here would disrupt this wildlife. The proposed route also borders an "Avoidance Area" (a waterfowl protection area) adjacent to our land. Building the line here would negatively impact protected wildlife. My wife just gave birth to our son and we are planning on building a house near the property line where the transmission line would be built. Building the transmission line here would prevent us from building our house and cause severe setbacks to our lives. It would also negatively impact our existing garden that is near the property line. I know that the farmer whose land the proposed route cuts through just to the north of our property is also entirely opposed to the building of the line. The proposed line cuts through the center of the neighboring farmer's fields, which would be detrimental to the farming operation. Surrounding our property, a single farmer owns the land to both the east and west, and the proposed line cuts into their land on both sides, in a major way. Cutting through farmers' fields and other private areas (like our property) is unacceptable when there are existing public roadways and existing easements that can be utilized. You can expect legal troubles from the farmers and residents of this area if you try to build the line here. In summary, we urge and particularly demand that the transmission line not be built along our property line. Please move the transmission line as far away from our property as possible. Thank you. Take care. Jordan Junkermeier. jordanjunkermeier@gmail.com Mailing address: 535 Northland Drive #208 St. Joseph, MN 56374
6/7/2023	We attended the informational meeting this evening and have a few more comments/feedback. Multiple Xcel Energy employees mentioned to us, when we asked about why the routes to the South of Kimball have been taken off the board, it was because of different environmental factors, but then also a big part of it was due to feedback and concerns from community about it coming through their neighborhood. My neighbors and I chatted at the meeting this evening about why none of us were aware of these prior meetings where we could come to make our comments and suggestions. Now the routes have changed and they are shoving it down our throats since they have pushed the proposed routes North, without us having any say about it?! We have read forums that talk about the line changing from going just north of Hutchinson because of the anger expressed by so many in that community. These lines should be going close to the towns that are receiving power from Xcel, not through the countryside that we adore and none of us want coming through in the first place. It makes no sense to me why you would bring the power line through on the south property line of Powder Ridge, where so many mature trees would need to be cleared in order for construction of a line that you are claiming is for 'Green Energy', just to make the people in towns and cities feel good about themselves being 'environmentally friendly' when they actually have no clue the destruction it is causing to the environment. I sent in a comment yesterday about that the line should go up to Willmar, then Paynesville, and over to Saint Cloud, following highway 23. Xcel should be making every effort possible to follow major highways where environmental factors have already been disturbed, if you truly are treating this as a 'Green Energy Project'. Studies show that (1) acre of corn can absorb as much as 36,000lbs of carbon annually. Between this project, the wind turbines, and the solar panels going up around the Becker/Clear Lake Area, the amount of Agricultural Land coming out of production makes me absolutely sick to my stomach to think you can possibly call this 'Green Energy'. These structural elements being installed absorb (0) lbs of carbon annually.....ZERO! Ten years ago, farmers never even thought about putting fertilizers such as Sulfur onto our corn crop. Now we are applying as much as 100lbs per acre per year to suffice the needs of the crop. My point being, these annual crops absorb copious amount of pollution. Now these crops are being taken out of production to make people feel better about themselves, when in all reality, it is just a wash.....It is all politics, money and agendas. Another common theme we heard this evening was the price Xcel is willing to pay us for an 'easement' on our land. Truth of the matter is we don't care about the money you will be offering, and probably still wouldn't care if it was 5x the amount you more than likely will offer. This project is turning our lives upside down and we don't want to look at the terrible view it will create. This will affect the rest of our lives and the area we are raising our families. Do you really think 80% of market value means a damn to us? I strongly feel that Governor Tim Walz should be present at the upcoming public hearings to hear how those of us being affected by this project truly feel about the agenda he is jamming down our throats to make him and the people in the cities that voted for him, feel better about themselves, while not caring one bit about outstate Minnesotans and the negative affects their policies have on us. Please let me know if there is a way we can make this happen.

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Comment Tracking Table**

Date	Comment Text
6/7/2023	You responded to my first message on 5/30/23 with a generic message that was unsigned, leaving me with no point of contact. The map was vague, and whoever wrote the message said that a map specific to my property would be sent to me. I did not receive further information or correspondence. Tonight, 6/6/23, I spoke with Chad from X-Cel at Powder Ridge in Kimball MN. My map I received at the meeting showed more detail with plans for the power lines to bisect my property. As I spoke with Chad, we found there were other areas that may be more suitable, including flatter, paths without trees, and also along the roadway. Please contact me for direct discussion as I understand you have concern and interest in my feedback. I hope to hear soon. Please send me a phone number and contact person so we can review details more effectively. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Jason Pierskalla, Laura.Jason.1970@gmail.com, you may also reach me at 320-290-4905. Please leave a message if I cannot answer.
6/8/2023	I am very concerned about the power lines running close to my home, which is off of Hwy 15. There are a lot of homes close to the highway which would be within 700 feet which is the recommended distance to stay away from the lines. I understand the importance of transporting the power, but the possible health risks to the people and wildlife in this area are too great.
6/8/2023	Can a land owner adjacent to the proposed route opt to refuse to enter into any easement agreement. If not why not? Will there be use of eminent domain to secure an easement agreement?
6/9/2023	I am a member of the community owned Danielson Wind Farms, I also have property along Hy 4 where the power line will pass. As members of the wind farm we are excited about the opportunities this new line will provide. We are actively pursuing site control to further expand our wind farm. Our goal would be enough acres for a 100+MW interconnect to the new line. We are in favor of the MN Hy4 route.
6/9/2023	To whom this matter concerns...I tried to call the 888-292-4714 number a couple of times now and have gotten no response and so I am going to try this route. I got both the phone number and this e-mail address from the latest Sherburne County to Lyon County transmission line brochure sent to me in the mail. In the brochure it lists the times, dates, and locations of the most recent set of open houses. Unfortunately, my employment has me traveling extensively in the early summer and so I am not able to make any of them. Therefore, I was enquiring as to what type of information is being provided at these open houses. I went to the open house in Willmar this past late winter / early spring and about all that is saw there was the most recent proposals spelled out on easels scattered around the room with some folks there to answer questions. At the present time, from my calculations there appears to be about five routes (to simplify the process as much as possible) that you have narrowed down to get both south and west of Willmar where I live. 1. There is the southern corridor east of Olivia. 2. There appears to be two routes that travel south to Cosmos and then west past Willmar. 3. There are two routes that appear to travel directly south of Willmar. There may be a couple of other possibilities but for the most part these appear to be the most major routes of travel to get south and west of Willmar and one of these routes still has the potential to impact me to some degree and therefore, I both... don't want my absence at your open houses to be perceived in any way as a lack of interest in your process and your routes. And also, I would like to have someone reach out to give me a call or respond to this e-mail with any type of information that is planned to be shared at your open houses that I (unfortunately) cannot attend. Thank you in advance for providing me with any of the advanced insight that has been garnered and is planned to be shared at these open houses. Sincerely, Steve Roehl
6/9/2023	I am a member of Adams Wind Holdings which is one of the owners of the Adams Wind Generations Wind Farm in Cosmos. We are partnering with Danielson Wind Farm and Blue Earth Renewables to develop at least a 100MW wind farm in the Cosmos area with the intention to connect to the proposed eastern route of the MN Energy Connection line along Hwy 4 or 7. It would be great to see the line come through our area! Thanks for taking the time to provide an open house in Litchfield for our area.
6/12/2023	I understand the need to the line, but why can't (in our area at least) follow the same route as the Cap X project route? Keep it along I-94 and not dodging around everyone's property.
6/12/2023	I do not want the line going along Country Road 75. If route is selected would prefer the use of the existing Capx line along 94. I would like a different route selected due to the natural beauty of the Rice Lake area and mature trees.
6/12/2023	Greetings, I wanted to comment on some of the current proposed routes for the MN Energy Connection near where the line will leave the new substation. First it was unclear if the area on 75 after Curtis would use existing towers or require new. If it requires a new easement and tree removal will be too burdensome to the land near the "Mertie" Pit. That will remove all the tree buffer from that to 75 and the freeway. Dust will be an issue as that pit will be operational for at least 10 more years. The area around Rice Lake has to go through some heavy woods. For the crossing of the river just north of the Hasty if that does not use existing towers that will be too burdensome to the area. Any time it is needed to disturb the Wild and Scenic protected area we must be cautious. Keeping the crossing north of Clearwater were lots of recreation starts on the river is best. For the area on 145th sat NW near Barton the path no longer goes directly over the house there. The path still cuts diagonally through the several property instead of following the property line which should be unacceptable. The path to the north looks fairly unobstructed with fewer trees less property owners less developed then other paths. This route is almost exclusively along a highway. That looks like the best route for the first few miles. Good luck in the process. Marcus Todd
6/12/2023	My dad owns and I run farm land in Stony Run Sections 19, 20 and 29, 30. I have a couple concerns about the proposed routes. The route that comes up west of Clarkfield and follows 300 ave, there are existing power lines (I think owned by REC) that follow the north side of the road. I would prefer if this path is chosen that the line be replaced otherwise we would lose a tree line on the south side of the road and agricultural land. Also on Section 30 if you stay on the south side of the road is existing lines that provide power to our bin site. The other route option you have shown would come right up the property line in section 30 we would lose some good producing crop land for each of the poles that would need to be placed. I would rather not have this route submitted.
6/13/2023	Please avoid impacts to water resources and natural resources along with avoiding proximity to people's residences. Thank you
6/14/2023	While I understand there is a need to add transmission lines to make sure enough electricity gets to urban areas from rural areas, I feel that cutting through prime farm land is not the route that should be taken. More and more farm land is being used for utility projects to service urban areas. When big machines are brought through farm land, they wreck years and years of hard work a farmer takes to get that land properly prepared to grow crops. Packing down soil with big machines and digging down to the bedrock to insert the huge poles used to string electrical lines causes the good soil on top to get churned upside down and productivity for the farmer gets decreased exponentially. People need to eat and every time a farmer's field is cut into, a land's ability to produce is decreased. With these two farms listed above, the proposed line will have to run alongside an already existing transmission line. Right down the center of the fields running north and south. There are no easy access areas to build these transmission poles. What is being proposed is that good, productive soil will need to be ruined so that vehicles can drive out to the pole construction areas. No matter how many promises are made, the land will be ruined. Ruined farm land is not the only issue. Having to maneuver farm machinery around the poles is hazardous. As a company, you might not believe so, however, tractors, combines, self propelled sprayers all have extensions that have to be driven around existing structures. The more structures that stand in a field the more chances serious accidents can happen. The land value of these fields will go down. The land is already selling for \$17,000 or more an acre. Power lines straight down the middle will decrease the value of that land. As people in rural Minnesota, we are also not benefitting from anything these power lines are providing. It would make more sense to put transmission lines where the wind towers on the buffalo ridge are already built. Get the electricity from those towers transmitted. A transmission line could run south of these proposed lines and then move north. The wind towers shut down because there aren't enough lines to get the electricity to places it can be used. Let's be smart about our existing infrastructure and use it correctly before we're creating more issues. There are not wind towers directly to the west of Marshall, MN. The wind towers are to the south west and north west. Transmission lines could run from the south west and the north west instead. There are more pasture lands out that way than farmland. There are several questions that I have about all of this. Why are farmers directly in the Marshall, MN area being hit with all of these utility companies coming through? It is not fair for farmers to always get hit with things that will only hurt our livelihood not help.

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6/14/2023	Once again the transmission line proposed will cut prime farm land in half. There are no roads to get easy access to the field in Stanley township. The field intended for pole work will be ruined due to the heavy machinery moving across it. The fertile soil that is prime farm land will be ruined because the soil being turned over due to digging for pole building will not be fertile land and good for farming. As stated in my other comments, there are better, more reasonable places to build the transmission line. We are already an area with multiple transmission lines. It's time that other farmers get to share the burden of trying to help electrify the urban areas to our east.
6/14/2023	Heard about your proposal on a new line in SW MN. The new line goes through farms we own and operate. If it is anything like capx20 send the line some where else. They destroyed roads, fields, and tile. Still after ten years we have a 50% crop loss. What are the payment proposals to the land owners and farmers of the land? Is crop damage going to be paid for the next 30 years? We have been fighting tile damage for ten years now and yes they said that they would use mats. Hahaha. That never happened and capx20 didn't care. In areas they pushed the gravel roads down 2.5' but it's ok they threw some gravel back on..... What about our gps equipment that they said it wouldn't bother. Well the fields near capx20 it doesn't work very well. And no radio also.
6/14/2023	Gentlemen, thank you for providing good information this past Monday at the meeting in Marshall Mn Evergreen Suites. I was able to visit with a very knowledgeable Xcel employee. I am concerned about our three generation family farm in Sec 8 and 9 clifton Township as it will be affected by one of the remaining options. Our land presently has a fairly large line directly crossing a 240 acre field and I now am told another large line could possibly be built adjacent to the existing line. I am not anti power line, but having two lines is going to be difficult to farm around, and of equal importance it will lower the value of our land when someday it has to be sold. As a example.... if the farm sold with a \$1000/acre discount - it would be a \$240,000 loss! Please understand that double lines... while cost saving to you are a back breaker for property owners. Please consider other routes! Jim Fuhrmann 3083 270 st /315Ave Jim Fuhrmann
6/15/2023	I would like to express my strong opinion that you should NOT plan to place a large electric transmission line in Eden Township of Brown County. We already have the large CapX line in our area, and to have another line and be surrounded by large power lines would be very unfair to those of us who live here. As you can see, the CapX line is very meandered in our area. It has many bends and cuts through the middle of fields, sometimes diagonally, because a straight line was not possible without serious consequences to property for various reasons. Those same problems are still there, and they would continue to make it very difficult to find an appropriate path for the new line in Eden Township. There has to be a better option than to place the new line near the existing CapX line in Eden Township.
6/15/2023	Amiret section 12. The south west side of section. Address is 2002 County Road 11. It has a private road. On this private road it has 2 bridges. They are very old. The wooden bridge is not to be used for any vehicles or equipment.. The cement bridge is a very old bridge to. You will need to replace it if you plan on using this route. We use this bridge for small field and access to a family park. This a private road not to be used!! There is also an electrical unground wire and has lots field tile.. From County road 11 to the east for several miles it will flood and the water will go over the road
6/15/2023	I noticed while I was driving along on I-94 this weekend, and remember people mentioning during the time of Cap-X project, that there are openings for future lines on these poles still. Why would you not travel up Highway 23 and connect to Cap-X poles with the Minnesota Energy Connection near Saint Joseph, on I-94 and utilize these openings. From here you could go down to Clearwater/Monticello and over to Becker as needed with much less disruption of new land easements for Minnesota Energy Connection. Land has already been greatly disturbed along Highway 23 and I-94 with many easements already in place. Why not utilize this rather than disturbing so much new land and upending the lives of so many new people who, for the most part do not even utilize Xcel Energy's electric. Or better yet, it has also been brought to my attention that Sherco has asked Xcel Energy to build a Natural Gas Energy plant to replace the coal plant. This could be built near the existing coal plant on open land currently owned by Sherco, where the surrounding neighborhood is already used to this type of activity. Or BEST yet of ALL..... build more nuclear plants near Becker or Monticello and do away with these transmission lines altogether. Everyone knows nuclear is the most efficient electricity.
6/16/2023	The map shows a possibility routing of the HV transmission tower within 150 feet of my house. I am very concerned about: health impacts from (headaches to cancer and effects on artificial joints) noise (constant loud hum?) and property value. Are you considering a minimum distance from houses and if so, what is it? John Elder
6/16/2023	As this approaches Kimball, it seems like the best all-around route would be coming down Hwy 7 / Hwy 142 / Hwy 15. Those roadways are the most maintained, and have the broadest access rather than traversing cultivated land and dealing with access during winter and rain/mud seasons. Not sure why running along Hwy 55 isn't an option through Kimball...seems reasonable.
6/17/2023	Hello, please don't put a power line across my small rural property of 11 acres. We moved here to create a home and raise a family. Of all the wide open space to cross please take into consideration that we don't want a power line above our heads. We work hard to build something we call home. Directly below where the proposed line crosses the north west corner of our property we have actually just built a small cabin to enjoy fires and watch the stars as our children grow. Thank you for your time and please keep us posted on your proposed route as this would be the nail in our coffin for country living and life.
6/18/2023	I see that you changed the maps. I do not want this powerline to come close to my house. From a financial standpoint I do not understand why you wouldn't use the railroad right away by the Meeker Stearns road. Please let me know why you would propose to go over the Highway twice when it make more economical sense to travel down the rail road?
6/19/2023	Hello, I'm Mason Lux and my grandfathers house is located along the proposed route. Since the 1990s he's had an airport built along his property. It runs south to north and the proposed power lines would make the airstrip unusable. His airstrip is recognized by the federal government as airstrip MN28. Please take this into consideration as I am a third generation pilot that has flown from this airstrip. Google Lux Strip Airport-MN28 to see it on a map.
6/19/2023	Please note on your map the west side of our property is directly effected by the line as it will interrupt our irrigation system. The circular pattern of the irrigation path is evident on your map. Please consider moving farther to the west if this is the line corridor chosen. We have been told this is the preferred path. Why would you not stick to Hwy 15 where part of the easement is already in place.? Also as the line travels east on 150th Street, one of the possibilities shows a jog to the south. This runs directly through State Animal refuge. Our entire farm lies within this refuge. I was under the impression lands such as this were to be avoided. Please consider the placement to follow the State Highway rather than disrupting so much new land and people's income.
6/19/2023	As the General Manager for Fahlun Farms I am concerned about the impacts of the Electric-Magnetic field may have on development of young turkeys. One of the proposed routes places the lines within 1,000 of our site where we start all the turkeys for day 1 to about 40 days of age. All of our production starts at this location. A decrease in weight gain of just half a pound would result in a yearly loss of 120,000 pounds and would have a significant impacts on annual revenue.
6/20/2023	Don't need power lines in our area The city people only want to mess up our farms so they can have all the homes and have everything all lit up. Put the windmills in closer to the twin cities. They use all the power so have the windmills closer to them. We use aircraft to spray crops and cannot use them with windmills and power lines.
6/20/2023	As representative, Trustee, for the affected landowner, Henry Frank Family Trust, and on behalf of the seven beneficiaries of the Trust, we do not support the proposed route through the center of Renville County, which would affect the family farm owned by the Trust in Henryville and Beaver Falls Townships, Renville County, MN.
6/20/2023	Could you please add the MN PUC docket # to the FAQ page for the project? The Commission Docket link on the "project description" page leads just to the general PUC eDockets page not the docket specific to the project.
6/22/2023	I'm concerned about how this could impact the resale value of my property/home. I also lease out my tillable land to a local farmer and I'm concerned how the route could impact that. I'm also concerned about the noise the lines will put off. I built my home out in the country to enjoy peace and quite and to avoid noise. For example people that buy/build a home next to a highway expect to have noise.

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6/22/2023	I am writing this on behalf of Terry Capes. Terry has a TBI (tragic brain injury) and does not do well with change or noises. I am concerned that these new projected power lines will affect him negatively in both areas. Not only am I concerned about how it will affect him physically/emotionally I am also concerned about the property value of his estate.
6/22/2023	I am completely against the line going by and through my property. I already have the capx line just to my west I don't need this one to my east. We already have issues with stray voltage with the capx line I don't need anything line coming through amplify it and causing more issues. I am strongly against that section coming by my property.
6/24/2023	I just read the Staff Briefing Papers, dated June 29, 2023. There are several concerning factors listed in this report. The first one is on page 3 from PUBLIC COMMENTS AND STAFF ANALYSIS. I thought XCEL did the report for the "need for the transmission line" and attending the various meetings we were encouraged to list our comments for the proposed route of the transmission line and make suggestions for alternative routes. In the Staff briefing in the last paragraph of page 3 it reads that the public are intended to address the need for the project and not the location of the line. At the meetings I attended XCEL representatives kept telling us to send in our comments about the route of the transmission lines and suggest alternative routes. It looks like this is different from what the Staff Briefing lists. The second item of concern is on page 4 of the Staff Briefing papers in paragraph four regarding the route permit application in October which will be before the information/scoping meetings for the public? How are these dates going to be changed to accommodate the people who need to know where the route will be and attend the meetings before the October deadline? A response to these two items would be appreciated.
6/25/2023	I have ownership interest in farm property and farm several parcels that will be impacted by one of the proposed routes. The area is currently open with minimal existing power lines. The proposed line is unsightly and will be an eyesore wherever it is placed. The negative impact will be greater if it disturbs currently open country. Some may not consider open prairie farmland beautiful but to us it is our home and business. In the near future we will be operating these farm tracts with autonomous tractors and implements. GPS signal interference exists near the CAPX line that follows MN Hwy 19. Without reliable and secure GPS signal we will be unable to utilize this groundbreaking technology. We also rely on aerial application of pesticides in our business. Power lines impair the ability of the applicators to do their job. They are also a significant safety hazard for the aerial applicators.
6/25/2023	I have ownership in three parcels of land along the proposed power line route. Parcels 09.05697.0000 and 09.05694.0000 are recreational/hunting property along a proposed route going through Fair Haven Township. Parcel 20.11537.0000 is my residence along Highway 15 on Carnelian Lake. The northern route along State Highway 15 is a less direct route (it goes northwest and then back south). It impacts many residents in more populated natural areas on Carnelian Lake and Murray Lake. My preference would be to use a route past my recreational/hunting properties in Fair Haven Township and impact less populated residential areas. This is also a more direct route to your destination. James Stein
6/26/2023	I saw a comment on your website about adding more solar in Lyon County because there is a lot of solar there already. Just want to make you aware there is no solar where this line is proposed by Kimball, MN because we have no Xcel substation to connect to, I have been approached for solar 3 times. The last time I was told the Solar Farm would not be put in because to get the power to an Xcel substation the line would need to use Meeker Coop poles. We are in Meeker Coop Light and Power Associations territory, the city of Kimball is in Xcel territory, Meeker Coop buys electricity. I was told by the recently retired CEO Mergen that Xcel can put solar on my property in Meeker Coop territory but cannot sell the power to Meeker Coop customers. The power could be sold to Meeker Coop. Meeker Coop's largest power consumer is Powder Ridge Ski Area. This line is passing through a lot of marginal farmlands. If we need to look at the power line, at least give us the opportunity to produce some electricity.
6/27/2023	I am concerned about the transmitter lines following 160th Street, Cosmos MN due to the presence of our family air strip MN-28 that was professionally built in 1975. Because it is used for commercial crop dusting, our family paid to bury existing power lines shortly thereafter along this road for ease of use. Due to this history and investment, compounded by a third generation pilot who would like continued access to this strip, we feel these transmission lines would create an undue and unfair burden on this property.
6/29/2023	We have enjoyed this homestead for over 30 years, with a state wildlife area close by. One of your proposed line options runs less than a quarter mile from this wildlife area, and within a 1/2 mile of another nearby wildlife. If this power line goes by us we will no longer enjoy living here due to our loss of awesome views and loss of nearby wildlife. For these 30+ years, Xcel Energy has been our power provider. Our home is serviced by deteriorating lines supported by aging poles that need replacing. 2 overhead lines lead to our home. A few years back one of those two lines went down. We were told by an electrician it was probably a ground line since we still had power. Had to take his word for it because no one from Xcel was talking to us. It took NEARLY TWO YEARS and several communications FOR XCEL TO REPLACE THE DAMAGED LINE. We state this to show our reasoning for lack of confidence in Xcel's ability to maintain a line in our rural area, especially such a high voltage line so close to our home and the homes of friends and neighbors. Easements payments DO NOT COMPENSATE the owners of the HOMES most directly impacted by your high voltage lines. A majority of the agricultural land around building sites [family homes] are owned by people that don't even live in the immediate area and won't care what impact it has for the home owners. After you have taken away the joy from our current home and reduced it's financial value with your eyesore lines that could also effect both cell phone service and internet reception (no fiber optic out in our area yet), the same proposed route continues to run next to another 80 acre property (near the intersection of 300th AVE & County RD 8, Lisbon Township, Yellow Medicine CO) where we hoped to someday build our retirement home. We have invested in the clearing of old buildings and trees and excavating in preparing the site. NO EASEMENT COMPENSATION there either. Your proposed line will run on the adjacent landowners property (NO, HE doesn't live there and have to look at it). That dream will be halted by your proposed line.
6/29/2023	Please do not run the powerline along any edges of the City of Eden Valley. By doing so, you will hinder any future growth the City of Eden Valley might have. You would think you could find better routed than going across private lands, and against any city limits.
6/29/2023	Looking over the routes that are outlined in this proposal is going to place these high voltage transmission lines really close if not through portions of the city of Eden Valley. I want to let it be known that if a route is chosen that puts it in the city limits will forever hamper if not prevent the cities ability to develop land on the south end of the city. As you are all probably perfectly aware, nobody wants to live next to high voltage transmission lines as they are unsightly and prevents certain types of land use close to or around the route. I hope you will reconsider any possible decision that would places these lines so close to or in our great city.
6/30/2023	I would like to know the proposed route in clearwater mn
7/7/2023	I am deeply concerned about the proposed route in Swede Grove Section 12, Meeker County. The proximity of the proposed line to our home is unacceptable in this rural community. Xcel's proposed route would be stacked with current fiber optic, natural gas, and 3-phase distribution lines. This will cause the magnetic fields to build off one another and have increased negative effects. I have submitted a proposed route in person previously that would avoid homes, and stay on property lines. I'd appreciate careful consideration to this matter in finding a safe alternative route for all involved.

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7/14/2023	<p>Mr. Brent J. Anderson, on behalf of himself, family members, and Anderson Trucking Service, Inc., submitted a previous letter dated March 10, 2023, via the mnenergyconnection.com website regarding proposed routing for the MN Energy Connection Project from Becker to Southwest Minnesota. After attending two of the open houses related to the proposal and also speaking with Mr. James Pearson, Xcel Energy government affairs, the Anderson family and Anderson Trucking Service, Inc. (ATS) was encouraged to submit this additional correspondence, which I am doing on their behalf.</p> <p>Anderson Trucking Service, Inc., is a family-owned freight delivery and worldwide logistics provider based in St. Cloud, MN. The ATS corporate headquarters are near existing and proposed transmission routes, as well as a maintenance facility, and other family parcels in the area that have in the past been, and could be further, impacted by various proposed routes of the Becker-to-Southwest Minnesota route(s).</p> <p>In short, we have concerns about six Anderson Family/ATS parcels that could be impacted, but with cooperation and proper route selection, these concerns could be avoided altogether.</p> <p>We appreciate the need for energy transmission lines and ATS has had helpful dialogue in the past to avoid or reduce impacts to various parcels they own. ATS is happy to cooperate on the Minnesota Energy Connection Project and asks that dialogue be kept open as route alternatives are being finalized to avoid or reduce impacts to six parcels that will be detailed below in this letter. This letter will convey two areas of concerns regarding the current proposed routing of the Minnesota Energy Connection Project and two Gen-Tie lines from Sherburne County to Lyon County, Minnesota.</p> <p>The first area of concern, given what we know of the current proposed routing alternatives, is regarding possible direct impacts to several (six) land parcels possibly disrupting agricultural and ATS company uses (present and planned) of the properties.</p> <p>The second area of concern I will explain is regarding how multiple previous Xcel transmission routes implemented from 2004 to 2011 have impacted family properties as well as ATS business sites consisting of about 300 acres and 15 parcels or easements. With six potentially impacted additional parcels near the proposed MN Energy Connection routes, this would culminate in 21 parcels and over 500 acres impacted by Xcel's transmission projects over the course of 20 years.</p> <p>Impacts on six parcels to be avoided From the maps attached, one can see the land parcels potentially impacted include a) ATS maintenance facility (where large and heavy equipment is sometimes moved/parked); b) ATS headquarters (including surrounding parcels where the company would like to preserve the ability to expand with new facilities); and c) other family land parcels that contain center pivot irrigation systems. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Wright County Parcels 204100161300 and 204100164100 currently have a pipeline easement affecting proposed routing; •Wright County Parcel 204100124201 has an irrigation pivot that was installed in 2022 and routing of the proposed transmission would impair the pivot; •Wright County Parcel 204100152400 has an irrigation pivot that would be impaired by the proposed routing; •Wright County Parcel 204100152100 has an irrigation pivot that would be impaired by the proposed routing; •With the rapid growth of Wright County and the Annandale school district, future plans for Wright County Parcels 204100161300, 204100124201, 204100152400 and 20410152100 are the development of a planned residential community that would be significantly impaired with the proposed high voltage transmission lines proposed; •Stearns County Parcel 19107400500 currently has an irrigation pivot that would be negatively impacted by the proposed routing. This parcel is also planned for future expansion by ATS to extend maintenance capabilities of nearby sites. <p>As indicated on the maps attached (see page 6), the “northern” proposed route – emphasized with a black line next to the red line – is our preferred route and would result in minimal impacts to ATS or family agriculture lands. Though we do have some questions on exact route placement given the size of equipment sometimes moving in and out of the maintenance facility, with cooperative dialogue we believe impacts could be avoided. The second map in the attachment (see page 7), reflects this parcel and the existing maintenance facility. As we understand the proposed route, if the “northern” route were selected, we believe it would have minimal to zero impacts to the maintenance facility, and no impacts at all to the agriculture parcels (mentioned below). In other words, if this “northern” route were chosen, most of our concerns become moot.</p>
7/28/2023	<p>The powerline will be close to residences. Specifically, this will go through near my residence and will be less than the recommended 700 feet distance from our house. Multiple neighbors in our area have it going even closer to their property. Some even have it going over the areas where their children have playgrounds. As some one who is currently recovering from battling cancer, it is very concerning that a powerline that can cause serious health conditions to be brought into our neighborhoods.</p> <p>The powerline should avoid wetlands, and disruptions of natural resources. The powerline will disrupt habitats for thousands of animals. As the 150-foot space is cleared it will be destroying habitats for wildlife. Specifically, thousands of trees will need to be removed to do this. This includes full woods and tree lines. On my small property there is a strong probability to remove our only wind break from the North side of our property and removing privacy. This tree line is where many animals take shelter during our long winter months. Specifically, the pheasant population.</p> <p>The powerline will cause severe disruption to farms in issues with stray voltage and loss of farmland. A powerline would kill farm families that it is near. It will take away crop land and stray voltage can kill farm animals. At the open house, livestock health was discussed with Xcel staff. Stray voltage was brought up in relation to animal's drinking water. Xcel staff informed us that unless a stock tend is well grounded, cattle drinking from it would "get a minor shock at first, but then they would be able to drink". Pavlov's theory on classical conditioning proves that the animals will eventually have a response where they would no longer drink due to fears of getting shocked. I cannot fathom needing to get a drink of water, knowing I'd have to get a shock first. We have several farm animals that we care for on our property, and I don't want to make them suffer from pain dehydration.</p> <p>There are so many studies that show the harm it can cause. For instance, a court case out of Wright County hearing in 2015 by the Honorable Kathleen Mottl was appealed all the way up to the MN Supreme Court. It was affirmed except the amount of damages were remanded back to the District Court. The plaintiffs were awarded 2.5 million in damages.</p> <p>Lastly, the powerline is specifically planned to be on 3 of the 4 sides of our property. We finally have our dream property, and the introduction of this transmission line so close to our property will disrupt our views. The only side that will not have a massive powerline through it, is the side obscured by a hill. It is unnecessary for it to cut across farmland and cause such a disruption for so many people. Lastly, in review of the proposed routes and plans, it seems that this is simply illogical and not the most feasible plan. Why was the plan specifically disregarded to build a natural gas power plant in Becker, MN? Specifically, why use taxpayer money to utilize wind power that will not last as long as a natural power plant would?</p>

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6/27/2023	<p>I am writing as a home owner who lives on 592nd Avenue, Litchfield, MN 55355. It may come up Eden Valley as well. The route recently moved to this road because of some complaints about the crow river, so that original route option further west was abandoned, but I think the original route would still be a much better option as there are no houses on this route that was previously on the map. The crow river is not a big deal and you have to cross it at other points anyway so whoever was complaining about that really didn't have legitimate complaints at all.</p> <p>This new route on 592nd Avenue has 4 houses on it and all the houses are very close to the power line, 3 of them so close its like right in front of their houses. I have attached 2 other really good route options, and one option that stays away from 2 properties. Option 1 I feel is best option as it stays away from houses/residences. I have attached 2 pages showing it and just to the south of it is the route it would already be connecting to. Option 2 is also a good option, and I think a lot like the original option that was changed which again was not a bad option because it isn't affecting homes/residences. Option 3 is a better option than what's currently on the map, going further west where you are already are crossing a road, it just keeps going a little further west and then misses 2 of the properties and ends up connecting again to where line already was, more in fields where it crosses.</p> <p>This new Xcel power line is awful for the people and residences that it will be affecting. It will wreck the value of our property, it could cause health hazards from being so close to our homes. The power it's going to produce does no one on this route any good and it just is not going to work long term, just does not make sense.</p> <p>My husband Tom and I bought this property in 2000, built a home and have lived there and raised our children for the last 23 years, we have worked hard to build the value and make it a safe and happy place to live. Now, Xcel is coming in and putting power lines right across from our driveway and it's going to have a very negative affect on the value and what we've worked so hard to build. There are other routes in the county that would be out in fields and away from homes/residences/people and animals. There is also a dairy farm just south of us on this route and these cattle are in the pasture and could have stray voltage affects and it could be very bad for their health.</p> <p>I am very against this route and will do everything in my power to have it changed. Maybe the route can go through the properties that it's supplying power to, wouldn't that make more sense than hurting those residences that don't get any benefit of it. It also is not on our property, it's just across the road and very close, still very negative affects for us but does all harm to us.</p>
7/31/2023	<p>We have a turkey farm located at the west half of the northwest quarter of section 18 in Falun township in Kandiyohi County. We are concerned about the transmission line that is proposed to be within 300 feet of our brooder barns. To allow for maximum gain per day the gut flora cannot be disturbed while the turkeys are acclimating to feed in the first weeks after hatching. The turkey industry has new technology that allows the poult to be fed and water during the first 48 hours after hatching. The data from the R&D demonstrates that upsetting the eating habit within the first 48 hours significantly reduces gain per day and livability.</p> <p>Our farm produces 1 million 45-pound turkeys per year, or 45 million pounds annually. One out of every four turkeys are brooded at the farm where the transmission is proposed to be within 300 feet of our brooder barns. If the proposed transmission line disturbs the eating habits and they weigh 5% less, it would cost \$250,000 per year.</p>
7/31/2023	<p>I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed power line route by Xcel Energy's MN Energy Connection Project that will pass through Meeker County. One of the proposed power line routes (x 373rd St, Eden Valley) runs along ALL of our property owned by family trusts and land that is in contract with the federal government. Explained below, this route is not a legally viable route.</p> <p>To create a healthier environment for us and wildlife - at a significant cost - we just converted 40-acres of farm land to the south of 373rd St (surrounding our home) to an ORGANIC POLLINATOR FIELD of native grasses/flowers, which is in contract with the federal government. This pollinator field supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds. The proposed power line runs through this field; which is not a legally viable route. We consulted with the USDA Farm Service Agency, and due to contract terms, no land can currently be taken out of this contract. Further, the property at 59503 373rd Street, Eden Valley, MN 55329 is owned by family trusts which dictate no sale of any land until 2034. Additionally, we strongly oppose this proposed route for the following reasons and request a new route be chosen:</p> <p>Future sale of building sites to the north of 373rd St. will NOT LEGALLY BE POSSIBLE if power line is constructed in the proposed location. The plot holds the minimum acres required for a sale and any land sold/used for power line use would preclude new buyers from building. This would cause significant & devastating financial harm to our family, as this is vital income for retirement.</p> <p>Further significant devastating financial harm would be caused by a major decrease in property value (\$125,000 low estimate/\$250,000 high estimate) due to proximity of proposed power lines.</p> <p>Proposed route runs down the MIDDLE of a 35-acre wetland refuge that also supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds (our family trusts own one-half of this wetland).</p> <p>WiFi interference - we are concerned that interference would negatively impact our livelihood/ability to work from home.</p> <p>Major physical and mental health concerns - we would NEVER choose to live near power lines of this magnitude. We concur with studies that indicate underground lines are much safer.</p> <p>Loss of aesthetics - the view from our front porch directly overlooks our beautiful pollinated field, and the proposed power lines would ruin the aesthetic of this view and the charm of living in the country and in nature (also significantly reducing resale value).</p> <p>We have enclosed an alternate route to consider that avoids 373rd street and has no wetlands or homesteads (connect proposed line at 355th St to 592nd Ave).</p> <p>Additional concerns the proposed route are an active eagle's nest south of town, which is directly on the proposed route. Further, the proposed route runs through Eden Valley township which prevents growth to the south of town and the lines would be visible from anywhere in town. The proposed route is also extremely close to Eden Valley's Baseball Park, and we have health and safety concerns with children and families that regularly visit the park.</p> <p>Please contact us as soon as possible via phone, email and mail with any questions. Should you decide to move forward with the proposed 373rd Street route, also please contact us ASAP, and we will put you in touch with our attorney that specializes in eminent domain. Thank you for considering our legal issues, concerns and request to relocate the proposed route.</p>
8/2/2023	<p>Looking at route showed at Hutchinson your line route will come very close to my shed and house. My inaccurate measurements say your right away is 6 feet from the shed, 30 feet from the deck and 37 feet from my house. I notice north of me you skirted around the house on cr147.</p>

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Date	Comment Text
6/29/2023	<p>I am writing concerning the potential plan to build a power line on and near our property in St. Augusta, Minnesota. If you proceed with this plan, it will be devastating to the property, the livestock, the wildlife, our neighbors, my family and our farming business. Small farmers are a highly overlooked, yet vital businesses in central and northern Minnesota. We farm land that is riddles with challenges such as an ultra short growing season, extremely cold winters and frequent droughts. We do all of this while being stewards to the environment - trying not to disturb wildlife or deplete our natural resources.</p> <p>The installation of power lines would not only decrease our square footage as far as tillable crop land and pasture, but the intermittent stray voltage would increase the stress to any livestock grazing on the property. I am a veterinarian and have devoted my life to animal welfare. Stress on livestock (and neighboring wildlife) is not only inhumane and cruel, it decreases their productivity. I am ready to supply many papers written and research done supporting the adverse effects of stray voltage on farming.</p> <p>R. D. APPLEMAN and R. J. GUSTAFSON state: "Many different problems associated with management and milking of dairy cows occur when relatively small currents of electricity pass through cow's bodies. Producers are experiencing cow health problems and lowered milk production because of currents from "stray" voltages... Depending on the region, off-farm problems [stray coltage] may be involved in approximately two-thirds of all problem farms." Rodenburg in Ontario found the principal sources of stray voltage on 76% of the farms surveyed were attributable to neutral resistance of the distribution system.</p> <p>My family has owned this land in St. Augusta, Minnesota for over 100 years. We respectfully request on behalf of our family, farm, neighboring farms, livestock, wildlife and wetlands/environment that you find an alternate route to put your unsightly, intrusive, and hazardous power lines through our state.</p>
7/31/2023	<p>We're writing to you as concerned landowners in Yellow Medicine County, MN regarding the MN Energy Connection Project. This project proposes running large power lines and poles through highly productive farmland. Not only does this devalue our farmland, it creates great inefficiencies for our farmers.</p> <p>It appears the least disruptive route would be to follow the highway 23 corridor. Please consider the landowners and farmers when selecting this future power route.</p> <p>We understand there are certain requirements with bringing transmission lines near an airport. Granite Falls Municipal Airport is along highway 23, however there are existing transmission lines within 1 mile from the airport (to the north) so we feel that this route could still be a viable option for the project.</p>
7/31/2023	<p>We're writing to you because we own farmland in section 7, MN Falls Township, Yellow Medicine County, MN that we understand your company has proposed to run power lines with huge poles through with the MN Energy Connection project. We are surprised your company has made no attempt to contact us as potentially effected landowners.</p> <p>The land has been in our family for many years and our renter has worked hard to develop it so that there are long rounds with few turns required increasing the efficiency.</p> <p>To even propose running this line through the field shows very little respect for the farmers and landowners. Yes, out here, in the country, we do show respect for our neighbors and their property as well.</p> <p>We feel, running the line with the huge poles down the highway 23 corridor would be better than through the section right on and interrupting productive farm land.</p>
7/13/2023	<p>Please do not put the line there along County Road 45 as we hope to build on those 40 acres and if not us our daughter and son in law. We have been approached by a home builder to sell but have owned it for years . Those 40 acres would lose most of its value for homes if a power line went thru there. If we sell before building homes there, capital gains would cost us more than either of us ever earned in a year! Response requested-thank you.</p>
7/19/2023	<p>When looking at the proposed routes, I notice that one route will cross River Rd from the West of Marshall which will actually be going through residential areas. This is a poor route choice due to the fact that there is a lot of other areas that are agricultural land and would not affect residential housing. That proposed route would directly affect 14 current residents and five residential lots. It would also raise concerns about diminished property values and ability to sell property in the area. In addition it would be put through one of the areas best land features of the Redwood River Valley and thus raises possible concerns about land conservation. I request that you consider any of the other routes to the East of Marshall for this line project.</p>
7/19/2023	<p>When looking at the proposed routes, I notice that one route will cross River Rd from the West of Marshall which will actually be going through residential areas. This is a poor route choice due to the fact that there is a lot of other areas that are agricultural land and would not affect residential housing. That proposed route would directly affect 14 current residents and five residential lots. It would also raise concerns about diminished property values and ability to sell property in the area. In addition it would be put through one of the areas best land features of the Redwood River Valley and thus raises possible concerns about land conservation with trees needing to be clearcut to make way for the line right of way. I request that you consider any of the other routes to the East of Marshall for this line project.</p>
7/21/2023	<p>Please, please, please do not install the power lines on my son and daughter-in-law's Atwater land. I have Parkinson's Disease and am progressing fast. This was the only land available that was near my home for my son and daughter-in-law to build on so they could be near me. My son Jordan Junkermeier and his wife bought this land to build a house to be close to me as I progress in my disease, in an apartment in another city. If the power line is put on their land they told me they are not going to build here. They would remain where they are currently living and would not build on the land. Please, please let them build there and don't put the power lines on this route. I am begging you! They have worked so hard and saved every penny for this land. Please reconsider putting the power lines on the Atwater land. Thank you! Kim Junkermeier</p>
7/23/2023	<p>Hello Xcel Energy, I am Julie Bredeson, County Commissioner for Meeker County. Both of the proposed routes run through my district. It is of great concern to me and my constituents that the south most route runs across some of the most productive agriculture land in Meeker County! This south most option would cut across open fields requiring farmers to work equipment around pole structures. This south most route runs in very close proximity to several constituent building sites. It is my plea, my request, that Xcel and the powers making decisions, please consider these points and select the northern option where the lines seem to follow more roadways and NOT open farm fields and homes. Thank you. Julie Bredeson Commissioner for District #2 Meeker County.</p>
7/26/2023	<p>I'm writing to urge you to reconsider putting poles in active farmland! We have several fields that have drain tile throughout that would be damaged and cause great detriment to what we've worked to achieve in our farmland. The road right of ways were designed to be the place for electrical lines and should be used as such. Thank you.</p>
7/27/2023	<p>I have a responsibility to respond to the proposed transmission line from Becker Minnesota to the proposed substation in Lyon County Minnesota. I have property in sections 11 and 12 of Sodus township of Lyon County that is affected by one proposed route. Since I believe that the windmill project itself is poor stewardship of land, the transmission line to support it is also poor use of land. The windmill project itself is based on misguided information and so the project as a whole is one and the same. I will not be leasing my land for wind rights and have no responsibility to allow a transmission line be constructed on it. Therefore, I do not support the transmission line in general or specifically for it to be near my property.</p>

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Date	Comment Text
7/28/2023	A proposed power line route goes right through an ACTIVE EAGLE NEST. I talked to two Xcel officials (separately) at the Litchfield open house about the active eagle nest south of Eden Valley - and how they would be taking the tree line down that contains the nest. Both responded similarly - they do NOT like to deal with eagle nests (they have to work with the DNR and Fish & Wildlife and possibly move the nest, they can only do this work at certain times of the year, etc.) They also said they didn't know about the nest. It did not show up on their aerial surveillance. I replied, "Pat Schlangen reported this fact to you on a public comment form." She personally observes the nest from her home on the south side of Eden Valley. I have contacted BOTH the local DNR in New London MN and the local Fish & Wildlife in Litchfield MN about the nest. I provided them with Xcel's proposed route map and eagle nest location information.
7/28/2023	One of the proposed Xcel power line routes runs ALONG the southern Eden Valley MUNICIPALITY BOUNDARY. Eden Valley is now - the ONLY city that has this possible 'ugly situation.' (They recently took away proposed routes that would have done this to Kimball.) I went to the Litchfield 'open house' session that Xcel hosted on June 8th. I discussed 'Eden Valley's situation' with two different Xcel officials (separately) and they both verified this. One even looked it up on their computer and replied, "Yes - 2 out of 3 of our different maps show this." I informed them that my Meeker County Plat Book has the proposed power line going THROUGH Eden Valley's township. Basically the proposed powerline and its towers will be VISIBLE from anywhere in town; and PREVENT future growth to the south.
7/28/2023	We built our home in this beautiful area 20 years ago. The possibility of a power line coming through THIS CLOSE to our house is absolutely devastating to us for the following reasons: serious health concerns - we would NEVER buy a house near a power line! Loss of aesthetics - indoors or outdoors, we won't be able to escape the view of the power line and its towers. This is unacceptable! Significant decrease in property value. This is unacceptable and completely unfair! Proposed route cuts right through the MIDDLE of a 35-acre wetland that supports an abundance of wildlife and migratory birds. The transmission line route should AVOID RESIDENCES. A person's DAILY life should NOT have to be near and under power lines! (Section 16, Manannah Township)
7/28/2023	One of the current proposed routes runs directly along our north property line. With the easement requirements our entire tree line and a large portion of our mature trees will be taken out. There is an opportunity to run the route a mile south of our property through a portion of land that does not contain any residences. From approximately 45.351620, -94.159356 to 45.351589, -94.138140.
7/30/2023	We own a CENTURY FARM 4 Generations there. We couldn't be at the meeting due to a death June 20th. We plan on building a home over looking the lake on our property and the poles and power lines will be right over our place!! It will be right on that line!!! We would have a driveway and home off 145th exactly where you have this option. Please hear our small voice we have that we do not want this option. It breaks our hearts to even know this may happen. We already have the lines on 94 west. It's a retirement dream for us to have a place there. Please contact me also by phone. As well. Keith Abrahamson 612-270-8670
7/30/2023	Dear Xcel Energy, we (as Vandendriessche Family) believe that it would be responsible for the power company to install the transmission line adjacent to properties where landowners are signing up for the wind turbine access rights--we are not enrolling our agricultural land. Also, we believe that the transmission line should only run by roadways (gravel or tarred). We farm south of Marshall, MN and the proposed line is running through the middle of the section (no roads)--Sodus Township, Section 11. We would prefer this line not run through the middle of our highly productive agricultural land. Please re-route this section of transmission line. Thank you for your time and consideration, Jeff Vandendriessche
7/30/2023	1. Will this line interfere with any of the GPS equipment we have on our guidance systems in our farm equipment? 2. Those that have a wind mill receive yearly payments. Why do I only receive a one time payment? 3. I understand the DNR won't let Xcel pass on their land. Why is that? 4. Why does Xcel have money to name a stadium after them, but they're only willing to pay 80% of the value of our land? 5. I would prefer the southern route past my farmland verses the one that goes thru the Powder Ridge Rec Area. Which would be the first route just north of Kimball. If you have any questions to my requests, please feel free to contact me (Gary Woods) at 320-290-4708
7/30/2023	Hello and thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Regarding our land 145th and Clemente, owner Bruce Abrahamson, Arlyce Abrahamson 763-544-4739 and Keith Abrahamson 612-270-8670. We are deeply saddened to hear that our land is one two routs considered for the final decision. We would like to have our small voice, in the matter of placing the lines to Becker from Southwest MN on our CENTURY FAMILY FARM and THE OLD BIG WOODS, please heard. We do not approve of you placing the lines on this property. It's a longterm family dream of building a retirement home on this incredible beautiful particular piece of property overlooking the lake below. If you place the lines on this property it will be exactly over the driveway and the house that we want to build on top. This land is also part of the old BIG WOODS from the past. We want to say how tired and disappointed we are to have to continually live through 4 Generations of issues w/ the power plants around us. 1970's-2023 now. 1. Nuclear Power Plant 2. Becker Power Plant 3. Cell Tower Near by and in the way (I believe) of the proposed lines. 4. Placing the recent lines that are now on HWY 94 up next to 75 5. And now these lines that you want to place on our property as we dream of placing a family home to let our selves and future family members to continue to love the nature and land as our past great-grandparents, grandparents, parents and ourselves. The other choice you have proposed, in my opinion and I hope others will see it as well, is a much better choice. HOWEVER, looking on the map of the two choices (to the people that will make the decision) its going to look like the least likely choice because of the length. I almost feel (but my heart doesn't think so) you chose this to look this way so you can use the route on our property. I hope that isn't the case. We recently had some very difficult issues to deal w/ health wise in our family since January thru July and we have not been able to take this matter up as we would have liked to participate in! But please hear our voice on this matter and take it into consideration. I look forward to hearing from you soon. Sincerely, Bruce and Arlyce Abrahamson and Keith Abrahamson
7/31/2023	One of the proposed routes, directly east of my residence, consists of 2 miles traveling through the middle of Sections 12 & 13 in Granite Rock Township, Redwood County. I personally farm one side, for 1.5 miles of this 2-mile route. This portion of the route has no road access for the 2 miles, runs parallel to a drainage ditch for 3/4 mile, and crosses the drainage ditch at the 1.5-mile mark. With no road access for the full 2 miles, all construction activities will have to enter and exit via an easement on the north or south. Due to the size of the drainage ditch at the crossing, construction traffic activity (including numerous trucks hauling cement in and dirt out) will be required to travel 1.5 miles from the south to reach the location. Therefore, this will increase the total amount of travel along the easement. The additional compaction will increase the amount and length of time of the impact on my farming operation. I believe the excessive compaction will be significant and could be permanent. Additionally, the proposed route runs parallel to the drainage ditch for 3/4 mile, requiring poles to be placed off the line fence, into agricultural land. This pole placement will have a permanent negative impact on farming operations since they will then need to be farmed around, as well as increasing compaction on productive land. Compaction is a real concern for me and neighboring farmers. We have experienced, and continue to experience, the negative impacts that were created by the construction of the CapX2020 transmission line. (I farm land under the CapX2020 line also.) As the proposed line route turns to the east at 270th Street, it will be 1 mile south, running parallel to an existing major transmission line (CapX2020). This excessively impacts me and area residents both environmentally and cosmetically. Please contact me if you have any questions or need any further clarification. ~ Scott Bernardy
7/31/2023	We own land in Redwood County, Granite Rock Township, Section 12 and Vail Township, Section 5. This is along one of the proposed routes of the major transmission line. We are concerned about the excessive compaction of our farm land due to construction. This is especially worrisome in Granite Rock Township 12, where there is no direct road access as it runs along a half-section. We currently experience interference (radio, tractor GPS) from the current (CapX2020) major transmission line and are concerned that with an additional line so close we would also experience issues at our residence. These lines are not pleasant or natural to look at and do not look forward to having the existing line 3/4 of a mile north of our residence and the proposed line 1/4 mile south of our residence. ~Marvin & Maureen Bernardy
7/31/2023	Between Hwy 59 and 280th Ave. south of Marshall there is no road. The land there is highly subject to severe compaction because of the lack of drainage and soil type. In my opinion, the power poles should follow existing roads only, versus crossing people's property which creates farming challenges and devalues property to a greater extent. I chose to live, farm, and purchase property in remote locations so I could avoid the unsightly, noisy, and unnatural infrastructure of city living. Also, it is ridiculous why the State of MN will not allow poles on state owned land.

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Date	Comment Text
7/31/2023	I'm not in favor of the proposed power line running through my properties, Why, you ask ?(property devaluation, health concerns, interference affecting farm equipment/technology. Why not follow a road and use government property, so not to cause farmers the disruption of their farming operation, and being an eye sore devaluing their property.
8/1/2023	At our home site (located at 35300 MN Hwy 22 south, Eden Valley MN - Meeker County, Manannah Township, Section 26) we would be impacted in several different ways by the proposed line route that may cross our property: 1) We own and operate a grass fed beef farm, MicBri Acres LLC. We have planted and tended, and continue to maintain, two rows of white cedar trees parallel to MN Highway 22. a. Per our feedlot permit, a living screen is maintained between our farm and the road. The above mentioned two rows of white cedar trees is this living screen. The tree line's western edge is 110 feet from the center of MN Hwy 22; the tree line's eastern edge is 128 feet from the center of MN Hwy 22. The trees are, on average, over 20 feet tall. There are approximately 290 trees total. b. We are Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certified. This double row of white cedar trees is also part of the application for the Climate Smart Ag Endorsement (part of the MN Ag Water Quality Certification program). c. If the transmission line is placed on the east side of MN Highway 22, this will likely require the movement/replacement of this living screen. It is cost and labor intensive to establish this type of tree line. We anticipate the costs associated with moving/supporting/replacing and tending to them for the first few years would be covered by Xcel. 2) The tree line also acts as a privacy screen and greatly reduces highway noise, as well as acting as a wind/snow fence in the winter. 3) If the transmission line is placed on the east side of MN Hwy 22, it would require us to move our pasture fences. It would require us to completely fence in the new living screen on both sides plus add an additional fence line to maintain similar pasture acreage. There would be additional gate costs as well, presuming Xcel would need access to the pastures for line construction and maintenance. 4) We do not use any herbicides on our property and are NOT receptive to the use of any herbicides for line maintenance. 5) Per the 4/25/2023 Xcel public meeting in Litchfield MN, the Xcel spokesperson stated that Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) levels do not return to "baseline" levels until 300 feet away from the transmission line. This puts both our house and the Earth to Sky Healing building (described below in letter b) significantly inside of this elevated EMF range. The Xcel spokesperson also stated that certain building materials can reduce EMFs, while others (example given: steel) do not reduce EMFs as effectively. a. Our house is 286 feet from the center of MN Hwy 22. It has a steel roof. b. On our property, Bridget owns and operates Earth to Sky Healing LLC. This is an energy therapy business, offering Healing Touch to clients. Healing Touch is conducted by working in the client's energy field. It is unknown how elevated EMF levels may affect this practice. The business operates out of an exterior building that is 250 feet from the center of MN Highway 22. The building has a steel roof. 6) There is a buried natural gas line on the east side of MN Hwy 22 along the proposed transmission line route. Thank you for our 1:1 conversation at your open house on June 14th in Willmar MN. Hopefully it, and this letter, give you a better understanding of why the proposed line route should not be on the east side of MN Hwy 22.
8/1/2023	I enjoy access to electricity and therefore do not oppose this project in its entirety. I do, however, believe that you are placing the burden of unfortunately necessary infrastructure disproportionately on landowners. Specifically this is in regards to your proposal to place transmission lines along the East edge of my farm. There is no road nor any wasted land along this east property line at this time. When real estate of this type is purchased the buyer access's value with factors including ability to expand the property into a larger parcel going forward, as well as for difficulty/risk to farm. Placing posts on my property line would there for lower the value of my land and represent an ongoing risk of damage to my equipment and cut this property off from future expansion opportunities. I believe it is entirely reasonable to expect the utility company to follow the existing network of roadways and utility easements thereto. We are all bound by this existing network for all of our transport and freight needs I don't know why the utility should be granted an exception from this and be allowed to impose unduly on landowners. Additionally I believe that the proposed reimbursement rate of 80% of value is woefully low given that the land owner will continue to be responsible for real estate taxes on the property occupied by the towers and that the towers not only take land away but lower the value of the remaining land and force the farmers to allow a safety buffer at least twice as big as the foot print of the towers into perpetuity. I think the utility should be responsible for an annual payment for the land removed from production in addition to the upfront cost. This would build in an incentive to remove the infrastructure as such time as it becomes outdated or unnecessary. Thank you, Luke Johnson 913.660.2023
8/1/2023	Proposed route options directly affect future solar panel projects, as well as future irrigation projects, which consist of ground owned by James and Susan Ahrenholz, Terry Ahrenholz, Tim Ahrenholz, Sara Ahrenholz, and TSA Farms.
7/26/2023	If you need the power in the Becker area, then make the power in the Becker area.
7/26/2023	Please keep your power lines away from domestic housing with occupants, dairy, and other livestock operations. Please do not destroy the beautiful landscape of the Minnesota River Valley. Xcel Energy needs to harness the natural resources of coal, natural gas, and nuclear energy to keep them online as wind and solar do not have storage reserve. Cold, long winters and high temperatures in the summer need to be taken into consideration. Choose wisely. For the betterment of the human race and animals. Know effects - negative of transmission lines. Electromagnetic fields. Radio - connections, pace makers, car engines, cell phones, anti theft devices, radiation therapy, dairy production. During generation - vibrations, humming, sizzles, hissing, value of farms decrease, value of farm land decrease, radio and TV reception, stray voltage - bad for humans and animals.
7/25/2023	Wright County is a vacation destination. It's a beautiful part of our state with much wildlife and vegetation - both on land and in lakes. Please don't destroy this area with powerlines. Please choose the powerline path to go up 8 in Stearns County where it's farm, not many lakes, etc. Please. (See pdf for attached map)
6/12/2023	My first concern is the closeness to my residence and the effect it could have on my water, farm, operations, and GPS on all our farm equipment and myself. My son who now owns the field and myself are currently putting up a new grain bin and dryer septum. These are quite tall and may be affected by the electrical lines. Also I have marked on the map, your lines would go across every field of the farm. We have irrigators on several fields and they would be affected. In the corner of 35th and 160th we own a building site and the lines would go directly over it and you would be removing all the trees. These lines would impact the property value of the whole farm. Just in the 1 mile distance from my residence to County Road 7 there would be 7 - 8 families impacted. This doesn't seem like a very good choice for the lines. Please consider the northern or more southern route.
6/14/2023	Yesterday we attended the info meeting in Marshall at the EverSpring Hotel. I thank you for having photos/plans of routes, and good people to explain them. However, I write this, as one of the remaining route options will go across our farm (following an existing line). This line crosses our land in the middle of the section, does not follow a road right-of-way or property line. Picture in your mind a 280 acre field (all farmed) with not 1 power line crossing - but now possibly two lines. Any payment we would receive would likely be for acres out of production - our farm will have this line as a negative scar when the land is someday sold. A \$1000/a disc on 280a farm exceeds any likely payment. I strongly request you use another route that does not include double lines.
6/14/2023	The proposed route through our family farm presents many concerns. On our farm it cuts through pasture land, wildlife areas and is too close to family farms and water sources. It would affect our farm operations and cattle business. Some of the oldest rock in MN is found on our farm. We have endangered species on our land. It would ruin the natural habitat and powerlines would be an eyesore, let alone could have stray voltage leakage.
6/15/2023	I live in Vesta 23 and farm with my family in Vesta 23 and Vesta 26. 26 is a farm that has been in my family for 70 years. Vesta 26 is farmed mile long and is our very best producing farm land. There is NO amount of money that would make the Irlbeck family sign an easement to allow you to cross the middle of our most productive farm. Vesta 26 has pattern tile painstakingly installed by our family every 40' from road 2995th St to 300th St. We would rather you don't have to cross all those tile lines and respectfully ask you to find a different route. There will be no consideration of our family to allow your company to cross this farm. This line will also go directly behind my house in Vesta 23. No amount of money would be sufficient for me to allow your company to cross my farm there.
6/15/2023	As we discussed at the Xcel informational meeting in Willmar on 14 June 2023, I am enclosing a copy of the letter in which NSP granted permission to plant shrubs on the power line easement in SE 1/4, Sec 35, TWP 116, RGE 36.

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Date	Comment Text
6/16/2023	I live in NW1/4 Sec 2 Vail Township, Redwood County. The power line of CapX 2020 runs along my land on the east side of township road. Another transmission power line runs on the west side. One of the proposed Xcel line routes is also planned on the west side of the road in Section 3. I don't think there should be 3 major power lines along 1 road. I also don't want to look at all 3 all the time. Thank you for your consideration.
6/20/2023	After reviewing the preliminary map of the route, it is extremely concerning to us. There is all the open farmland for this route, and it is now going RIGHT next to our home. There are so many other options rather than going so close to our residence, our family has farmed in this area and paid taxes for over 100 years, so we sincerely as that you review another option for this power line. We are also an Xcel customer at our Tracy location for the past 12 years. Thank you in advance for revisiting this preliminary route.
6/20/2023	NA
6/20/2023	<p>What would be the impact of running power lines through our property? We feel the impact would be great. The projected route of where you propose to place these lines will ultimately destroy the land which Chester and Violet worked so hard to protect. The power lines will occupy and disrupt our crop land and pastures as well as the areas set aside for the wildlife. In addition the power lines are often said to emit a buzz or snap during storms which will disrupt the quiet, peaceful reserve the farm provides. The wildlife will be disturbed and may relocate and crops will not be grown.</p> <p>In addition to how this would impact the land and wildlife, the installation of these lines would affect our privacy. Our farm, which we have always tried to keep private, will now be opened to your line workers whenever you want, probably with no notice to us and we will have no say to who comes onto our land anymore. This affects not only our privacy but also puts us at risk for increased liability and decreased safety as our farm will no longer be private and away from public view.</p> <p>The impact of the installation of these power lines will also affect our livelihood. We depend on being able to rent out portions of our farm in order to have crops grown and to have cattle in the pasture. Our renter will have extra work going around the lines which could lead to us losing income as well as crops not being grown and pastureland not being managed. ...</p> <p>Please do not divide up the section, especially right down the middle of it as planned. Do not destroy the legacy of these hard-working farmers.</p>
5/11/2023	The Township of Harvey in Meeker County, MN formally states its opposition to the proposed Xcel Energy 345 kV transmission line, known as the Minnesota Energy Connection Line. We have several concerns regarding this line including location near residences, potential detrimental health effects, routing of the line through the middle of farm fields, and property devaluations that result from the line. The proposals which intersect Harvey township go very close to several residences. The setbacks state they must stay 150 ft from a residence but when the towers themselves are over 100 ft tall, we do not feel this setback is sufficient. In addition, the 150 ft setback does not cover the 300 ft Electromagnetic Field (EMF) emitting from the line potentially leading to negative health effects. Xcel's representatives state that effort was taken to avoid going though the middle of farm fields in the proposed line routes. However, there are many cases in Harvey Township alone where the lane proposals run through the middle of fields, reducing the efficiency of farms operations which would cost the farmer money year after year. The property values along this proposed line will also decrease substantially. There would be no compensation to the homeowners along this route whose property values plummet because not they have a transmission line in front of their house. Due to the serious concerns we have for this proposed transmission line and the overwhelming negative feedback we have been hearing from Harvey Township residents we request that the proposed Xcel Energy transmission line does not go through Harvey Township.
5/15/2023	We are writing to place our objection to running Energy Transmission line through the 160th proposed route in Clearwater. I would strongly hope for the route through Kimbell area or the route through Sherburne County through to Co Rd 8.
6/1/2023	Please remove from mail list
6/10/2023	A line option is down our property line which would mean removal of trees planted 16 years ago! Trees meant to add protection from the elements of the North. This would be cruel. Please follow Hwy 15.
6/8/2023	The power line does not follow a property line or existing road. It goes right over house. It cuts right through my irrigated field which makes no sense. The Northern most route follows an old logging road and was the least amount of interference with farms and houses. An even better option would be the Northern route from Becker North on 94 circling south and west of Kimball.
6/8/2023	We are concerned about the close proximity to our residence, as it is 100' from current road right of way. (Hwy 15) We are very concerned about negative health effects on livestock that would be pasture near by. The one proposed route is along our south property line, this may also negatively affect property values.
6/8/2023	I don't want the power line so close to my residence.
6/7/2023	One of the proposed routes does not cross the Mississippi river by the Sherco plant. There is already electrical lines at the site and will minimize the visual impact and keep the cost lower if the new line crosses the river next to the existing plant
6/7/2023	The current proposed line at the intersection in next to Meyers Historic School house which is approx. 117 years old. The other concern is the impact to the natural resources. This area is the start of Johasson creek which is a natural trout stream. There are also mature oak trees which would be susceptible to oak wilt.
6/12/2023	We have enclosed a map that outlines the existing center pivots around the area that is being proposed. In addition, Northern Natural Gas has a gas line with existing easements already in place.
6/12/2023	My sons farm is only 2 1/2 tens(?) from railroad and propose line.
6/12/2023	We are extremely concerned about your proposed "Energy Connection". It will run through our brother's century organic farm as well as being very close to our artisan goat dairy/cheesemaking facility. This projected route would be detrimental to the farms including ours. We hope you will find a route safer for farm animals and humans. Our livelihoods depend on it!
6/13/2023	No poles in fields - tax free income tax payments
6/13/2023	NOT interested! We purchased our property for the beautiful trees and wildlife. We have 39 acres in CRP. Do NOT destroy this! NOT interested!
6/13/2023	My concern focuses on the area North of Kimball. Coming from the west, the route should use Powder Ridge Road out then North on the east side of MN Hwy 15. The house and out buildings just south of 150th street on East side of Hwy 15 will be demolished as these are recent buildings. The route should continue North along Hwy 15 as proposed. See Map
6/15/2023	Proposed route on Hector Township Sec 8 is extremely close to our home and will impact our ability to safely farm our land.
6/15/2023	Frustrating that nothing about this effects us in a positive way. The people that benefit have "no skin in the game".

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Date	Comment Text
6/16/2023	We have several concerns on the projected placement of towers on our property. This would create a division of that field, and could have a large impact on our field drainage system. This would also create a problem with trying to farm around these towers. We also have concerns about any placement of towers on our current CRP contracted land. Please take our concerns into consideration when deciding a route.
6/17/2023	NA
6/17/2023	Thank you for public opinions.
6/20/2023	I am concerned about the negative impact the 'North Route' would create for our neighborhood wildlife. Currently we see/hear deer, fox, coyote, rabbits, geese, ducks, frogs, eagles, hawks... we purchased our home to enjoy the feel of a rural location for our family. We walk along the trails around our neighborhood and really hope you consider an alternative solution for routing. *see enclosed map*
6/20/2023	I have attached the map that highlights our farms in blue and yellow. The blue dotted line represents the existing Capx2020 line installed in 2012. The second attached map is a yield map of 2022 corn. The area below the blue pen line is the easement area for Capx2020 and the red shows the poor yields we continue to experience due to compaction associated with the power line installation. You can understand why are against another power line that lies only one-half mile north of the Capx2020 line and then continues north bordering our farms! We need to have these farms sprayed by airplane to control fungal diseases and insects and our aerial company is very hesitant to fly on our chemicals with the Capx2020 line in place. If the xcel line is installed only a half mile north of Capx2020, we may be unable to have chemicals applied by plane! Tar spot is the next big yield limiting fungal disease we will be battling and without aerial spraying available to treat it, we will have no way to treat it when corn becomes too tall for ground rigs or crop is tangled from windstorms! Another huge issue is the proximity of Capx 2020 line and the proposed route of the xcel line is to Rohlik Wildlife Area owned by DNR. 5 swans have died after flying into the CapX2020 line the past two springs, and if your line is permitted, the entire south and west edges of the wildlife area will be bordered by these transmission lines that are higher than the distribution lines that exist and ducks fly into them frequently. We believe that another transmission line installed so close to existing Capx2020 line puts an undue burden on us and that we have sacrificed enough for these public good projects and that another route should be considered!
6/20/2023	I have attached the map that highlights our farms in blue and yellow. The blue dotted line represents the existing Capx2020 line installed in 2012. The second attached map is a yield map of 2022 corn. The area below the blue pen line is the easement area for Capx2020 and the red shows the poor yields we continue to experience due to compaction associated with the power line installation. You can understand why are against another power line that lies only one-half mile north of the Capx2020 line and then continues north bordering our farms! We need to have these farms sprayed by airplane to control fungal diseases and insects and our aerial company is very hesitant to fly on our chemicals with the Capx2020 line in place. If the excel line is installed only a half mile north of Capx2020, we may be unable to have chemicals applied by plane! Tar spot is the next big yield limiting fungal disease we will be battling and without aerial spraying available to treat it, we will have no way to treat it when corn becomes too tall for ground rigs or crop is tangled from windstorms! Another huge issue is the proximity of Capx 2020 line and the proposed route of the excel line is to Rohlik Wildlife Area owned by DNR. 5 swans have died after flying into the CapX2020 line the past two springs, and if your line is permitted, the entire south and west edges of the wildlife area will be bordered by these transmission lines that are higher than the distribution lines that exist and ducks fly into them frequently. We believe that another transmission line installed so close to existing Capx2020 line puts an undue burden on us and that we have sacrificed enough for these public good projects and that another route should be considered!
6/20/2023	1) Wondering how and if you will compensate landowner who has to work around this. Please know it wastes a large amount of good farm land now and in the future. 2) How much do they compensate for damage done. 3) Are they willing to work and accommodate all people affected including landowners, workers, and others. 4) Please make sure you have enough back up energy before shutting down current plant. 5) Existing customers should not have to pay for changing station. 6) I'd be interested if anyone deals with our letters and concerns?
6/20/2023	Please see attached map. I have spoken with Randy Fordice and Brad or Chad at open house in Kimball at Powder Ridge on 6/6/23. The attached map gives details of least impact to our neighborhood using the route outlined in purple. No trees, open land (farm fields). Please provide response regarding this proposed route. I have found that the route south of our homestead least preferred. If not, I prepared a route within attached map lined in purple. The current proposal places power lines and the associated construction and maintenance on forested land and CRP land. Including martin forest and CRP pollinator prairie land with perennial vegetation under contract through 2031. Management includes burning vegetation at a mid term to allow roots to reestablish, new growth. In this regard, permanent and irreversible impact will result when this with this northern proposed route.
6/20/2023	You currently are planning one route through our neighbors side and back yard and across our backyard - splitting our 10/40 acres. This is going to interrupt our pristine view that we have paid extra for when we built our house, we paid over \$1,000 to get our lines dug in so we didn't have any power poles obstructing our views and even though the line would be around 450 feet from our house structure, we will easily see it every time we sit on our back porch. Right now we have a beautiful view of the hills in our back and side yards which is where you are proposing to place these lines. If it must go this route, I've want those lines dug in so we don't have to see them. I am enclosing a picture of our current back yard for you to see what we are talking about and a second one to show the impact of those lines on our backyard.
6/21/2023	This would devalue the land for any future resale. The large farm machinery today would make it impossible to navigate between the poles and the property lines. Furthermore, where the line is proposed would make our home impossible to sell.
6/21/2023	The current proposed route is very close to my house and neighbors houses. I'm very concerned about the negative impact it will have on my family and neighbors. I have enclosed a proposed route that would help minimize the impact to people. The route would follow property lines, stay away from homes and close to Xcel's proposed route.
6/21/2023	I understand that nobody wants a powerline close to their home, including myself but we do need electricity. My request would be that we are paid a yearly payment for the inconvenience of the poles and wires. With todays and future technology, such as drones, air plane spraying, the use of manure hose application, direct injection, these lines are major obstacles and would limit the use of all these. So to be fair to us farmers, we should be given yearly compensation for financial losses due to restricted use on these property's of certain management and technology use.
6/21/2023	We are concerned about lower property values and the inconvenience of farming around the towers. Also may impact reception of internet/GPS trackers. Follow property lines when possible.
6/21/2023	I am against the line going across the middle of my farm interfering with equipment, planting, spraying, harvesting, tilling, and having to avoid poles plus the damage to existing tile and cropland during installation and maintenance. We have a line already come by our property.
6/23/2023	Our family has worked very hard to make our family park for many to enjoy. Adding a powerline would definitely not be in our best interest. We created this space to get away and have a peaceful fun environmental.
6/22/2023	We for the last 21 years have had a family park Wild Acres located at 2002 County Road 11, part of Lyon County, Amiret Township, Section 12 located in the SE quarter. The park is on the south side. Park is important to the local area. It has been used for family reunions, weddings, graduations, Knights of Columbus meetings and local gathering. We can't have a electrical transmission running through a 10 acre park. Please move slightly south. This would also minimize our involvement.
6/24/2023	In addition to the above, property value impacts. All property values adjacent to the line will be impacted negatively.
6/24/2023	I don't like northing about all these. It doesn't help to complain about it, because you all are going to go right ahead and do what you want to do. Enclosed is a map.

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6/26/2023	There is one issue that has not been considered. That is the impacts on the health of residence of the township. There is stray voltage, microwaves, and other things that cause major health problems.
6/24/2023	I just printed off the Staff Briefing Papers dated June 29, 2023, from E-Docket 22-131. I found two very disturbing issues for me as a landowner with the potential of having Xcel Energy transmission line across the road from my house and bisecting my land used for agricultural row crop farming (Meeke County/Harvey Township). The two issues that I am writing about are found on pages three and four. Under Staff Analysis, the concern is that the landowners are commenting about the placement of the transmission line and not the certificate of need. We were invited to come to the meetings to find out about the transmission line and voice our opinions. We were encouraged to write comments if the line impacted our property and suggest alternative routes. I never had the feeling that we were to address the certificate of need. Does this mean all of this time attending meetings, writing comments, petitions, is a waste of time because you were looking for a certificate of need? My second concern is that information/scoping meetings will not be completed before the route permit application is estimated to be filed in October. It looks like you will have a route set in October to file the permit application. So what is the use of conducting these information/scoping meetings as the route has already been set. As a landowner whose house and land will be affected, I would really appreciate a reply or telephone call.
6/26/2023	1 wetland. 4 pivot irrigation. 2 bald eagle nest. Flood plain yearly. County Ditch 39. Army Corp Eng. (See pdf for attached map)
6/26/2023	We visited with you at Powder Ridge and found out that your proposed route would cut right through 2 pieces of agriculture fields of ours. Not good! It is with extreme unhappiness that so many acres of needed land to produce needed crops are being over taken by solar sites and wind turbines. We have gone to a number of information meetings which explained how very useful and long enduring the nuclear plants can be. Is it truly wise to move for our state and country to be hanging our supplying factors for electricity. We think very definitely not. The fields of ours where you want to use are very heavily tilled and should not be disturbed.
6/27/2023	NA
6/27/2023	On Lyon County, Amiret Sec 12, Southside, the proposed Xcel power goes along the edge of our family park Wild Acres LLC 2002 County Road 11 Tracy, MN 56175. We started the park 21 years ago and worked very hard for the views and beauty of it. The park has playground, shelter, electricity, bathroom. Flying kites, drones, etc. that the kids like to do could cause trouble with the power line. It will be a hard disappointment to tell them not to fly kites and drones anymore. The best access to the park is a private road from the west. We have permission from the farmers on both sides to use the private road. On the private road is a small cement bridge that is not designed for heavy loads (west of park). Next to the park (southside) is a historic wood bridge that only cars and light pick up trucks can go over.
6/27/2023	This route goes too close to Evan Peterson's house and should be moved north of the DNR land. Concerned about health hazards of being too close to a residence. Also cross proximity will effect resale value of a home. (See pdf for attached map)
6/27/2023	The enclosed map shows how the proposed route by 590th ave and 340th st in Harvey Township cuts several fields in half. Please try to stay in the road routes as this would not be as detrimental to farming practices.
6/27/2023	Our property, located in Renville County (ID#23-00850-00) Sect 24 Twp-114 Range-37 has a proposed transmission line along its western boarder. This land has a permanent easement in RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) and should NEVER be disturbed in any way. The MN Board of Soil and Water Resources and DNR wouldn't permit any disturbance on our land. We have permanently set aside this land as a protected area for wildlife and have planted native grasses and trees to restore it to its original habitat. There are bald eagles nesting here by the MN River. Please select an alternate route! See attached regulations from our RIM which detail how we aren't allowed to alter the easement area. RE: Route map enclosed.
6/27/2023	Our farms are highlighted on the attached map. Please consider an alternate route, as this route is affecting so much of our prime productive farm land as well as our RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota) land in Renville County. Perhaps other famers would welcome your settlement money, but we prefer to be left alone, free of the inconvenience of farming around giant power lines.
6/27/2023	Reasons to choose a different route to avoid going through the middle of our farm is listed below! 1) Lines running across the middle of the field would affect GPS signal on every round which includes tillage, planting, harvesting, and spraying!!! 2) I just finished pattern tiling the field you will be going through I have an investment of \$129,000 worth of tile in that field and do not want that compromised with heavy equipment and holes for points. 3) I have a dairy set up that the power line would stop a sale of that and I would be stuck with a non-sellable operation. 4) My fertilizer plan includes hose dragging hog manure which will be impossible if there is poles in the way!!!. 5) Plus that inconvenience of planting, spray, tillage, and harvesting around poles in the middle of my field!!! Please follow existing infrastructure!! There are several farmers on this line with same problems! Don't cut up more farm land!!
6/28/2023	My concern is having the transmission line crossing the scenic crow river on 592nd Ave. This piece of land has a tremendous amount of value based on its natural beauty. The combination of the river, trees, grassland, and wildlife makes this property truly unique. We have also found Indian artifacts on the property. A transmission line would destroy the value of this property. A much better option would be to cross the Crow River at State Hwy 22. If the transmission line has to cross the scenic waterway following a state highway makes much more sense.
6/28/2023	Will decrease land and home value. Can cause all kinds of health problems. Biological effects. Visual effects. Effects the nervous system and brain. Ventricular fibrillation (heart cond. from hazard). Cancer, neurodegenerative disease. Damaging DNA. Leukemia in children. The list goes on please!
6/28/2023	This would really interfere with my farm practices and also hinder the production on my farm. When these poles come in they tend to have negative affects to the production due to compaction and destroys tile lines that improve production on my farm.
6/28/2023	In this entire route, as the exception to the Mississippi, my property is the only spot where the line crosses a body of water. This line would interfere with natural resources and local waterfowl movements.
6/30/2023	We have did our part. We have a 345 kV line already very close to us. We do not need another.
6/29/2023	I am writing to express my very strong opposition to the proposed new 350 kVt route that would go through the middle of section 35 and 36 of Underwood township, Redwood County, Minnesota. It would be a forever pain to farm around as we run the rows the opposite way. I heard at a soybean processor meeting that they were exploring ESC soybean processing and I guess soybeans can not come from soy lines grown near powerline distribution lines. So how much worse is a transmission line. My big concern is two high voltage lines to farm around and cross my field. Matt, how are you going to cross two 350+ kV lines in my field?
6/29/2023	My husband and I have a home in Emerald Pond Addition (for the past 8 years). Just in the last 2 years the neighborhood is changing to empty lots to homes to young families. There is more baby strollers in my neighbor than ever. Please don't put your power lines in a growing community.
7/1/2023	Scrap the whole plan, keep the reliable coal and nuclear plants. This line a disruptive plan that will transport novelty sporadic "green" energy.
7/6/2023	The proposed new powerlines in Haze Run Township and Yellow Medicine county cut directly across the middle of sections of farmland and will affect farming operations of a lot of farmers for 80 years. We do not get the power but have to pay up with all the lines.
7/5/2023	NA

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7/10/2023	I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to the proposed power line route by Xcel Energy's MN Energy Connection Project that will pass through Meeker County. This powerline is being proposed to be installed on or near my property (Meeker County, Township Parcel ID # 15-0387000 and 12-0035000) I am opposed to this powerline placement for the following reasons. Proposed route cuts our field in half. Negatively affects farming activities. Hurts land valuations. I implore the MNPUC to choose a different route that will avoid destroying and disturbing natural habitats and agricultural lands in Meeker County.
7/10/2023	Where the line is going, is a route for all the water fowl coming out of Willow Lake. Swan, geese and eagle this is their flight path. So very disappointed it is so close to my house.
7/10/2023	Proposed power line would cut our field in half. The placement of poles could have an extremely negative effect. (See pdf for attached map)
7/10/2023	This 160 acre farm earns a very high avoidance rating score. It is rare to find 160 acre farm, with a river running through it, that is untouched by development, even though it has great potential on the development side. We cornered off 10 acres of the building site years ago. Currently and into the future, friends and family enjoy the scenery and wildlife. We believe the natural setting and river are a very big part of its value.
7/14/2023	There are multiple bald eagle nests in the south half, southwest quarter of section 25, T122N R29W and in section 31 T122N R28W. See enclosed map
7/14/2023	In Minnesota, we are blessed with many natural resources. Two of the most important are lakes, streams, and our high productive farmland. Xcel Energy needs to determine a route that would not interfere with farmland or lakes and to preserve our most precious resources for future generations. It is quite easy for people to draw lines on paper to determine the route but the landowners are affected every year and generations to come. If the route is to run on private owned land, compensation should be every year that the transmission line is in service not just a one time payment and should be based on percentages as long as the line is in service.
7/17/2023	This route runs too close to Carnelian Lake and lake residents on the west side of the lake. Also runs along side pheasant habitat. It would make more sense to take the shorter route and save the \$\$\$ money (the Hwy 15 route is the longer route). Please consider a shorter and more direct route!
7/18/2023	We have state refuge land surrounding us and wish to continue to protect wildlife and land.
7/18/2023	First and most importantly Gerald and I want it known we certainly approve an easement through our farmland. Years back we went along with a pole, across the freeway, on our land, but not again. It's too close to our home and it surly makes irrigation a problem, therefore making our land of much less value. We ask that you please reconsider.
7/22/2023	Why wasn't this connection considered? There are no homesteads or wetlands. (See pdf for attached map)
7/22/2023	According to your map the proposed route runs along Eden Valley's municipality boundary. This should NOT be allowed. It will be visible from anywhere in town and it prevents growth to the south. According to Meeker County Plat Book your proposed route runs through Eden Valley township. This should not be allowed. It will be visible from anywhere in town, it prevents growth to the south! (See pdf for attached maps)
7/22/2023	There is an active eagle nest on Xcel's proposed powerline route just SE of Eden Valley. I have sent this map and info to local DNR and Fish and Wildlife Agencies.(See pdf for attached map)
7/24/2023	Concerns continue to grow regarding the route of the transmission line through the Regenerative Agriculture and Woodlands/Wetlands Route. This is a sampling of the neighbors who have expressed their opposition and concern for the damages this route would cause to wildlife habitat (including wetlands and ponds, as well as, trees and forests), regenerative agriculture practices that are essential for restoring our soil and bringing back biodiversity to the ecological systems, and for quality-of-life (both health related and aesthetically). We still have an open invitation extended to you for touring the grounds of this proposed route. Can you please contact us to arrange a time and date? (See pdf for petition signatures)
7/27/2023	We are opposed to cutting across farm fields, it should follow roads or existing infrastructure. As shown on the attached map the proposed route line follows through farm fields with no roads several miles.
7/27/2023	Map 1: 1. Irrigator located here 2. Secluded lot with creek on state wildlife refuge will no longer be sellable with no trees 3. Outline of state wildlife refuge 4. Home farmyard/buildings 5. Irrigator. Map 2: Gravel pit off Calumet Rd (pink highlight). 1. Where does the line cross on north end of pit?
7/28/2023	We have a turkey farm located at the west half of the northwest quarter of section 18 in fahlun township in Kandiyohi County. We are concerned about the transmission line that is proposed to be within 300 feet of our brooder barns. To allow for maximum gain per day the gut flora cannot be disturbed while the turkeys are acclimating to feed in the first weeks after hatching. The turkey industry has new technology that allows the poult to be fed and water during the first 48 hours after hatching. The data from the R&D demonstrates that upsetting the eating habit within the first 48 hours significantly reduces gain per day and livability. Our farm produces 1 million 45-pound turkeys per year, or 45 million pounds annually. One out of every four turkeys are brooded at the farm where the transmission is proposed to be within 300 feet of our brooder barns. If the proposed transmission line disturbs the eating habits and they weigh 5% less, it would cost \$250,000 per year.
8/2/2023	I grew up on 150th Ave in Clearwater Township, where the line is proposed to go through. I am concerned that the line will interfere with the old growth forest and wetlands. This natural landscape should be preserved for the wild life habitat and beauty it provides the long-time residents.
7/31/2023	1) I favor construction along Sh Cty Road 8 though I live just 2 miles from it. Let's be fair - I get a huge tax break from Becker power plant - I should not shove off the impact of this line to my neighbors in Wright County. Sherburne County is nice but not nearly as beautiful as Wright County's forested and lake filled area. 2) 2nd choice: The line should straddle the Hwy 75/I-94 corridor. The visual impacts already significant. 3) Do NOT choose the route parallel and north of 150th Street. It is still pristine.
7/31/2023	We own property at 37904 Hunter Ave, Belview, MN 56214. We already have a gas pipeline running through our property so I would prefer these lines be routed elsewhere so we don't have to also deal with transmission lines.
7/29/2023	The connection line proposed to connect the Buffalo Ridge Wind Farms to Sherco by passing through Minnesota's highest quality and scarcest farm real estate is a disgrace for our land is decreasing and disappearing at a rapid pace - the power line avoids swamps and sloughs because of sensitive environment but plows full speed ahead to harm Minnesota's most valuable resource - wind and solar need to be adjacent to the population base that is supposedly clamoring for this connection - woefully inefficient and subject to interruptions from lack of wind and seek - Minnesota needs a policy to provide cheap and plentiful electricity to set a pro growth healthy economy - this plan is the opposite. Xcel replaced an existing high voltage line across our property this year - affecting nearly 3 miles of farmland and made a real mess with serious damage to farmlands, crops, and to the beauty of rural Minnesota. I believe that we have done our part for over 70 years and this new line should be routed in a corridor that runs north on the western boundary and then east on the northern boundary - I also believe that the metro area population should be forced to put renewable energy installations in their backyard. Lakes, golf courses, parks would be good choices to protect farm land. Rate payers will be enraged when the fall costs of this folly shows up in their monthly electricity bill.
7/26/2023	I am writing in opposition of the current proposed route for the high voltage line. This line will be a hinderance both visually and audibly. One that will negatively affect property values and residents well being that are in the path. Most importantly those in the path would be subjected to various health concerns. The affect on humans and animals of magnetic induction is not well known, but possibly has negative impacts. This line would also take out our north tree line and multiple fruit trees. Attached USDA publication cites tree line windbreaks can reduce windrift up to 80 to 90%. With the tree line gone we will be directly exposed to toxic pesticides and herbicides due to Xcel Energy and the PUC. Many of these chemicals are known carcinogens including the widely used glyphosate. Our home grown plants and pollinator habitat will also be exposed to higher levels. Attached is proposed reroute shown in black marker.

Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
7/23/2023	<p>We are writing in opposition to the MN energy connection route that passes through Emmett Township, Section 31 and 32 of Renville County. We live at 78568 County Road 6 Renville, MN. This proposed line would pass directly on the South side of our homestead. We also own the land to the South of this property and the farm site just to the South of our home.</p> <p>We have two wells that serve our farm, and they are in the field south of our farm site and to the east of our farm site as indicated by the blue dots on the attached map. Obviously the electrical wires and the water line for each well is also underground that brings us water to our farm site. Another well is located on the land we own west of our home. This well serves the farm site across the road from us. A power line cannot be built near these wells that would prohibit our ability to service repair these wells at any time.</p> <p>We are farmers and all our income comes from the land. A power line built through our farmland would prohibit us from aerial spraying our crops. Aerial spraying is needed when we are unable to drive through the field due to excessive rain or when the crops are nearly grown and driving equipment through the field would damage the crop. If unable to aerial spray, the crop yield would decrease thereby decreasing our income. Also, this field is only 46 acres and placing a power line through the field would make it harder to use our equipment to work the land as the power line structure would reduce the turning space available. Depending on the placement of the power poles south of our farm site, there could be land that is now potentially not available to the farm due to not being able to get equipment in the smaller space between the power poles and the buildings/trees on our property line. Another factor that concerns us is the future expansion of our farm. Our best option for expansion is to the South or to the east. A power line on the south side of our farm would eliminate that expansion option. The existing grain bins are on the south side of our property which is where future grain bins would be placed if we expanded.</p> <p>In our opinion, however, it would be better to place the new power line where there are existing easements or along existing roadways. Thank you for considering the effects of this proposed line would have on our lives.</p>
7/18/2023	<p>I own the southwest quarter of Section 7 in Minnesota Falls Township. I would be strongly opposed to a new line on the south side of my property because there is a line there already. I would not be opposed to a line on the east property line of the property where there is no existing line.</p>
7/18/2023	<p>I own the NE 1/4 of Section 13 in Hazel Run Township. I am strongly opposed to adding a new line on the east side of my property. There is a line there already. I am also opposed to putting a line in the middle of Section 18, MN Falls Township going north and south.</p>
7/15/2023	<p>My father owns 181 acres of bare farmland in Kandiyohi Co. just south of town of Roseland along Highway 7 it is property ID #29-019-0105. This property is projected to possibly have a large power line go through almost the middle of the field. As a lifelong farmer myself from Carver County I know what large power lines do to ag land. 1st GPS systems for steering planters, sprayers, and other application equipment can only intermittently work. 2. This cuts the value of the property considerably because all equipment will have to turn around power poles in center of the field. 3. Price of rent is going to be considerably less because of above reasons. No one wants to have a nice piece of property and pay high rent and have those type of problems. 4. I am 68 years old myself and I am going to inherit this property and consider the rent money as part of my retirement income. Please consider a different route for this power line. Putting the power line along a state or county road is better than putting it through the center of a field. Thanks for reading.</p>
7/15/2023	<p>We live on the north edge of the proposed route that runs along and beyond 160th St in South Haven rural area. The portion of the route crossing over Co Rd 7 causes several challenges. 1. At the part where it crosses over CR7 begins to follow 160th St would impact/displace several existing residences. 2. Area to the west of CR7 has no existing routes/road to run along, so you'd be clearing many acres of unspoiled woods and wetlands. This area is popular for waterfowl and wildlife and you'd be disrupting their homes and habitat. In recent past, this area received funding from the USFWS to expand our wetland to provide greater habitat for waterfowl. Disturbing it would erase all of our progress. 3. The transmission line would be unsightly and potentially reduce our property value (people live here for the undisturbed scenic environment). 4. Proposed route along Hwy 15 is already better prepared and a much better option.</p>
7/22/2023	<p>This letter with many prayers and a plea that the route for the proposed new Xcel lines will not be right out my front door. We have lived in Stanley Township, section 36 of Lyon County since 1988. We have raised our family crops and livestock here all of our married life. The proposed route for our area affects many family farm homes/building sites that are not abandoned. None of them are. We have young children and grandchildren, play yards, swimming pools, gardens and outdoor living areas that we all enjoy spending time with/in. If this new route is developed here all of that changes. It might not matter to many but it matters to my husband and I, our two sons and their families and our neighbors. After being here for over 35 years, that should count for something. We raised our four children at 2833 Lyon Redwood Road, Marshall, MN. Our youngest son moved his family there in 2022. We built a new house just across the section of our land and have been here since February of 2022. We cancelled our plans to build further north at our existing building site due to the line that was put through about 10 years ago. That site already had a well, electricity and an established groove period to avoid in such close proximity to the power lines we moved our building site to the middle of our section and started with nothing. We never imagined the possibility of another route being here, right in the middle of where we are living in our new home and original farm site. The proposed route would literally be right out our front door. This route would also affect our son and his family living in Stanley Township section 35/2855 County Road 11 Marshall MN. It would be extremely close to their house. Our neighbors who are close to the current lines complain of the noise they make, quote sounds like a truck coming but never arrives End Quote. They've been advised not to fuel their equipment near them and also to drag a line of chain behind to ensure they're grounded at the open house in granite falls MN one of your reps told my husband that Xcel tries to avoid residential areas. We consider this to be a residential area -ours! Even though our homes are spread out across sections there are many homes in this here. Wording to the maps have provided there are other options that do not affect so many homes/building sites. It can't be safe for these lines to be so close to where families they're living. I pray that there is a suitable option other than right out all of our front doors.</p>

**Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table**

Date	Comment Text
6/18/2023	<p>We are writing strong opposition to the proposed power line route by Xcel Energy's MN Energy Connection project that will pass through Manannah and Harvey townships in Meeker County. We encourage you to reject this proposal. Proposed to be installed on our family's property (Meeker County, Manannah Township Parcel ID # 15-0187000). We are opposed to the power line placement for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.This property has been in our family for over 100 years. It has been actively crop farmed generating and supporting the local and state economy throughout those years. 2.Placing this power line on the border of our family's property will require removal of virgin, native grasses, trees, insects, plants, pollinators and animals that live in that border habitat that have grown undisturbed for over 100 years! This proposal would destroy this forever! (see attached photos). 3.The power line is proposed to cross a native wetland that has many waterfowl (geese, varieties of duck, Swans and other birds) and animals (Beaver, muskrats, fox, deer) that call this wetland habitat their home we have gone to great lengths to maintain this wetland to promote the natural environment. This wetland is part of the public water inventory and is managed by the DNR. It is our understanding that it will require additional permitting. (See attached photo). 4.This property has been passed down through the generations in my family and will be passed on to future generations. This power line project will negatively impact this property, and the surrounding area, for generations to come! 5.There is no road access to where power pole placement would need to take place therefore Xcel would cross actively farmed agricultural land and disrupt the crop management. (see map photos). 6.Xcel Energy is proposing a onetime payment at current land values, however this is a power line that will be there forever and once it is not in use any longer (which will happen) the pole and lines will remain. This is not a reasonable offer. 7.Only, we urge you to keep the power line out of Harvey Township that already has a major (for post anchor) power line running through it. The Xcel proposed route would bisect farm crop land and run over pasture land that already has major voltage running through it. This route also connects the power line route that connects to our farm property. <p>We have been in attendance at the County Commissioners Meeting in open house Xcel Energy has hosted in Meeker County on April 25th and June 8th and feel our input (which has been given verbally and in writing) is not impacting the decision on the routes! We are hopeful that our most recent conversations with you at the meeker county open house will shift the routes away from northern meeker county and stay out of Manannah and Harvey townships. If a route must go in meeker county, we encourage you to support the route that follows current roadways that are least disruptive to agricultural production such as State Highway 4 to CSAH 16 to Minnesota highway 22 to Minnesota Hwy. 55 (some of the proposed route is already following these roadways so why detour across farmland).</p>
6/10/2023	<p>We are writing strong opposition to the proposed power line route by Xcel Energy's MN Energy Connection project that will pass through Manannah and Harvey townships in Meeker County. We encourage you to reject this proposal. Proposed to be installed on our family's property (Meeker County, Manannah Township Parcel ID # 15-0187000). We are opposed to the power line placement for the following reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.This property has been in our family for over 100 years. It has been actively crop farmed generating and supporting the local and state economy throughout those years. 2.Placing this power line on the border of our family's property will require removal of virgin, native grasses, trees, insects, plants, pollinators and animals that live in that border habitat 3.The power line is proposed to cross a native wetland that has many waterfowl (geese, varieties of duck, Swans and other birds) and animals (Beaver, muskrats, fox, deer) that call this wetland habitat their home we have gone to great lengths to maintain this wetland to promote the natural environment. 4.This property has been passed down through the generations in my family and will be passed on to future generations. This power line project will negatively impact this property, and the surrounding area, for generations to come! 5.We have been told by Xcel Energy that they cannot place the powerline towers on CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) property which is NOT in active crop production. Why would you consider Disrupting crop production acreage versus placing the power line towers on property that is not in agricultural production? The adjacent property line that the proposed power line would follow has CRP on one side (that has been in the soil bank for over 40 years) and are actively farmed land on the other period I feel this unjustly impacts me. If I can travel by foot or hunt on non posted CRP land without permission, why can't you place the power line tower there? <p>In attendance at the open houses Xcel Energy has hosted in Meeker County on April 25th and June 8th and feel my concerns are not being heard! I am hopeful that you, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, will choose a different route that will avoid destroying and disturbing natural habitats and agricultural lands in Meeker County. I hope you select the route that follows current roadways that are least disruptive to agricultural production such as State Highway 4 to CSAH 16 to Minnesota highway 22 to Minnesota Hwy. 55 (some of the proposed route is already following these roadways so why detour across farmland).</p>
6/2/2023	<p>Our communicating in regard to the proposed transmission line between Lyon County and the Sherco coal plant in Becker, Minnesota. The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission E-docket numbers are 22-131 and 22-132. We are opposed to the current route proposals. This affidavit is to inform and educate your company on the reasons for our opposition.</p> <p>Our century old, family-owned certified organic dairy farm lies right in the path of one of the proposals. One of our pastures that contain our heifer herd is located along 145th St. in Watkins/ Kimball. The route continues through about another pasture making our milking herd, along Balkin Road in Kimball. (Comment continues to describe impacts on stray voltage, human health, dairy cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, farmland, livestock, and wildlife. See full comment for all details and questions that require written responses).</p>
4/28/2023	<p>On behalf of the Clearwater Township Board of Supervisors, I am submitting these comments to the MN Energy Connection, regarding a section of a route for a new 345-KV transmission line between the retiring Sherco coal plant near Becker, MN and Lyon County near Marshall, MN</p> <p>After hearing from constituents who packed the room at our 2023 annual meeting and again at our April 12th monthly meeting, our board passed a resolution to submit these comments to the Minnesota energy connection to articulate our opposition to the two proposed transmission routes through Clearwater Township. (See comment for specific opposition, including but not limited to, residential impacts, tree removal, health concerns, Clearwater River and other water resources).</p>
8/4/2023	<p>We are writing you as concerned landowners and farmers in Yellow Medicine County, MN regarding the MN Energy Connection Project. This project proposed running large power lines and poles through highly productive farmland. Not only does this devalue our farmland, it also creates great inefficiencies for our farmers. The best and least disruptive route would be to follow the MN State Hwy 23 corridor between Granite Falls and Marshall. This route would be shorter and therefore, lower the cost of the project. We understand there are certain requirements with bringing transmission lines near an airport Granite Falls Municipal Airport is along MN State Hwy 23, however, there are existing transmission lines only 1 mile from the airport (to the north), so we feel that this route could still be a viable option for the project. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>
8/4/2023	<p>We are writing you as concerned landowners and farmers in Yellow Medicine County, MN regarding the MN Energy Connection Project. This project proposes running large power lines and poles through highly productive farmland. Nor only does this devalue our farmland, is also creates great inefficiencies for our farmers. The best and least disruptive route would be to follow the MN State Hwy 23 corridor between Granite Falls and Marshall. This route would be shorter and therefore, lower the cost of the project, We understand there are certain requirements with bringing transmission lines near an airport Granite Falls Municipal Airport is along MN State Hwy 23, however, there are existing transmission lines only 1 mile from the airport (to the north), so we feel that this route could still be a viable option for the project. Thank you for your time and consideration.</p>

Appendix G
Minnesota Energy Connection
Comment Tracking Table

Date	Comment Text
7/31/2023	I wasn't exactly sure who amongst you to send this to so you are all getting a copy of the signatures gathered on the petition regarding the Clearwater township routes for your new kV line. These signers live southwest of county road 7, most of them directly adjacent to the route. I believe you also received the same petition with signatures from people who live on the fish creek route and also East of Co. Road 7 to Hasty crossing. Please let me know if you need copies of the original and I will get them to you. *See attached petition to email pdf
8/8/2023	We are writing you as concerned landowners and farmers in Yellow Medicine County, MN regarding the MN Energy Connection Project. This project proposes running large power lines and poles through highly productive farmland. Not only does this devalue our farmland, it also creates great inefficiencies for our farmers. The best and least disruptive would be to follow the MN State Hwy 23 corridor between Granite Falls and Marshall. This route would be shorter and therefore, lower the cost of the project. We understand there are certain requirements with bringing transmission lines near an airport Granite Falls Municipal Airport is along MN State Hwy 23, however, there are existing transmission lines only 1 mile from the airport (to the north), so we feel that this route could still be a viable option for the project. Thank you for your time and consideration.
9/22/2023	Good Morning Matt. We're writing to share an important milestone with you regarding Thousand Hills. Please consider this information as you move forward in the decision making process and please share this within your organization. Last week we hosted and celebrated the 20th anniversary of Thousand Hills on our farm in Clearwater, MN. In attendance were grocery & food co-op retailers from across the country, fashion designers from New York City, advocacy groups from D.C. and California, producers from the Midwest to Texas, as well as, our neighbor partners/land owners in our township. It was an incredible event! The link below is a short write-up for your review and distribution to others. Thank you, Matt and Renee Maier (see saved email for link to more information about the gathering)
8/4/2023	We are writing you as concerned landowners and farmers in Yellow Medicine County, MN regarding the MN Energy Connection Project. This project proposes running large power lines and poles through highly productive farmland. Not only does this devalue our farmland, it also creates great inefficiencies for our farmers. The best and least disruptive route would be to follow the MN State Hwy 23 corridor between Granite Falls and Marshall. This route would be shorter and therefore, lower the cost of the project. We understand there are certain requirements with bringing transmission lines near an airport Granite Falls Municipal Airport is along MN State Hwy 23, however, there are existing transmission lines only 1 mile from the airport (to the north), so we feel that this route could still be a viable option for the project. Thank you for your time and consideration.
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APPENDIX H

Draft Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan

***DRAFT* AGRICULTURAL IMPACT MITIGATION PLAN
MINNESOTA ENERGY CONNECTION PROJECT**

**MPUC Docket Nos. E002 /CN-22-131
& E002/TL-22-132**

October 2023

Northern States Power Company



**414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401**

1 INTRODUCTION

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company) developed this Agricultural Impact Mitigation Plan (AIMP) with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MNDOA). The Company is seeking a Certificate of Need and Route Permit from the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to construct the Minnesota Energy Connection Project between Sherburne and Lyon Counties, Minnesota (Project). The AIMP identifies measures Xcel Energy will take during construction to avoid, mitigate, minimize, repair, or provide compensation for impacts on Agricultural Land. The AIMP and its provisions will be implemented during construction and restoration activities that Xcel Energy undertakes for the Project prior to filing notice of completion of construction with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission.

Capitalized words and other defined terms have the meanings given to them in this AIMP and its appendix. Use of “Landowner” in this AIMP may be construed to read “Landowner and/or Tenant.”

This AIMP and its construction standards and policies apply only to construction activities occurring on privately owned Agricultural Land. If agricultural tile is encountered, whether on Non-Agricultural Land or Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy will implement construction standards relating to the repair of tile on Agricultural Lands discussed further in this AIMP. Portions of this AIMP that identify standards and policies as they apply to Organic Agricultural Land apply only to the types of lands defined in the National Organic Program Rules (7 C.F.R. Parts 205.100; 205.101, and 205.202). Further, construction standards and policies identified in this AIMP can be modified through Easement or other agreement between the Company and the Landowner of Agricultural Land, as appropriate. In such case, the Easement or other agreement will control.

2 GENERALLY

The mitigative actions set forth in this AIMP are subject to negotiation and approval or change by the Landowner of Agricultural Land, so long as such changes are negotiated with and acceptable to Xcel Energy. Mitigative actions will be executed by Xcel Energy employees or by qualified contractors retained by Xcel Energy, unless otherwise specified or agreed upon by the Landowner. Xcel Energy and the Landowner may agree that certain activities will be performed by the Landowner.

Unless otherwise specified in this AIMP or in an Easement or other agreement negotiated between the Company and the Landowner, construction standards and policies or mitigative actions will be implemented within 90 days after completion of

Final Clean-up activities on Agricultural Land. Weather conditions, or other circumstances identified by mutual agreement between the Landowner and Xcel Energy, may delay implementation of mitigative actions after final clean-up. Where Xcel Energy determines it is practicable, Xcel Energy may make temporary repairs to minimize impacts or interference with the Landowner's access to the subject Agricultural Land or to comply with Federal or State permits and regulations.

Xcel Energy or its contractors will implement the construction standards and policies or mitigative actions identified within this AIMP so long as such activities do not conflict with any applicable Federal or State rules, regulations, permits, licenses, approvals, or conditions obtained by the Company for the Project. Should any activity within this AIMP be determined to be unenforceable or prohibited due to Federal or State rules, regulations, permits, licenses, approvals, or conditions, Xcel Energy will inform the Landowner and will identify a reasonable alternative activity.

Prior to Right-of-Way preparation or construction, Xcel Energy will make a good faith effort to provide each Landowner with contact information, including a phone number and address that can be used to contact Xcel Energy regarding any impacts to Agricultural Land or other construction-related concern or question. Xcel Energy will provide updated information to the Landowner within a reasonable time of any change to Xcel Energy's contacts.

2.1 CONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

2.1.1 Mitigative Actions

Xcel Energy will reasonably restore and/or compensate the Landowner, as appropriate, for damages caused by Xcel Energy as a result of transmission line construction, and as outlined in this AIMP. Xcel Energy will decide whether to restore land and/or compensate the Landowner after a discussion with the Landowner.

2.1.2 Advance Notice of Access

Xcel Energy will make good faith efforts to provide notice to the Landowner in advance of the commencement of initial construction activities on Agricultural Land. Notice may include personal contact, email, letter, or telephone contact.

2.1.3 Environmental / Agricultural Inspector

Xcel Energy will hire an Environmental/Agricultural Inspector to monitor compliance with this AIMP and other permit conditions/regulatory requirements.

The Environmental/Agricultural Inspector will audit the Company's compliance with this AIMP. If the Environmental /Agriculture Inspector observes a significant non-

compliant activity it will be reported to Xcel Energy immediately. The MDA may also instruct the Environmental/Agriculture Inspector to report non-compliant activities to the MDA. If after reviewing the non-compliant activity and if judgement is made that continuing the activity will cause damage to the environment or agricultural land, Xcel Energy would issue a stop work order.

2.1.4 Pole Placement

During the design of the Project, Xcel Energy's engineering, real estate, and permitting staff will seek input from the Landowner, as practicable, to address pole placement issues. Prior to construction, the land rights agents will review the planned pole locations with the Landowner when requested to do so by the Landowner.

2.1.5 Agricultural Tile

Xcel Energy will contact an affected Landowner for his/her knowledge of tile locations prior to installation of the transmission line. Xcel Energy will attempt to identify tile if the Landowner does not know if tile is located at the proposed pole location(s). Tile that is damaged, cut, or removed as a result of Xcel Energy's location efforts will be promptly repaired.

If tile is damaged by Project construction, the tile will be repaired with materials of the same quality as that which was damaged. If tiles on or adjacent to the transmission line construction area are adversely affected by construction, Xcel Energy will take such actions as are necessary to restore the tile function, including the relocation, reconfiguration, and replacement of the existing tile. Xcel Energy will correct tile repairs, as needed, after completion of the transmission line construction, provided the repairs were made by Xcel Energy or their agents or designees.

The affected Landowner may elect to negotiate a fair settlement with Xcel Energy for the Landowner to undertake the responsibility for repair, relocation, reconfiguration, or replacement of damaged tile. In the event the Landowner chooses to undertake the responsibility for repair, relocation, reconfiguration, or replacement of the damaged tile, Xcel Energy will have no further liability for the identified damaged tile.

The following standards and policies apply to the tile repairs completed by Xcel Energy, unless otherwise agreed to by the Landowner and Xcel Energy:

1. Tiles will be repaired with materials of the same or better quality as that which was damaged.
2. If water is flowing through a damaged tile, temporary repairs will be promptly installed and maintained until such time that permanent repairs can be made.

3. Xcel Energy will make efforts to complete permanent tile repairs within a reasonable timeframe after Final Clean-up, taking into account weather and soil conditions.
4. Following completion of the Final Clean-up and damage settlement, Xcel Energy will be responsible for correcting and repairing tile breaks, or other damages to tile systems that are discovered on the Right-of-Way to the extent that such breaks are the result of Project construction. These damages are usually discovered after the first significant rain event. Xcel Energy will provide the Landowner with contact information should tile damage issues be identified after Final Clean-up. The Company will not be responsible for tile repairs performed by the Landowner.

Xcel Energy will be responsible for repairing areas as necessary to properly drain wet areas along the Right-of-Way caused by the construction of the Project.

2.1.6 Soil Compaction/Rutting

Xcel Energy will repair damage incurred due to compaction, ruts, erosion, and/or washing of soil caused by Project construction. If, by mutual agreement, the Landowner repairs such damage, Xcel Energy will reimburse the Landowner for the reasonable cost of labor and the use of equipment to repair damage incurred due to compaction, ruts, erosion, and/or washing of soil caused by transmission line construction. Xcel Energy will make such payments within a reasonable period of time following completion of project construction and after receiving a statement substantiating the Landowner's repair costs.

If there is a dispute between the Landowner and Xcel Energy as to what areas need to be ripped or chiseled, the depth at which compacted areas should be ripped or chiseled, or the necessity for, or rates of, lime, fertilizer, and organic material application, Xcel Energy will consult with the Environmental/Agricultural Inspector prior to making a final decision.

2.1.7 Excess Soil and Rocks

Excess soil and rock will be removed from the site unless otherwise requested by the Landowner. After Final Clean-up and restoration of Agricultural Lands, Xcel Energy will make good faith efforts to obtain written acknowledgement of completion of such activities from the Landowner.

2.1.8 Construction Debris

Xcel Energy will promptly remove construction-related debris and material which is not an integral part of the transmission line from the Landowner's property at the Company's cost. Such material may include excess construction materials or litter generated by the construction crews. Xcel Energy, on behalf of the Company, will pay for the reasonable cost of repairs to the Landowner's equipment if the equipment is damaged by materials or debris Xcel Energy left on the property during construction.

2.1.9 Procedures for Determination of Damages and Compensation

Xcel Energy will maintain a procedure for processing Landowner claims for construction-related damages, including but not limited to crop damages. The procedure is intended to standardize and minimize Landowner concerns regarding the recovery of damages, to provide a degree of certainty and predictability for the Landowner and the Company, and to foster good relationships among the Company and Landowner over the long term. A copy of the procedure will be provided to the Landowner during Easement acquisition negotiations.

Damage claim negotiations between Xcel Energy and any affected Landowner will be voluntary in nature. Xcel Energy will offer to compensate Landowners according to the terms of Xcel Energy's damage claim policy in effect at the time the Easement is executed and recorded. The compensation offered is only an offer to settle, and the offer shall not be introduced in any proceeding brought by the Landowner to establish the amount of damages Xcel Energy must pay on behalf of the Company.

2.1.10 Soil Conservation Practices

Soil conservation practices such as terraces and grassed waterways which are damaged by the transmission line's construction will be restored to their pre-construction condition as near as possible. Xcel Energy will attempt to work with the Landowner to identify and document the pre-construction conditions of these features.

2.1.11 Irrigation

If the transmission line and/or temporary work areas intersect an operational (or soon to be operational) spray irrigation system, Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner to establish an acceptable amount of time the irrigation system may be out of service.

If, as a result of the transmission line construction activities, an irrigation system interruption results in crop damages either on the Right-of-Way or off the Right-of-Way, the Landowner will be compensated for resulting crop loss.

If it is feasible and mutually acceptable to Xcel Energy and the Landowner, temporary measures will be implemented to allow an irrigation system to continue to operate across land on which the transmission line is also being constructed. Xcel Energy will not allow an irrigation system to continue operation across land on which the transmission line is also being constructed if Xcel Energy determines that such operation would be unsafe.

2.1.12 Access Routes/ Temporary Roads

The location of access routes to be used for construction purposes will be discussed with the Landowner.

- A. The access routes will be designed to not impede proper drainage and will be built to mitigate soil erosion on or near the temporary roads.
- B. If grading is required to create a temporary road, these temporary roads may be left intact through mutual agreement of the Landowner and Xcel Energy unless otherwise restricted by Federal, State, or local regulations.
- C. If a temporary road is to be removed, the Agricultural Land upon which the temporary road is constructed will be returned to its previous use and restored to equivalent condition as existed prior to construction.

2.2 ORGANIC FARMS

This section identifies mitigation measures that apply specifically to farms that are Organic Certified or farms that are in active transition to become Organic Certified and is intended to address the unique management and certification requirements of these operations. This section supplements and is in addition to all other protections provided in this AIMP.

The provisions of this section will only apply to Organic Agricultural Land for which the Landowner has provided to Xcel Energy a true, correct and current version of the Organic System Plan within 60 days after the signing of the Easement or 60 days after the first contact by Xcel Energy after the Commission issues a Route Permit, whichever occurs first.

2.2.1 Organic System Plan

The Company recognizes the importance of the individualized Organic System Plan to the Organic Certification process. Xcel Energy will work with the Landowner, the Landowner's Certifying Agent, and/or a mutually acceptable third-party organic consultant to identify site-specific construction practices that will minimize the potential for Decertification as a result of construction activities. Possible practices

may include, but are not limited to: equipment cleaning, planting a deep-rooted cover crop in lieu of mechanical decompaction, applications of composted manure or rock phosphate, preventing the introduction of disease vectors from tobacco use, restoration and replacement of beneficial bird and insect habitat, maintenance of organic buffer zones, use of organic seeds for any cover crop, or similar measures. The Company recognizes that Organic System Plans are proprietary in nature and will respect the need for confidentiality.

2.2.2 Prohibited Substances

Xcel Energy will avoid the application of Prohibited Substances onto Organic Agricultural Land. No herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers or seed will be applied to Organic Agricultural Land unless requested and approved by the Landowner. Likewise, Xcel Energy will avoid refueling, fuel or lubricant storage, or routine equipment maintenance on Organic Agricultural Land. Equipment will be checked prior to entry to make sure that fuel, hydraulic and lubrication systems are in good working order before working on Organic Agricultural Land. If Prohibited Substances are used on land adjacent to Organic Agricultural Land, these substances will be used in such a way as to prevent them from entering Organic Agricultural Land.

2.2.3 Temporary Road Impacts

Topsoil and Subsoil layers that are removed during construction on Organic Agricultural Land for temporary road impacts will be stored separately and replaced in the proper sequence after the transmission line is installed. Unless otherwise specified in the site-specific plan described above, Xcel Energy will not use this soil for other purposes, including creating access ramps at road crossings. No Topsoil or Subsoil (other than incidental amounts) may be removed from Organic Agricultural Land. Likewise, Organic Agricultural Land will not be used for storage of soil from non-Organic Agricultural Land.

2.2.4 Erosion Control

On Organic Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy will, to the extent feasible, implement erosion control methods consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan. On land adjacent to Organic Agricultural Land, Xcel Energy's erosion control procedures will be designed so that sediment from adjacent non-Organic Agricultural Land will not flow along the Right-of-Way and be deposited on Organic Agricultural Land. Treated lumber, non-organic hay bales, non-approved metal fence posts, etc. will not be used for erosion control on Organic Agricultural Land.

2.2.5 Weed Control

On Organic Agricultural Land, if Xcel Energy determines weed control is necessary during construction activities, Xcel Energy will, to the extent feasible, implement weed control methods consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan. Prohibited Substances will not be used for weed control within 50 feet of posted Organic Agricultural Land.

2.2.6 Monitoring

In addition to the responsibilities of the Environmental/Agricultural Inspector described in the AIMP, the following will apply:

- A. The Environmental/Agricultural Inspector will monitor construction and restoration activities on Organic Agricultural Land for compliance with the provisions of this section and will document any activities that may result in Decertification.
- B. Instances of non-compliance will be documented according to Independent Organic Inspectors Association protocol consistent with the Landowner's Organic System Plan, and will be made available to the MDA, the Landowner, the Landowner's Certifying Agent, and to the Company.

2.2.7 Compensation for Construction Damages

The settlement of damages will be based on crop yield and/or crop quality determination and the need for additional restoration measures. Xcel Energy will first work with the Landowner of Organic Agricultural Land to determine crop yield. In the event Xcel Energy and the Landowner of Organic Agricultural Land cannot determine crop yield, at Xcel Energy's expense, a mutually agreed upon professional agronomist will make crop yield determinations, and the MDA Fruit and Vegetable Inspection Unit will make crop quality determinations. If the crop yield and/or crop quality determinations indicate the need for soil testing, the testing will be conducted by a commercial laboratory that is properly certified to conduct the necessary tests and is mutually agreeable to Xcel Energy and the Landowner. Field work for soil testing will be conducted by a professional soil scientist or professional engineer licensed by the State of Minnesota. Xcel Energy will be responsible for the cost of sampling, testing and additional restoration activities, if needed. Additional restoration activities will be completed according to the terms of its damage claim policy in effect at the time the Easement is executed and recorded.

2.2.8 Compensation for Damages Due to Decertification

Should any portion of Organic Agricultural Land be Decertified as a result of construction activities, Xcel Energy will pay damages for crops and/or livestock within the area impacted by the lost Certification equal to the full difference between the market value of conventional crops and/or livestock and the market value of the organic crops and/or livestock lost for three years or the period of time necessary for the Landowner or Tenant to regain Certification, whichever comes first. The market value of the crop will be determined as set forth in the damage claim policy. At the request of Xcel Energy, the Landowner shall provide verification of its loss of Organic Certification through the accredited certifying agent prior to any compensation for organic crop loss being paid.

2.3 DEFINITIONS

Agricultural Land	Land that is actively managed for cropland, hay land, or pasture, and land in government set-aside programs.
Environmental / Agricultural Inspector	Inspector retained by the Company responsible for overall project compliance with permit conditions and commitments made in this document.
Certifying Agent	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Cropland	Land actively managed for growing row crops, small grains, or hay.
Decertified or Decertification	Loss of Organic Certification.
Easement	The agreement(s) and/or interest in privately owned Agricultural Land held by the Company by virtue of which it has the right to construct, operate, and maintain the transmission line and associated facilities together with such other rights and obligations as may be set forth in such agreement.
Final Clean-up	Transmission line activity that occurs after the power line has been constructed. Final Clean-up activities may include removal of construction debris, de-compaction of soil as required, removal of temporary erosion control structures, final grading, and restoration of fences and required reseeded. Once Final Clean-up is finished, Landowner will be contacted to settle all damage issues and will be provided a form to sign acknowledging final construction settlement.
The Company	Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy. May also include agents and contractors of Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, where appropriate.
Landowner	Person(s), or their representatives, holding legal title to Agricultural Land on the transmission line route from whom the Company is seeking, or has obtained, a temporary or permanent Easement. "Landowner" includes Tenant, if any.
Non-Agricultural Land	Any land that is not "Agricultural Land" as defined above.

Organic Agricultural Land	Farms or portions thereof described in 7 CFR Parts 205.100, 205.202, and 205.101.
Organic Buffer Zone	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Organic Certification or Organic Certified	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.100 and 7 CFR Part 205.101.
Organic System Plan	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.2.
Prohibited Substance	As defined by the National Organic Program Standards, Federal Regulations 7 CFR Part 205.600 through 7 CFR 205.605 using the criteria provided in 7 USC 6517 and 7 USC 6518.
Right-of-Way	The Land included in permanent and temporary Easements which the Company acquires for the purpose of constructing, operating and maintaining the transmission line and associated facilities.
Subsoil	Soil that is not Topsoil and located immediately below Topsoil.
Tenant	Any Person(s) lawfully renting or sharing land for agricultural production which makes up the “Right-of-Way” as defined in this AIMP.
Tile	Artificial subsurface drainage system.
Topsoil	The uppermost horizon (layer) of the soil, typically with the darkest color and highest content of organic matter.