



301 South O'Connell Street, Marshall, Minnesota 56258

May 1, 2025

Consumer Affairs Office
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
121 7th Place East, Suite 350
St Paul, MN 55101

RE: Docket number (24-95) Dairyland Electric Coop

Dear Public Utilities Commission,

I'm providing written comment about the Dairyland Cooperative proposed Beaver Creek 161 kv electric transmission line (PUC Docket Number ET3/TL-24-95 OAH Docket Number 23-2500-40403).

My client, Guardian Charitable Trust (GCT), owns property in the SW Quarter of Section 19 and the NW Quarter of Section 32 and is in opposition to the proposed route.

GCT was approached by Dairyland Coop three different times requesting permission to conduct soil testing on GCT property. All three times GCT declined Dairyland Cooperative's request and GCT requested Dairyland Cooperative find a different route. After each of the encounters, Dairyland Cooperative never responded.

The current proposed route is the original route planned, or proposed, by Dairyland Cooperative. Alternative routes were never presented for public opinion and comment. It appears this is the only route that was presented by Dairyland Coop because it is the shortest route for them, despite its impact to 6 personal residential sites and to farmland income/values.

The greatest concern of the proposed route is the hazards to the 6 residential sites that are impacted by the new line along 171st Ave, and the impact to farming operations and land values in Section 19 or 20. The attached map shows the proposed route deviating from 171st Ave in Section 19 or 20 and going through the middle of farmland fields. Any time there are objects to farm around in a field it creates safety hazards and efficiency disruptions; which in turn results in reduced farm revenue for the landowner and lower farmland values when it comes time to sell a property. GCT finds the current route concerning as it will reduce their farm revenue and



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reduce the value of the asset (GCT is not a corporate conglomerate. The farmland income is used to assist underprivileged families with food and shelter, it's a non-profit).

Dairyland Cooperative states they will restore compacted soil to original condition. I've worked as a farm manager for 18 years and I find this statement by Dairyland Cooperative to not be true. The soil may appear to be brought back into the same condition by deep ripping following construction, however the structure of the soil remains severely damaged. It takes 10+ years to fully restore compacted soil to its pre-compacted productivity, and sometimes the structure damage is permanent. Crop yields are impacted for many years.

We request the Public Utilities commission require Dairyland Cooperative to find an alternative route and avoid the GCT properties and the 6 residential sites this route impacts.

An alternative route is possible along the west side of Sections 18, 19, 30 and 31 (161st Street). Run it along property lines and only 1 residential site is impacted. Much less impact to property owners and residents.

Thank you for your consideration in denying Dairyland Cooperative their current proposed route. The impacts to local residents and land owners is too great!

Best regards,



Corey Prins
Accredited Farm Manager
Licensed Real Estate Salesperson

CDP
Enc.

alternate route

