

I am a landowner in Houston County MN, who will potentially be affected by the proposed Gopher to Badger Link project.

I would strongly urge the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to grant the petition for the rule-making to amend Minnesota Rules, chapter 7849 and 7850 because a large transmission line is too significant a project to be considered without some kind of framework.

We need a process befitting a project of this magnitude. Careful consideration needs to be made of the impacts on the people and the land. This should be more than a business decision for the entities wishing to build a line.

The goals of the process should not be to streamline the project of whichever entity wants to build in Minnesota, Rather, they should give a reason why this is something that should be done.

In light of MN Statute 161.45, I would like to see more guidance on how highway rights of way should be considered for this type of project. I would also like to see guidance on how other technologies could be implemented.

Just because a large, overhead transmission line is the easiest option for the power companies, that does not mean it is right for the area and the people in it. An historic project like this needs more than a cursory approval process. We need to have some accountability to the people of the area, as well as a real commitment to real alternate routes.

I believe in checks and balances, and we need something more to balance the wish list from the power companies. A small handful of unclear directives is not sufficient for such an unprecedented project.

Thomas Hammell  
3007 County 14  
Caledonia, MN 55921  
507-458-7204