

Sullivan, Jim (COMM)

From: Marie C. Boucher <mboucher.pers@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, October 25, 2024 3:57 PM
To: Sullivan, Jim (COMM)
Subject: Great River Energy Project - Cole Lake Region

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Re: MPUC Docket No. E015,ET2/CN-22 416 & E015,ET2/TL-22-415
OAH Docket No. 21-2500-39822 Appendix 1 to Attachment A
Detailed Map Modified Proposed Route, Page 23 of 64 (9/18/24)

Jim Sullivan,

We realize it is getting closer to the final decision on the proposed route of the Northland Reliability Project. After reviewing what we see as the latest modified route by the applicant dated 9/18/24, we have grave concerns.

Reviewing the Environmental Assessment Summary and various DNR documentation, it indicated a stronger case for remaining on the existing 115K/230k transmission lines right of way (ROW) and utilizing methods such as stacking to alleviate further destruction of land. It appeared it was feasible by all parties, yet did entail a higher cost. This route (staying on the existing ROW) however, actually had the lowest base cost. The additional costs dealt with the stacking/moving of the existing lines on to the new, more stable, and efficient line being proposed. Which, if really looking at future, is money well spent. Improving the stability of the existing lines, maintaining only one pathway (verses the various alternative routes off the main ROW), and reducing negative human impact by disrupting an entire neighborhood.

The residents that may be affected by keeping the route on the existing line ROW are already affected by the transmission line. They chose to build their home in the clearing and in close proximity to the existing transmission lines. We chose a quiet piece of property full of trees to build our home.

The residents that may be affected by keeping the route on the existing line ROW continue to clear land for their preference and build additional buildings. Buildings, which at this point in time, no official building permits can be found for them.

Originally, there was a quick decision made by the applicant without regards to any homeowners in our Cole Lake neighborhood. This decision by the applicant to change the route off the main ROW, was made to avoid the two houses in close proximity to the original route ROW. Again, houses that chose to build there. The applicant's proposed route change through our property and neighborhood we have been fighting since day one.

We are asking, why do we need to pay the consequences of their decision to build in close proximity of an existing transmission line? Why should our land be cleared? Why should our lives be disrupted? Why should our human environment be destroyed?

We thought we were going to be able to enjoy our retirement here. Enjoy what we've built over the years, the trails, the peaceful environment, the neighborhood.

We are sending you this last 'Hail Mary' effort to PLEASE take a strong look at the Cole Lake Section. PLEASE consider the negative impacts the applicant's modified proposed route as of 9/18/24 has on our neighborhood, our lifestyle, our environment, our health.

PLEASE DO NOT GRANT THE MODIFIED PROPOSED ROUTE IN THE COLE LAKE SECTION. PLEASE insist applicants keep the route on the existing transmission lines ROW.

PLEASE DO NOT GRANT THE 3,000 FOOT ROW THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTING FOR THEIR FUTURE NEEDS. That 3,000' ROW allows the applicant access to our entire property for their future needs. They have already sent out letters with a price to sign off on, before the route is even approved! If their modified proposed route is granted, we would have to sell our home and property to them. We would not be able to sell at high market value afterwards, having to disclose a 3,000' ROW.

PLEASE INSIST THE ROUTE STAYS ON THE EXISTING TRANSMISSION LINES RIGHT OF WAY IN THE COLE LAKE SECTION OF THE NORTHLAND RELIABILITY PROJECT.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Donald and Marie Boucher
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Crosby, MN