



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Public Comments for Final RUS EIS Cardinal Hickory Creek Line

1 message

Susan E Anderson [REDACTED] >

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 8:54 AM

To: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Cc: "DriftlessDefenders ." <driftlessdefenders@googlegroups.com>, CHC@starkenergyplan.org

I would like to express my concern that the Final EIS severely downplays the permanent damage that will occur to some of the best cropland soils in the state of Wisconsin. This soil damage will affect farm incomes, profitability, and economic stability in the area for decades to come.

The past five years have seen record rainfalls over the farmlands of Southwestern Wisconsin. Most of that rainfall comes in the form of deluges that deliver inches of rain in very short periods of time; one to two hours at most. This recent weather pattern has left large areas of very wet soils, in areas that have not previously been considered to be wet lands. In fact, the farmers of Southwestern Wisconsin are having difficulty harvesting crops this year, because they can't put their harvest equipment onto wet soils without permanently damaging the growing potential of the soil for years to come. The final EIS states in Chapter 3 that "wet soils are more easily damaged and more difficult to repair."

When one considers the current wet state of soils that have suffered under the past five years of heavy precipitation throughout Southwestern Wisconsin, I believe that the final EIS severely underestimates the amount of productive ag land that will be permanently damaged and will become nonproductive, or greatly unproductive, cropland if this line is constructed. This will become a devastating economic loss for this region that in the long term, cannot be made up by easement payments.

This soil damage will result in lost cropland, lost land values at times of sale, and lost tax base for townships, counties, and the state. This will eventually trickle down to future generations of rural Wisconsin and create a rural utility wasteland where the backbone of our economy, our farms, are no longer viable to support our communities and our way of life.

Rural farms and people have long been supportive of providing land for electric infrastructure to power our nation, However, to be asked to make these huge sacrifices of our crop lands for a line that has not been proven to be needed, and has not had adequate exploration of potentially less expensive, and definitely more cropland friendly non-transmission alternatives, is a direct blow to our livelihoods, farms, and economies of our corner of the state.

It is my opinion that the final EIS has not adequately explored or addressed these crop land and economic concerns of rural Southwestern Wisconsin.

Susan Anderson
[REDACTED]



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Support for PSC

1 message

Jim Bach [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 8:19 PM

I write in support of the Commission's decision in the CHC transmission line issue. The Wisconsin Public Service Commission has weighed all testimony and rendered a timely and tempered decision.

Respectfully,
James Bach

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

comments

1 message

Marie Baker [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Tue, Oct 22, 2019 at 4:36 PM

My husband and I moved to our present home one mile north of Governor Dodge State Park in 1988. We feel so fortunate to have raised our two daughters on this beautiful ridge bounded by two deep wooded valleys with ancient rock outcroppings and clear springs and streams on each side. We've all developed a strong love and connection to this incredibly unique and rare driftless area.

The idea of 17 story towers for a high-voltage transmission line coming through here feels like a permanent violent attack on us and the land, especially because this line is not needed. Electricity demand is flat and projected to decline. Wisconsin and the Midwest have excess power supply and one of the most reliable regional grid systems in the U.S.

This line would cost rate-payers more than \$1 billion for construction costs, maintenance and a guaranteed 10.2% over the 40 year life expectancy of the line.

Our property values would be lowered, reducing revenues for counties and townships; and homes, businesses and properties would be harder to sell. Even the possibility of the line coming through has made it nearly impossible for some homeowners to sell now. For years, this has been a popular area to own a vacation or retirement home, but now that appeal will disappear, and with it, valuable revenue to support schools, road and bridge maintenance, and local businesses.

Tourism is a large part of our area income, but the ugly towers would repel, rather than attract visitors to places like American Players Theater, Taliesin, House On The Rock, Global View, Mineral Point's Shake Rag Alley and Opera House, as well as countless galleries and shops, restaurants, picturesque towns, and rivers, lakes, and parks. Hunting, fishing, kayaking, canoeing, biking, horseback riding, camping, swimming, snowshoeing, skiing, and other vacation activities would decline.

The towers and line would run 125 miles through the nationally significant Driftless Area, the Upper Mississippi River Fish and Wildlife Refuge, Black Earth Creek Watershed Area, Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, and several public state parklands and recreation areas. We have countless threatened and endangered plant and animal populations which would be hurt or destroyed.

The wide swath under the lines would fragment critical ecosystems. According to University of Wisconsin research, southwest Wisconsin forests have warmer micro climates that help songbirds survive cold winters. Broken up forest fragments are less effective and increase bird mortality. CHC would create many forest fragments, threatening bird survival. The toxic sprays to control undergrowth would be harmful to the health of soil, water, plants, animals, and humans.

Wisconsin law clearly intends to avoid unnecessary impacts to the environment, including natural and cultural resources. Large sections of the proposed CHC transmission line do not follow the priorities set forth in Wisconsin law.

A line can lose 4.2 percent of generated power for every 100 miles traveled.

Gridwise Alliance said Wisconsin is 39th out of 50 states in progress toward a modernized electric grid. More reliable 21st century energy models are already in place around the country. We should invest in clean solar energy, wind power, energy efficiency, and energy storage right here, providing jobs and a clean energy economy.

The most realistic and low cost energy plan is for decentralized micro-grids that generate power locally and can be coupled and then uncoupled when there's a danger of wide spread black outs, so are more reliable in preventing massive grid level failures. The electrical grids in New York State, as well as grids on our military bases, are being remade as micro-grids. Clearly, the Department of Defense knows that decentralized grids are more reliable.

And then there is hacking. On March 15, 2018 the Department of Homeland Security sent an alert laying out how our grid, power plants, and other utilities were hacked by the Russians. As for Wisconsin's grid reliability, US News and World Reports ranks us 7th in the nation in grid reliability.

Another problem with a large scale grid is fire danger. State officials have determined that electrical equipment owned by PG&E, including power lines and poles, was responsible for at least 17 of 21 major fires in Northern California during one season.

My husband and I have long been committed to sustainable energy, so we do as much as possible with our limited income. Our energy related improvements could be accelerated by enhanced incentives/rebates on energy efficiency, load management, and development of on-site and community solar.

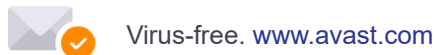
We have low-flow shower heads and faucets. As our compact florescent lights wear out, we're transitioning to LEDs. Our electric hot water tank is insulated and is set to 110 degrees. We have Energy Star appliances: a front loading washer, refrigerator, two freezers, and a gas stove which runs on propane. We have a programmable thermostat for our propane gas furnace. We use a wood cook-stove for all our heat and cooking in the winter, except for the few days we're away when the gas furnace is used. We have a ceiling fan, but no air conditioner, clothes dryer, or dishwasher.

We have 25 year old thermopane windows, and excellent insulation. We have many south facing windows which supply plenty of solar heat in winter, and help grow pots of lettuce and tomatoes in the cold months.

We installed 22 solar panels two years ago which supply all our electrical needs. We have a 2013 plug-in hybrid Prius, and we hope to buy a fully electric car when our budget allows and there are more charging stations available. We have a 220 volt charger for faster charging.

We eat a whole-food plant-based diet, and organically grow and preserve large amounts of our own food. Much of the rest of our food is organic and locally grown. Since we planted a sustainable, pollinator-friendly landscape with only a mowed grass strip around the edges, we've enjoyed an increase in helpful insects, butterflies, and birds.

In short, many others like us are living more sustainably, and are strongly in favor of moving forward with wise energy plans, not just what will give the energy corporations higher profits at the expense of the environment and rate-payers.



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several public state parklands and recreation areas. We have countless threatened and endangered plant and animal populations which would be hurt or destroyed.

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favor of moving forward with wise energy plans, not just what will give the energy corporations higher profits at the expense of the environment and rate-payers.



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

(no subject)

1 message

michele bartels [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Tue, Nov 5, 2019 at 1:34 PM

I can not believe the U.S. Fish and Wildlife service would say it is ok to go through a wildlife refuge. These power lines from Cardinal Hickory are massive and certainly not needed. If they succeed coming from Iowa and through the bluffs of Cassville, WI this will effect the bald eagles and the scenery and other wildlife and in the spring the Blue bell flowers flourish along those bluffs, they would most likely be destroyed. I am against installing these power lines. There is no amount of money that can bring back our health, scenery, tourism etc. once these power lines come through, this is a sad event. The power lines near Lacrosse have defaced a lot of gorgeous land and so unnecessary....please consider the fact that we have enough power and we would not gain anything from this, this is all political and not for the folks that live here in Southwest Wisconsin and the rest of our gorgeous state, thanks!!



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Re: Public Comments for Final RUS EIS Cardinal Hickory Creek Line

1 message

Mary Kay Baum [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 11:35 AM

To: Susan E Anderson [REDACTED]

Cc: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>, "DriftlessDefenders ." <driftlessdefenders@googlegroups.com>, CHC@starkenergyplan.org

Wow! You helped me make the unique argument for the 540 acres of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area. You inspired what I should add in my EIS from the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area which almost borders the proposed line and currently has a pristine, well functioning major wetland. It has been important with its wetland to act as a sponge for the heavy precipitation throughout Southwestern Wisconsin. Without its sponging wetland, even more of the heavy rains would have contributed to raging flooding of farm lands.

I will also add that the ongoing disturbance so close to this wetland from ATC transmission line construction, continuing tree cutting, spraying pesticides to rid perennial plants, bushes and trees, drift of such pesticides, and storm water drainage during construction will contribute to the pollution, erosion and loss of nearby soil. These same factors will also contribute to degrading this wetland and any others in the area. Wetlands are not as common in Driftless SW WI as they are in other parts of Wisconsin so they need to be protected. It is only with the decades of good conservation practices of local family farmers and the recent hard work of volunteers who spend hours removing woody invasives and pull Garlic mustard near to its wetland that has helped maintain a good working wetland.

Wetlands act as a natural sponge and filter by removing pollutants from water, storing water temporarily and allowing it to percolate into the ground. Wetland plants and soils work around the clock to cleanse both surface and groundwater which helps to protect public health and native species. Some pollutants are held for years in the roots of native wetland plants. But too much pollution makes them unable to act as the needed sponge.

It is estimated that almost half of Wisconsin's original 10 million acres of wetland type areas are gone by development and/or invasive species.

Reed canary grass is an invasive species that dominates almost half a million acres of Wisconsin's wetlands. But no Reed Canary grass has been found in the Ridgeway Pine Relict State natural Area... yet. Instead we have American germander, winterberry holly, Joe-pye-weed, bog rosemary, Turtlehead, Blue lobelia, Palm Sedge, Sensitive fern, Bottlebrush sedge, fox sedge, marsh marigold, Skunk cabbage, etc

and jewelweed. This is probably because it is protected on all sides by deep cliffs, called the gulch so roads, humans and mammals do not so easily carry invasives and pollutants. Invasive species are considered by many as the greatest threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin's wetlands.

Mary Kay Baum

On Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 9:54 AM Susan E Anderson [REDACTED] wrote:

I would like to express my concern that the Final EIS severely downplays the permanent damage that will occur to some of the best cropland soils in the state of Wisconsin. This soil damage will affect farm incomes, profitability, and economic stability in the area for decades to come.

The past five years have seen record rainfalls over the farmlands of Southwestern Wisconsin. Most of that rainfall comes in the form of deluges that deliver inches of rain in very short periods of time; one to two hours at most. This recent weather pattern has left large areas of very wet soils, in areas that have not

previously been considered to be wet lands. In fact, the farmers of Southwestern Wisconsin are having difficulty harvesting crops this year, because they can't put their harvest equipment onto wet soils without permanently damaging the growing potential of the soil for years to come. The final EIS states in Chapter 3 that "wet soils are more easily damaged and more difficult to repair."

When one considers the current wet state of soils that have suffered under the past five years of heavy precipitation throughout Southwestern Wisconsin, I believe that the final EIS severely underestimates the amount of productive ag land that will be permanently damaged and will become nonproductive, or greatly unproductive, cropland if this line is constructed. This will become a devastating economic loss for this region that in the long term, cannot be made up by easement payments.

This soil damage will result in lost cropland, lost land values at times of sale, and lost tax base for townships, counties, and the state. This will eventually trickle down to future generations of rural Wisconsin and create a rural utility wasteland where the backbone of our economy, our farms, are no longer viable to support our communities and our way of life.

Rural farms and people have long been supportive of providing land for electric infrastructure to power our nation, However, to be asked to make these huge sacrifices of our crop lands for a line that has not been proven to be needed, and has not had adequate exploration of potentially less expensive, and definitely more cropland friendly non-transmission alternatives, is a direct blow to our livelihoods, farms, and economies of our corner of the state.

It is my opinion that the final EIS has not adequately explored or addressed these crop land and economic concerns of rural Southwestern Wisconsin.

Susan Anderson



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www.driftlessdefenders.com

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To view this discussion on the web visit <https://groups.google.com/d/msgid/driftlessdefenders/CAAh5PBYDfHP3PY1Oh9NZTY1B7g3Qn6uAWqS1Mwki9eCYGipnA%40mail.gmail.com>.



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Comments on the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Final Environmental Impact Statement

1 message

Mary Kay Baum [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 10:42 PM

To: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Nov. 25, 2019

TO: SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creel EIS

[80 Emerson Lane, # 1306](#)[Bridgeville, pS 15017-3472](#)

From: Mary Kay Baum, JD, MDiv

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

The 550 acres of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area, (henceforth called Pine Relict) stand within one quarter mile of the proposed CHC line, just North of Highway 18-151 at Ridgeway. I am the Chair and chief volunteer steward of the Friends of the Ridgeway Pine Relict SNA, Inc. Five years ago two of us bold local residents thought we should organize the Friends. Today thirty individuals together annually perform between 600 and 1,200 hours of hard work in order to preserve the Pine Relict. Because of gathering our volunteers, I was awarded "The 2019 Volunteer Steward of the Year Award" by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources for demonstrating committed caring for the Pine Relict.

We saw bush honeysuckle and multiflora rose creeping into these unique rock ledges. We had to remove a jungle of such woody invasives that were along the roadside edges of this natural area. Other conservationists thought we were crazy for how difficult our task was on the Pine Relict edges. But they had not hiked into the interior. They had not seen the inside of hidden caves, bobcat, the Great Blue Heron rookery, nesting Red Headed Woodpeckers and the unique rock formations surrounding a pristine wetland.

Pine Relicts are direct descendents of the pine forests that covered Wisconsin and much of Illinois after the ice age some 12,000 years ago. As the climate warmed, prairie fires took out the relict pines in Illinois and southern Wisconsin as pines do not survive intense fire. But there was an area of exception. The fires could not get around all rocky slopes of driftless unglaciated Wisconsin. What remains today is the highest quality and greatest quantity of publicly owned pine relict in the world. And this pine relict is not just like Northern Wisconsin. It is unique because it combines flora and fauna that is found in a unique combination of native Northern and Southern plant species abound.

What I explain today that I have not commented upon in prior presentations is the wetland that is in the middle of the 550 acres of Pine Relict. The final EIS states in Chapter 3 that "wet soils are more easily damaged and more difficult to repair."

We know that all well-functioning wetlands act as huge sponges for heavy precipitation. Wetlands act as a natural sponge and filter by removing pollutants from water, storing water temporarily and allowing it to percolate into the ground. Wetland plants and soils work around the clock to cleanse both surface and groundwater which helps protect public health, native species and farm land. Some pollutants are held for years in the roots of native wetland plants. But too much pollution and too many invasives could make a wetland no longer able to act as the needed sponge.

It is estimated that almost half of Wisconsin's original million acres of wetland type areas have disappeared due to human development and invasives. And the Driftless area had few wetlands to begin with. Geologically wetlands are not nearly as common in Driftless SW WI as they are in other parts of Wisconsin. So the wetland in the Pine Relict is rather unique in this area and even more needed.

It is only with the decades of good conservation practices of local family farmers and the recent hard work of volunteers today who spend hours removing woody invasives and pulling Garlic mustard near to the Pine Relict wetland that has helped maintain a good working wetland.

Why is this important to Southwestern Wisconsin? With Climate Chaos, Wisconsin is facing more and heavier rains fall than ever before. Without a wetland's sponge even more of the heavy rains would contribute to raging flooding of farm lands.

I also add here that the ongoing disturbance so close to this wetland from a CHC transmission line's construction, continuing tree cutting, spraying pesticides to rid perennial plants, bushes and trees, drift of such pesticides, and storm water drainage during construction would certainly contribute to the pollution, erosion and loss of nearby soil, and ultimately to the degradation of the Pine Relict wetland.

Reed canary grass is an invasive species that dominates almost half a million acres of Wisconsin's wetlands. But no Reed Canary grass has been found in the Pine Relict as yet. Instead we have native American germander, Winterberry holly, Joe-pye-weed, Bog rosemary, Turtlehead, Blue lobelia, Palm Sedge, Sensitive fern, Bottlebrush sedge, Fox sedge, Marsh marigold, Skunk cabbage, Jewelweed, etc. This is probably because it is protected on all sides by deep cliffs, called "the gulch". So far roads, humans and mammals have not carried invasives and pollutants into the wetland. Invasive species are considered by many as the greatest threat to the long-term health and sustainability of Wisconsin's wetlands.

The final EIS severely downplays the permanent damage that will occur to some of the best cropland soils in the state of Wisconsin when the waters have nowhere to percolate slowly. The soil loss will affect farm incomes, profitability, and economic stability in the area for decades to come. I think that this is why my work in the Pine Relict was recognized at the Farmer Appreciation Day on July 14, 2019. Not a farmer myself, I was presented with the "Friend of Conservation" award by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee and the Land Conservation Department "for commitment to conserving the land, water and wildlife of Iowa County."

The past five years have seen record rainfalls over the farmlands of Southwestern Wisconsin. Most of that rainfall comes in the form of deluges that deliver inches of rain in very short periods of time: one to two hours at most. This recent weather pattern has left large areas of very wet soils, in areas that have not previously been considered to be wet lands. In fact, the farmers of Southwestern Wisconsin are having difficulty harvesting crops this year, because they can't put their harvest equipment onto wet soils without permanently damaging the growing potential of the soil for years to come. The final EIS states in Chapter 3 that "wet soils are more easily damaged and more difficult to repair."

I have already given longer formal comments about how my time in the Pine Relict is a help to my health. A February 2017 article of the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine is entitled, "Preserving Pine Relicts a Prescription for Good Health: Mary Kay Baum Tackles Health Challenges And Garlic Mustard." I read aloud with tears of joy: "She is among a growing number of Wisconsinites who are finding good health, personal meaning and escape from a hectic world in the Wisconsin State Natural Area System...They (the natural areas) also provide some of the last refuges for hundreds of rare plant and animal species."

To sum up, the Friends of the Pine Relict believe that the Final Environmental Impact Statement makes no reasonable argument for the need of the CHC. We believe that no cost/benefit analysis using today's data would justify the great cost in money to consumers nor the huge cost on the environment that it would involve. We see huge negative impacts that the CHC would have on the Driftless Area that cannot be mitigated in the future. We fear in particular for the example of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area. There is no suggestion given in the EIS of how the damage done to wetland within the Pine Relict by CHC can possibly "be mitigated in the long run." That is because there is no way to reduce that damage later or in the big picture. The big picture is that the CHC, if constructed, will have major, long-term and irreversible impacts on the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area and on much of the Driftless area. All that damage is proposed for an unneeded, old-fashioned, inefficient and unsuccessful way to stabilize electricity delivery, when electricity could easily be available on or near where it is needed at no disruption and at much less cost to the consumer. I, on behalf of the Friends of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area, concur with the staff recommendations of the WI Public Service Commission.

5 attachments



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8582K



Wetland 1 10x8 3.wetland.JPG
3278K

20180304_164747.jpg
8079K



20190714_130057.jpg
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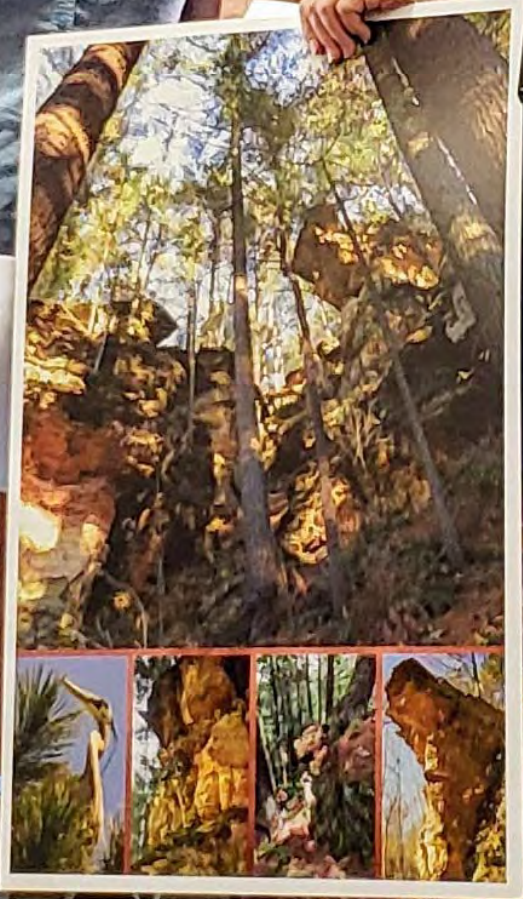






FARMERS APPRECIATION DAY

EXIT







David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Public comments re EIS

1 message

Caroline Beckett [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 9:09 PM

The revised Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek project does not demonstrate any need for the transmission line.

In Volume 3, Section 4.4 of the Environmental Impact Statement, the assessment provides only the most superficial description of the cumulative impacts on the natural environment.

For instance, excavation for 80 to 100-foot deep foundations for the transmission towers will take place in various conditions that cross the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, fractured rock, wetlands, floodplains, farmland and small towns. Southwestern Wisconsin has a very serious problem with contaminated wells. Drilling and construction will only exacerbate water problems for private and municipal wells and streams in the area.

Many wells in Iowa, Grant, and Lafayette Counties have high levels of chemical contamination traceable to pesticide use on farm fields and right-of-ways. American Transmission Company will continue use of such pesticides as Round-Up glyphosate and POEA/polyethoxylated tallow amine, known carcinogens.

Section 4.4.10 admits that building the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line will adversely affect the beauty of the Driftless Area, impact the cultural and historic resources, damage the floodplain and wetlands. This, in a time when we have unprecedented and increasingly damaging rains and flooding from weather extremes and climate change.

There is no need for CHC. Microgrids for local renewable energy generation exist or are under construction to deliver solar and wind energy to electricity customers in Wisconsin. Why approve the construction of a giant transmission line that will have a permanent negative impact on irreplaceable ecosystems, dwindling bird populations, disappearing wildlife refuges, places of historical and archaeological significance, farms and small towns?

We do not need outdated, inefficient and extremely expensive 345 kV long-distance transmission lines when there are sensible, cheaper, cleaner and environmentally-sound alternatives readily available today.

Submitted by

Caroline Beckett
[REDACTED]

10/22/2019

RECEIVED
OCT 28 2019

Enclosed are copies of our objections to the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line.

My father, Roger Bradshaw, is most concerned about the acre of trees that will be removed from his property. He does not want this 345kv transmission line on his land whatsoever.

I am concerned about the trees & the residual damage that will happen to the remaining trees. Not to mention the soil erosion that will be increased from removing these trees. The trees were planted to maintain the river bed and prevent soil erosion in an area that is highly erodable.

The power lines will also limit the future possibilities of the land. Due to spraying for weeds, we will not be able to do organic farming. Overall perceived land value will be much lower.

I am also concerned about the health effects this line will have. My dad's house is the closest to the line within his area. I know there are studies of no ill health effects, however, there are also reports of health effects, i.e. Cancer, etc.

My family does not want the ~~#~~ Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line on our property.

Lynn Berg

Suggested Form for Filing Objections

The use of this form is not required to file an objection. If you have interest in multiple affected properties in more than one county, you may wish to fill out a form for each county. Completed forms may be filed electronically at efs.iowa.gov. If you are unable to file the form electronically, you may mail a copy of the completed form to: Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

First Name:

Last Name:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Company Proposing Line:

Date and Location of Informational Meeting (if known):

Docket Number (if known):

Where is the affected property located?

County Section, Township, and Range

What is your interest in the affected property? (Examples: Owner, Tenant, etc.)

(The form continues on the next page.)

What is the nature of your objection?

1. Decrease of land value by 10.5% due to perceived value with a transmission line easement
2. Environmental concerns crossing the North Fork Maquoketa River. Pollution from the equipment around the river as well as disruption from the concrete pillars necessary for these poles.
3. Environmental concerns having to cut down hundreds of 20 year-old trees that were planted to increase water quality and to prevent soil erosion.
4. Endangering the habitat of species that reside in the riparian buffer. Including what may be the protected red-tailed hawk.
5. Electric fences that are along the property line for livestock will have stray voltage.
6. Negative human health effects from living near the transmission line as well as negative livestock implications.
7. Additional damage to the existing trees in the area due to the disruption of the root system and the additional stray voltage of the transmission line.

What is the remedy or relief that you seek?

Not even install this line. It is not necessary given that consumer electric consumption has been flat.

Please type your name to be used as your signature:

Lynn Berg

Date:

8/20/18

Suggested Form for Filing Objections

The use of this form is not required to file an objection. If you have interest in multiple affected properties in more than one county, you may wish to fill out a form for each county. Completed forms may be filed electronically at efs.iowa.gov. If you are unable to file the form electronically, you may mail a copy of the completed form to: Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

First Name:

Last Name:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Company Proposing Line:

Date and Location of Informational Meeting (if known):

Docket Number (if known):

Where is the affected property located?

County

Section, Township, and Range

What is your interest in the affected property? (Examples: Owner, Tenant, etc.)

(The form continues on the next page.)

What is the nature of your objection?

1. Perceived land value will diminish 10.5% for the overall farm, not just the easement area.
2. Garden area around the easement has a potential to be effected by any overspray in the maintenance of vegetation around the HVTL.
3. When power lines and their access roads are placed in undeveloped areas, they can disturb forests, wetlands, and other natural areas. This easement goes through these areas.
4. Many high-voltage circuit breakers, switches, and other pieces of equipment used in the transmission and distribution system are insulated with sulfur hexafluoride, which is a potent greenhouse gas. This gas can leak into the atmosphere from aging equipment or during maintenance and servicing.
(<https://www.epa.gov/energy/electricity-delivery-and-its-environmental-impacts#impacts>)
5. Future value loss of hundreds of hardwood trees that will have to be removed.
6. Future loss of existing trees, not in the easement, that will be affected due to ground compaction and root damage.
7. Loss of natural habitat in the area due to the HVTL.
8. Stray voltage.
9. Increased rate in utility bills.

What is the remedy or relief that you seek?

Not to have the transmission line at all since it is unnecessary.

Please type your name to be used as your signature:

Karl Berg

Date:

8/20/18

Suggested Form for Filing Objections

RECEIVED
APR 25 2018

IOWA UTILITIES BOARD

The use of this form is not required to file an objection. If you have interest in multiple affected properties in more than one county, you may wish to fill out a form for each county. Completed forms may be filed electronically at efs.iowa.gov. If you are unable to file the form electronically, you may mail a copy of the completed form to: Iowa Utilities Board, 1375 East Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0069.

First Name:

Last Name:

Mailing Address:

Email Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Company Proposing Line:

Date and Location of Informational Meeting (if known):

Docket Number (if known):

Where is the affected property located?

County	Section, Township, and Range
<input type="text" value="Dubuque"/>	<input type="text" value="[REDACTED]"/>

What is your interest in the affected property? (Examples: Owner, Tenant, etc.)

(The form continues on the next page.)

Filed with the Iowa Utilities Board on April 25, 2018, E-22386

What is the nature of your objection?

1. The route runs through the creek which is part of the North Fork Maquoketa River.
2. Hundreds of hardwood trees will have to be removed.
3. The trees are in a Riparian Buffer CP22.
4. The trees were planted to maintain the river bed, provide habitat, and increase water quality.
5. Removal of that amount of trees will cause soil erosion.
6. The compensation is too low.
7. There is no compensation for the future value of the hardwood trees.
8. The compensation does not include any future damage due to compaction during the construction stage after one year.
9. The easement is too large (100 ft.) for the intended purpose.
10. The easement should be restricted to the electric line only.

What is the remedy or relief that you seek?

Consider a route change to avoid the Riparian Buffer area, loss of habitat, and soil erosion.

Please type your name to be used as your signature:

Roger G. Bradshaw

Date:

April 22, 2018



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23 OCT 2019 PM 1 L



SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS
80 Emerson Lane Suite 1306
Bridgeville PA 15017

15017-347231





David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Comments on Federal EIS regarding Cardinal Hickory Creek Electric Transmission Line

1 message

Robert Breslow [REDACTED]

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 4:46 PM

To: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

To Whom this may concern:

I wish to state my opposition to the construction of the Cardinal Hickory Creek Electric Transmission line proposed by ATC. My comments will address 3 areas; 1. Not needed; 2. Environmental and community impact; 3. Economic and quality of life impact.

1. Not Needed

Based on current estimates of energy needs, especially in Wisconsin, the electricity generated by traditional fuels such as coal and natural gas are declining. Renewable sources such as solar and wind are replacing those traditional carbon-based fuels. ATC has not made a compelling case for additional high voltage transmission lines. ATC argues that the lines are needed to carry the power generated by solar and wind in Iowa County, Wisconsin. The plan to build new high voltage transmission has been in the making for a long time. These plans pre-dated the emergence of new sources of power in Iowa County. Now, the company is stating that the new lines are needed to carry this power to consumers. Interesting coincidence. The initial plan by ATC was to carry power generated by carbon-based fuels to other parts of the country. The power was never intended for Wisconsin. To say otherwise, would be disingenuous. I cannot buy the line that the high voltage lines are in the best interest of the public. Rather than building new lines to reinforce and protect the national power grid, an upgrade to existing infrastructure will have a smaller footprint and less of an impact as described below.

2. Environmental and Community Impact

There must be a balance between progress and the health of the environment and the communities affected by the project. The Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line will have an immediate and long term impact on the environment. The planned route will cross the Mississippi River and weave its way through a sensitive ecosystem of grasslands and wetlands, including the driftless area that has its origins beginning with the ice age and the retreat of the glaciers. The building of high voltage lines by a corporation motivated by profit over the well-being of the environment will result in irreparable damage. I have observed the building of high voltage lines. Despite the building of wooden "roads" to protect the construction route, the clearing that is necessary to build the towers forever changes the landscape and the natural beauty of the area through which the line is built. To what end? The visual impact of the towers is difficult to describe. Frankly, they are ugly and detract from the community and the properties that are changed in their wake.

3. Economic and quality of life impact

The driftless area attracts visitors because of its natural beauty and recreational opportunities such as Governor Dodge State Park. Many individuals in the driftless region make their livelihood from those visitors. An assault on the landscape changing the visual attributes of the region will impact adversely on those individuals. If you are a prospective visitor, which would you prefer, high voltage towers or rolling hills? The impact on production agriculture has also been well documented. Stray voltage has been an issue for as long as I can remember. It is generally well accepted that the risk of stray voltage does increase in the presence of high voltage lines. Of course, there are the deniers that stray voltage affects animals and for that matter, humans. There are public health considerations. While there may not have been a requirement that ATC assess the impact on Quality of Life Years, there are many public health studies that incorporate this metric to assess threats to public health. Finally, it irks me to no end that I will see rate hikes on my electric bill to pay for the line and receive little to no benefit from this project. There is so much infrastructure in the US, including bridges and highways in Wisconsin, that desperately need attention I would rather be taxed for these local improvements than for power generation that fails to serve me.

I consider myself a rational and open minded thinker. When reviewing the environmental impact statement submitted by ATC, it does not surprise me that there is all sorts of justification for the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and a staunch defense for the potential impact on the environment. That said, I firmly believe that ATC is motivated by one thing and that is the bottom line. It is certainly not altruism. Yes, businesses should make money, but they should not be allowed to do so when a project poses a systemic threat to the public. In fact, the cynical side of me causes me to wonder if the company's support for public television in Wisconsin is a public relations effort to put lipstick on a pig. Oh, my!

I would ask that the federal government **deny** ATC the necessary permissions (approvals) to move forward with the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line.

Sincerely,
Robert Breslow





David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

An Urgent Request

1 message

Don Campbell [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 8:27 AM

Reply-To: Donald Campbell [REDACTED]

To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

The application to construct the Cardinal-Hickory Creek power line has been approved by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. However, the commissioners apparently did not consider the fact that the line will continue to transmit energy made largely from carbon-based fuels (about 65%) for the next several years. This is precisely not the time to utilize these fuels. The attempt to do so contradicts our absolute imperative to bring down atmospheric emissions of carbon dioxide and methane, the principal ingredients causing our climate crisis. CO2 emissions reached an all-time high in 2018 and methane, a gas more potent than CO2, is increasing at 10% per year (Global Carbon Project). The PSC, and even the Department of Natural Resources, appear to have made decisions largely on a basis of a Business-as-Usual premise, clearly not an environmentally sound justification.

Donald H. Campbell
[REDACTED]



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Power Line

1 message

Don Campbell

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 8:41 AM

Reply-To: Donald Campbell

To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

I regard this power line as an egregious invasion of our Driftless Area way of life. I cannot stop thinking about how the power line will impact landowners and tourists. The Driftless Area has a unique geologic history, reflecting geological processes active for millions of years in the topography and the rock layers exposed. The power line is an antiquated method of carrying energy most of which comes from carbon-based fuels, sources guaranteed to be with us for years to come. I feel that a serious environmental injury to our planet will be committed if this line is authorized. Psychologically, the mental damage to the landowners, and others, will be pervasive and continuous. **What more environmental consideration can be offered than its personal effects?**

Donald H. Campbell





David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

A list of CHC Opposition Groups

1 message

Don Campbell [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 4:38 PM

Reply-To: Donald Campbell [REDACTED]

To: Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Official statements regarding the CHC power line in Dane, Lafayette, Iowa, and Grant counties in Wisconsin.

Donald H. Campbell
[REDACTED]

Municipality	County	Year/Version	PSCW Docket Link
Town of Ellenboro	Grant	2012	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=171349
Town of So. Lancaster	Grant	2012	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=173000
Town of Spring Green	Sauk	2012	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=172976
Town of Wingville	Grant	2012	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdo.chtm?docid=164153
Town of Wyoming	Iowa	2012	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=172976
Town of Eden	Iowa	2014	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=210169
Town of Mineral Point	Iowa	2014	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=200524
Town of Ridgeway	Iowa	2014	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=229678
Town of Ridgeway	Iowa	2014	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=296841
Town of Arena	Iowa	2015	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=210169
Village of Ridgeway	Iowa	2015	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=229681
Town of Arena	Iowa	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=285866
Town of Belmont	Lafayette	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=292900
Town of Cross Plains	Dane	2016*	Not yet posted on PSC docket
Town of Lima	Grant	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=290186
Town of Mifflin	Iowa	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=294253
Town of Platteville	Grant	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=293075
Town of Vermont	Dane	2016*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=287631
Town of Arena	Iowa	2017***	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=297443
Town of Arena	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=297449
Village of Arena	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=328911
Town of Brigham	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=297137

Town of Ellenboro	Grant	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=295366
Town of Ridgeway	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=296842
Town of Vermont	Dane	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=296071
Town of Wingville	Grant	2017*	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=297500
Town of Wyoming	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=294792
Town of Wyoming	Iowa	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=302040
Town of Dodgeville	Iowa	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=303706
Village of Spring Green	Sauk	2017^	Not yet posted on PSC docket
Dane County	Dane	2017**	http://bit.ly/DaneCounty_Resolution_May2017
Iowa County	Iowa	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=303831
Town of Clyde	Iowa	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=328507
Village of Mount Horeb	Dane	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=340325
Town of Springdale	Dane	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=333789
Village of Montfort	Grant	2017**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=334142
Village of Montfort	Grant	2017^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=334254
Village of Belmont	Lafayette	2017	Not yet posted on PSC docket
Mt. Horeb School Dist.	Dane	2017^	Not yet posted on PSC docket
Town of Liberty	Grant	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=344148
Town of Potosi	Grant	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=344616
Town of Mount Ida	Grant	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=342796
Grant County	Grant	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=341280
W.Dane Preservation	Dane	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=340627
Barneveld School Dist.	Dane	2018^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=341023
Village of Barneveld	Iowa	2018**	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=340766
Town of Brigham	Iowa	2018^	http://apps.psc.wi.gov/pages/viewdoc.htm?docid=342185
Town of Woodman	Grant	2018**	Not yet posted on PSC docket

* Additionally specifies cost-benefit analysis at two stages of PSCW HVT review process including, initially, by applicants during the public information stage to permit informed input capable of affecting the energy planning goals and scope of the application. Applicants notified of all adoptions by mail.

** Additionally requests inclusion of the resolution, in whole, in the PSCW EIS.

*** Addendum supporting resolution with citizen signatures/contacts.

^ Additionally opposes the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Proposal.



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Re: Notice of Availability and Public Comment Period for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project Final Environmental Impact Statement

1 message

Joyce Christee [REDACTED]

Fri, Oct 18, 2019 at 9:44 PM

To: Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

What difference will it make? They haven't listened to any comments so far.

On Fri, Oct 18, 2019, 8:59 AM Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us> wrote:

Dear Stakeholder:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is announcing the availability of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project (C-HC Project) Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS evaluates environmental impacts of construction and operation of the C-HC Project, which would extend approximately 125 miles, connecting Dane County, Wisconsin and Dubuque County, Iowa (see enclosed figure). RUS has considered all comments received on the Draft EIS and used input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the Final EIS.

RUS initiated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process for the C-HC Project in October 2016. Public scoping meetings were held throughout the project area in October, November, and December 2016. RUS published the Notice of Availability for the Draft EIS on December 17, 2018. Public meetings were held throughout the project area in March 2019. The scoping report, Draft EIS, Final EIS, and other documentation can be found on the RUS website:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements>

RUS is releasing the Final EIS for a 30-day public review period, as part of the federal environmental review process required by NEPA and NHPA. Following the 30-day review period for the Final EIS, RUS will prepare a Record of Decision. Comments must be received or postmarked 30 days from publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's notice of availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register (estimated to be published on October 25, 2019).

There are two ways to provide comments for the FEIS:

1. Email written comments to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

2. Mail comments to: SWCA Environmental Consultants

Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
[80 Emerson Lane, Suite 1306](#)
[Bridgeville, PA 15017](#)

Public comments become part of the project's official administrative record.

For further information about the Final EIS, contact:

Dennis Rankin
Rural Utilities Service Project Manager
202-720-1953
dennis.rankin@usda.gov

Additional information about the project can be found on the Utilities' website:

<http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>

Sincerely,

Barbara Britton
Director, Water Programs Division
Water and Environmental Programs
USDA, Rural Utilities Service
(202) 720-1649
barbara.britton@usda.gov



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Further comments on Federal EIS

1 message

Michelle Citron [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 9:01 AM

I want to comment the Final EIS's response to my comments on the draft EIS. My initial comments are found in Volume 4, p. 67; the report's response is found in 3.13.1.2 (Volume 3, page 457). My initial comments addressed the documented risks and vulnerabilities that high voltage transmission lines like the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek have from both climate change and hacking. The final Federal EIS report responds to my comments in the most inadequate way. For example, the Final EIS states that NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection Standards require utilities to protect against hacking and that the utilities that will build C-HC comply with these standards. The problem is that these regulations, along with compliance, have not prevented hacking to occur in the recent past and will not prevent hacking in the future. This is because the hacking occurs through the backdoor of suppliers and sub-contractors and not directly against the utilities themselves. The report's response to this issue shows a lack of research and understanding of real-life hacking. I point you to an in-depth investigative report by the Wall Street Journal, "America's Electric Grid has a Vulnerable Back Door...and Russia Walked Through It," that explains why the NERC Critical Infrastructure Protection standards are insufficient. The article documents how Russia hacked into companies that supply work and components to the grid, circumventing any security measure the utilities used.

"the hack reveals a glaring vulnerability at the heart of the country's electric system. Rather than strike the utilities head on, the hackers went after the system's unprotected underbelly—hundreds of contractors and subcontractors like All-Ways who had no reason to be on high alert against foreign agents. From these tiny footholds, the hackers worked their way up the supply chain. Some experts believe two dozen or more utilities **ultimately were breached.** The scheme's success came less from its technical prowess—though the attackers did use some clever tactics—than in how it exploited trusted business relationships using impersonation and trickery." Wall Street Journal, January 10, 2019.

Here is a link to the full investigative report. I've also attached it to this email.

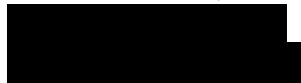
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/americas-electric-grid-has-a-vulnerable-back-doorand-russia-walked-through-it-11547137112>

As for the effect of climate change on high voltage transmission lines, I point to California where destructive wild fires were sparked by high voltage transmission lines and the solution to prevent further fires required massive blackouts to over a million people. There has been a lot coverage of the transmission line debacle in California so I will cite only one article here that emphasizes the importance of non-transmission alternatives in our changing climate (if clicking on the link does not work, you can copy and past the URL into a browser): <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/10/12/business/power-blackouts-california-microgrids.html?searchResultPosition=1>

C-CH, like the high voltage lines PG&E uses in California, will not be insulated. Fires are sparked when lines droop and hit other lines, or are blown down in winds. As with the response of the EIS to hacking, the response to my concerns on climate change are likewise grossly inadequate. The severe weather events in Wisconsin analyzed by a National Weather Service study from 1980-2006 (p. 457 of the EIS) are a bad prediction of future weather. The data set is wrong: it is over a decade old at a time that climate change is rapidly and radically changing weather patterns. As an example, I cite the rainfall in Wisconsin in 2019, where the National Weather Service says that precipitation totals were 150 to 200 percent of "normal." C-CH is scheduled to last forty years. It is critical that current data, along with future predictions of the effects of climate change on weather, are used in this report. If appropriate data is not used in the EIS, the legacy of C-CH will be that of destruction, different in execution but similar in scope to what we're now seeing in California.

I am disappointed in the disingenuous responses to my comments, which seem to simply prop up the claims of the utilities rather than be a serious environmental analysis.

Michelle Citron, Ph.D.



WSJ Americas vulnerable grid.docx

294K



Enter News, Quotes, Companies or Videos

ILLUSTRATION BY JESSICA KURONEN/WSJ

America's Electric Grid Has a Vulnerable Back Door—and Russia Walked Through It

A Wall Street Journal reconstruction of the worst known hack into the nation's power system reveals attacks on hundreds of small contractors

[516 COMMENTS](#)

By

Rebecca Smith and

Rob Barry

Jan. 10, 2019 11:18 a.m. ET

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Link copied...

One morning in March 2017, Mike Vitello's work phone lighted up. Customers wanted to know about an odd email they had just received. What was the agreement he wanted signed? Where was the attachment?

Mr. Vitello had no idea what they were talking about. The Oregon construction company where he works, All-Ways Excavating USA, checked it out. The email was bogus, they told Mr. Vitello's contacts. Ignore it.

Then, a few months later, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security dispatched a team to examine the company's computers. You've been attacked, a government

agent told Mr. Vitello's colleague, Dawn Cox. [Maybe by Russians](#). They were trying to hack into the power grid.

"They were intercepting my every email," Mr. Vitello says. "What the hell? I'm nobody."

"It's not you. It's who you know," says Ms. Cox.

The cyberattack on the 15-person company near Salem, Ore., which works with utilities and government agencies, was an early thrust in the worst known hack by a [foreign government into the nation's electric grid](#). It set off so many alarms that U.S. officials took the unusual step in early 2018 of publicly blaming the Russian government.

A reconstruction of the hack reveals a glaring vulnerability at the heart of the country's electric system. Rather than strike the utilities head on, the hackers went after the system's unprotected underbelly—hundreds of contractors and subcontractors like All-Ways who had no reason to be on high alert against foreign agents. From these tiny footholds, the hackers worked their way up the supply chain. Some experts believe two dozen or more utilities [ultimately were breached](#).

The scheme's success came less from its technical prowess—though the attackers did use some clever tactics—than in how it exploited trusted business relationships using impersonation and trickery.

The hackers planted malware on sites of online publications frequently read by utility engineers. They sent out fake résumés with tainted attachments, pretending to be job seekers. Once they had computer-network credentials, they slipped through hidden portals used by utility technicians, in some cases getting into computer systems that monitor and control electricity flows.

The Wall Street Journal pieced together this account of how the attack unfolded through documents, computer records and interviews with people at the affected companies, current and former government officials and security-industry investigators.

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Russian hackers seeking to infiltrate the power grid targeted companies operating in at least 24 states, Canada and the U.K.

Source: documents; interviews with people at the affected companies, government officials and security-industry investigators

The U.S. government hasn't named the utilities or other companies that were targeted. The Journal identified small businesses such as Commercial Contractors Inc., in Ridgefield, Wash., and Carlson Testing Inc., in Tigard, Ore., along with big utilities such as the federally owned Bonneville Power Administration and [Berkshire Hathaway](#)'s PacifiCorp. Two of the energy companies targeted build systems that supply emergency power to Army bases.

The [Russian campaign](#) triggered an effort by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Homeland Security to retrace the steps of the attackers and notify possible victims. Some companies were unaware they had been compromised until government investigators came calling, and others didn't know they had been targeted until contacted by the Journal.

“What Russia has done is prepare the battlefield [without pulling the trigger](#),” says Robert P. Silvers, former assistant secretary for cyber policy at Homeland Security and now a law partner at Paul Hastings LLP.

The press office at the Russian Embassy in Washington didn't respond to multiple requests for comment. Russia has previously denied targeting critical infrastructure.

Early victims

In the summer of 2016, U.S. intelligence officials saw signs of a campaign to hack American utilities, says Jeanette Manfra, assistant secretary of Homeland Security's cybersecurity and communications program. The tools and tactics suggested the perpetrators were Russian. Intelligence agencies notified Homeland Security, Ms. Manfra says.

In December 2016, an FBI agent showed up at a low-rise office in Downers Grove, Ill., less than an hour west of Chicago. It was home to CFE Media LLC, a

small, privately held company that publishes trade journals with titles such as “Control Engineering” and “Consulting-Specifying Engineer.”

TOOLS OF THE TRADE

In cyberattacks against U.S. power utilities, Russian hackers stole employee credentials to gain access to corporate systems, U.S. officials say.

Source: Department of Homeland Security

According to a CFE email, the agent told employees that “highly sophisticated individuals” had uploaded a malicious file onto the website for Control Engineering. The agent warned it could be used to launch hostile actions against others.

Steve Rourke, CFE Media’s co-founder, says his company took steps to fix the infected site. Before long, though, attackers laced other CFE Media trade publications with malicious content, according to security researchers at [Accenture](#)’s iDefense unit and RiskIQ, a San Francisco cybersecurity company, who later analyzed details of the attack.

Like lions pursuing prey at a watering hole, the hackers stalked visitors to these and other trade websites, hoping to catch engineers and others and penetrate the companies where they worked. The Russians could potentially take down “anybody in the industry,” says RiskIQ researcher Yonathan Klijsma.

By planting a few lines of code on the websites, the attackers invisibly plucked computer usernames and passwords from unsuspecting visitors, according to government briefings on the attack and security experts who have reviewed the malicious code. That tactic enabled the Russians to gain access to ever more sensitive systems, said Homeland Security officials in industry briefings last year.

Mr. Vitello of All-Ways Excavating has no idea how the hackers got into his email account. He doesn’t recall reading CFE’s websites or clicking on tainted email attachments. Nonetheless, the intrusion was part of the Russian campaign, according to the security companies that studied the hack.

HACKING THE GRID

Hack

Attempted hack



RUSSIAN HACKERS

ALL-WAYS EXCAVATING

Sources: documents; interviews with people at the affected companies, government officials and security-industry investigators

On March 2, 2017, the attackers used Mr. Vitello’s account to send the mass email to customers, which was intended to herd recipients to a website secretly taken over by the hackers.

The email promised recipients that a document would download immediately, but nothing happened. Viewers were invited to click a link that said they could “download the file directly.” That sprang the trap and took them to a website called imageliners.com.

The site, registered at the time to Matt Hudson, a web developer in Columbia, S.C., was originally intended to allow people to find contract work doing broadcast voice-overs but was dormant at the time. Mr. Hudson says he had no idea Russians had commandeered his site.

The day the email went out—the same day Mr. Vitello’s office phone lighted up in Oregon—activity on the voice-over site surged, with computers from more than 300 IP addresses reaching out to it, up from only a handful a day during the prior month. Many were potential victims for the hackers. About 90 of the IP addresses—the codes that help computers find each other on the internet—were registered in Oregon, a Journal analysis found.

Web developer Matt Hudson says he had no idea Russians had hacked into his site. PHOTO: SEAN RAYFORD FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

It isn't clear what the victims saw when they landed on the hacked voice-over site. Files on the server reviewed by the Journal indicate they could have been shown a forged login page for Dropbox, a cloud-based service that allows people to share documents and photos, designed to trick them into turning over usernames and passwords. It also is possible the hackers used the site to open a back door into visitors' systems, giving them control over their victims' computers.

Once Mr. Vitello realized his email had been hijacked, he tried to warn his contacts not to open any email attachments from him. The hackers blocked the message.

SNEAK ATTACK

Hackers sent bogus emails from the account of Oregon construction contractor Mike Vitello to herd recipients to a website they had secretly taken over, called imageliners.com. Hackers then used the site to seek access to contractors that do business with U.S. power utilities.

Note: Server logs record the last visit of each unique IP address. One address can have multiple users.
Sources: WSJ analysis of imageliners.com logs; Department of Homeland Security (timing)

All-Ways Excavating is a government contractor and bids for jobs with agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which operates dozens of federally owned hydroelectric facilities.

Some two weeks later, the attackers again used Mr. Vitello's account to send a barrage of emails.

One went to Dan Kauffman Excavating Inc., in Lincoln City, Ore., with the subject line: "Please DocuSign Signed Agreement—Funding Project."

HACKING THE GRID

Hack

Attempted hack



RUSSIAN HACKERS

DAN KAUFFMAN EXCAVATING
2 OREGON POWER COMPANIES

Sources: documents; interviews with people at the affected companies, government officials and security-industry investigators

Office manager Corinna Sawyer thought the wording was strange and emailed Mr. Vitello: “Just received this from your email, I assume you have been hacked.”

Back came a response from the intruders who controlled Mr. Vitello’s account: “I did send it.”

Ms. Sawyer, still suspicious, called Mr. Vitello, who told her the email, like the earlier one, was fake.

The attack spreads

One company that got one of the bogus emails was a small professional-services firm in Corvallis, Ore. That July, FBI agents showed up there, telling employees their system had been compromised in a “widespread campaign” targeting energy companies, according to the company owner.

After receiving Mr. Vitello’s first bogus email on March 2, a subsequent Homeland Security investigative report says, an employee at the Corvallis firm clicked on the link leading to the hacked voice-over site. She was prompted to enter a username and password. By day’s end, the cyberoperatives were in her company’s network, according to the report, which hasn’t been made public but was reviewed by the Journal.

They then cracked open a portal in the company’s firewall, which separates sensitive internal networks from the internet, and created a new account with broad, administrative access, which they hid from view.

“We didn’t know about it or catch it,” says the company’s owner.

HACKING THE GRID

Hack

Attempted hack



RUSSIAN HACKERS

CORVALLIS, ORE.-BASED FIRM

3 U.K. COMPANIES

2 U.S. COMPANIES

MASSACHUSETTS POWER COMPANY

Sources: documents; interviews with people at the affected companies, government officials and security-industry investigators

In June 2017, the hackers used the Corvallis company’s systems to go hunting. Over the next month, they accessed the Oregon company’s network dozens of times from computers with IP addresses registered in countries including Turkey, France and the Netherlands, targeting at least six energy firms.

In some cases, the attackers simply studied the new targets’ websites, possibly as reconnaissance for future strikes. In other instances, the investigative report indicates, they may have gained footholds inside their victims’ systems.

Two of the targeted companies had helped the Army create independent supplies of electricity for domestic bases.

On June 15, hackers visited the website of ReEnergy Holdings LLC. The renewable-energy company had built a small power plant that allows Fort Drum in western New York to operate even if the civilian power grid collapses. Fort Drum is the home of one of the Army's most frequently deployed divisions and is under consideration to be the site of a \$3.6 billion interceptor system to defend the East Coast from intercontinental ballistic missiles.

ReEnergy, owned by private-equity investor Riverstone Holdings LLC, suffered an intrusion but its generating facilities weren't affected, says one person familiar with the matter. The Army was aware of the incident, said a spokesman, who declined to provide additional details.

That same day, the hackers began hitting the website of [Atlantic Power](#) Corp. , an independent power producer that sells electricity to more than a dozen utilities in eight states and two Canadian provinces. In addition to downloading files from the site, the attackers visited the company's virtual private network login page, or VPN, a gateway to the firm's computer systems for people working remotely, the report says.

Atlantic Power said in a written statement it regularly encounters malicious acts but doesn't comment on specifics. "To our knowledge, there has never been a successful breach of any of the company's systems," it said.

Around midnight that June 28, the hackers used the Corvallis company's network to exchange emails with a 20-person carpentry company in Michigan called DeVange Construction Inc. The emails appeared to come from an employee called Rick Harris—a persona fabricated by the attackers.

HACKING THE GRID

Hack

Attempted hack



RUSSIAN HACKERS

DEVANGE CONSTRUCTION

POWER COMPANIES IN NEW YORK AND WISCONSIN

Sources: documents; interviews with people at the affected companies, government officials and security-industry investigators

DeVange Construction's systems already may have been compromised.

Applications to energy companies from nonexistent people seeking industrial-control systems jobs came from DeVange email addresses, according to security experts and emails reviewed by the Journal. Bogus résumés were attached—tweaked to trick recipients' computers into sending login information to hacked servers.

The Journal identified at least three utilities that received the emails: Washington-based Franklin PUD, Wisconsin-based Dairyland Power Cooperative and New York State Electric & Gas Corp. All three say they were aware of the hacking campaign but don't believe they fell victim to it.

A DeVange employee says federal agents visited the company. The company's owner, Jim Bell, declined to discuss the incident.

That June 30, the hackers sought remote access to an Indiana company that, like ReEnergy, installs equipment to allow government facilities to operate if the civilian grid loses power. That company, Energy Systems Group Ltd. of Newburgh, Ind., a unit of [Vectren](#) Corp. , declines to say whether it was hacked but says it has a robust focus on cybersecurity.

The company's website says one of its customers is Fort Detrick, an Army base in Maryland with a complex of laboratories that defend the nation against biological

weapons. Fort Detrick referred questions to Army officials, who said they take cybersecurity seriously but declined to comment further.

As the summer of 2017 wore on, the attackers took aim at companies that help utilities manage their computer control systems. On July 1, the attackers used the Corvallis company to attack two English companies, Severn Controls Ltd. and Oakmount Control Systems Ltd. Next, they attacked Simkiss Control Systems Ltd. also in England, and accessed “account and control system information,” according to the government report.

Simkiss’s website says it markets tools that allow technicians to have remote access to industrial control networks. Among its customers are big electrical equipment makers and utilities including [National Grid](#) , which runs electric transmission lines in Britain and parts of the U.S., where it owns utilities in New York, Rhode Island and Massachusetts.

Oakmount, Severn and Simkiss declined to comment, and National Grid says its cybersecurity processes are “aligned with industry best practice.”

After breaching the network of Dan Kauffman Excavating in Oregon, hackers blasted out emails to roughly 2,300 of the company’s contacts. PHOTO: LEAH NASH FOR THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

By that fall, the hackers returned to Dan Kauffman Excavating in Oregon, breaching its network on Sept. 18, according to the firm. They appeared to lurk quietly for a month. Then, on the night of Oct. 18, emails blasted out to roughly 2,300 of the company’s contacts. The message said, “Hi, Dan used Dropbox to share a folder with you!” and contained a link that said, “View folder.”

Among the recipients: employees of PacifiCorp, a multistate utility; the Portland, Ore.-based Bonneville Power Administration, which runs 75% of the Pacific Northwest’s high-voltage transmission lines, and the Army Corps of Engineers.

Federal officials say the attackers looked for ways to bridge the divide between the utilities' corporate networks, which are connected to the internet, and their critical-control networks, which are walled off from the web for security purposes.

The bridges sometimes come in the form of "jump boxes," computers that give technicians a way to move between the two systems. If not well defended, these junctions could allow operatives to tunnel under the moat and pop up inside the castle walls.

In briefings to utilities last summer, Jonathan Homer, industrial-control systems cybersecurity chief for Homeland Security, said the Russians had penetrated the control-system area of utilities through poorly protected jump boxes. The attackers had "legitimate access, the same as a technician," he said in one briefing, and were positioned to take actions that could have temporarily knocked out power.

The federally owned Bonneville Power Administration says it doesn't believe the utility was breached, though it appears to have received suspicious emails. PHOTO: NATALIE BEHRING/GETTY IMAGES

PacifiCorp says it takes a multilayered approach to risk management and that it wasn't compromised by any attack campaigns.

Gary Dodd, Bonneville's chief information security officer, says he doesn't believe his utility was breached, though it appears to have received suspicious emails from both All-Ways Excavating and Dan Kauffman Excavating. "It's possible something got in, but I really don't think so," he says.

The Army Corps says it doesn't comment on cybersecurity matters.

Going public

The U.S. government warned the public about the hacking campaign in an October 2017 advisory. It attributed it to a shadowy group, sometimes called Dragonfly or Energetic Bear, that security researchers have tied to the Russian government.

In March 2018, the U.S. went further, releasing a report that pinned responsibility for the hostile activities on “cyber actors” working for the Russian government, saying they had been active since at least March 2016. Governments generally have shied away from naming countries involved in cyberattacks, not wanting divulge what they know.

SHORT CIRCUIT

Russian hackers targeted utilities' control-system computers.

Sources: Department of Homeland Security (hacking); Department of Energy (Scada network)

In April 2018, the FBI notified at least two companies by letter that they appeared to have received malicious emails from All-Ways Excavating’s Mr. Vitello.

One was Commercial Contractors of Ridgefield, Wash., which helped renovate an office for the Bonneville Power Administration. Eric Money, the company’s president, says employees thought they had resisted the tainted emails. But the Journal found that a computer with an IP address linked to the company visited Mr. Hudson’s hacked voice-over site the day of the attack.

The other company notified by the FBI, Carlson Testing of Tigard, Ore., has done work for utilities including Portland General Electric, PacifiCorp, Northwest Natural Gas and the Bonneville Power Administration.

Vikram Thakur, technical director of security response for [Symantec Corp.](#) , a California-based cybersecurity firm, says his company knows from its utility clients and from other security firms it works with that at least 60 utilities were targeted, including some outside the U.S. About two dozen were breached, he says, adding that hackers penetrated far enough to reach the industrial-control systems at eight or more utilities. He declined to name them.

The government isn’t sure how many utilities and vendors in all were compromised in the Russian assault.

Vello Koiv, president of VAK Construction Engineering Services in Beaverton, Ore., which does subcontracting for the Army Corps, PacifiCorp, Bonneville

and [Avista](#) Corp. , a utility in Spokane, Wash., says someone at his company took the bait from one of the tainted emails, but his computer technicians caught the problem, so “it was never a full-blown event.” Avista says it doesn’t comment on cyberattacks.

Mr. Koiv says he continued to get tainted emails in 2018. “Whether they’re Russian or not, I don’t know. But someone is still trying to infiltrate our server.”

Last fall, All-Ways Excavating was again hacked.

Industry experts say Russian government hackers likely remain inside some systems, undetected and awaiting further orders.

—*Lisa Schwartz contributed to this article.*

—*Graphics by Joel Eastwood and Angela Calderon*

Write to Rebecca Smith at rebecca.smith@wsj.com and Rob Barry at rob.barry@wsj.com

Appeared in the January 11, 2019, print edition as 'Russian Hack Exposes Weakness in U.S. Power Grid.'

[SHOW COMMENTS\(516\)](#)

What to Read Next...





David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek in Wisconsin

1 message

Coleman Burnett [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 11, 2019 at 9:38 AM

To: "comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

From: SCOTT R CRAVEN [REDACTED]**Sent:** Monday, July 31, 2017 11:42 AM**To:** Rankin, Dennis - RD, Washington, DC <Dennis.Rankin@wdc.usda.gov>**Cc:** jcallaway@atcllc.com**Subject:** Cardinal-Hickory Creek in Wisconsin

31 July 2017

RE: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Lines

Dear Mr. Rankin,

I would like to offer some thoughts for your consideration on the proposed routes for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission lines in Southwest Wisconsin. I was alerted to the proposals by a friend who lives near a proposed route and by my daughter, a long-time resident and teacher in Mount Horeb, WI near most of the route alternatives.

I have no immediate stake in the new transmission capacity other than the shared public interest in electrical energy availability and cost. I do however, feel I can offer some considerations on the route proposals. I am a retired Extension Wildlife Specialist for the State of WI and a retired faculty member and Department Chair at the UW-Madison. As such, I was involved in habitat and wildlife management with thousands of landowners across the state and in the area of the proposed transmission lines.

I will focus my comments on the 2 alternatives (east and west) to get the lines from Middleton (specifically from Highway J) to the [Highway 18-151](#) corridor. I have driven and inspected as much of the 2 alternatives as was readily accessible.

My impression is that the east and west routes are of similar lengths. However, that seems to be where the similarity ends. Where the west route follows some road corridors and traverses an agricultural landscape with significant housing development (eg near the east side of Mount Horeb), the east route traverses more undisturbed habitat (wooded and restored) and more challenging topography. Thus, the potential for ecological disturbance appears much greater with the eastern route. The existing corridor for the western route should minimize ecological impact and reduce costs. If a selling point for the overall southern route from Middleton to Hickory Creek is the presence of an existing transmission corridor, then that logic should also apply to the alternative short segments I previously mentioned.

The eastern alternative is also just a few miles west of the well-known (in conservation circles), Riley Game Cooperative study site used by Aldo Leopold in the 1930's and 40's. That conservation tradition has been carried on by landowners along the eastern corridor with stream restoration work and prairie restoration, among other habitat conservation practices. A case in point is the Early Autumn Farms landowner cooperative totaling about 400 acres. Their efforts are exactly what the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources envisioned when the agency designed much of that countryside as the Southwestern Grasslands and Streams Restoration area to promote conservation.

The prairie restoration efforts are particularly noteworthy when it comes to grassland bird conservation (see Ribic, Guzy, and Sample. 2009 Grassland Bird Use of Remnant Prairie and Conservation Reserve Program Fields in an Agricultural Landscape in Wisconsin, *American Midland Naturalist*. 161: 110-122). That paper is part of a series of research papers dealing with grassland birds on remnant prairies and pastures in the Military Ridge area. The authors note the critical importance of restored prairies (given the very few remnants of natural prairies remaining) to birds like the grasshopper sparrow. Other birds of "special conservation concern" like the red-headed woodpecker also frequent the area where there is suitable habitat. A transmission line would be a "game changer" for some of these habitats and species. For a detailed guide to the ecological importance of that area, refer to the Southwestern Upland Section in Sample and Mossman. 1997. *Managing Habitat for Grassland Birds: A Guide for Wisconsin*. Wisconsin DNR. Madison 154pp.

I believe these ecological issues have been well covered in other documents submitted to regulators by the Driftless Area Land Conservancy. Thus, I do not need to take any more of your time.

In summary, as a taxpayer, consumer of electric power, and conservationist, I cannot understand the need for consideration of ecologically risky alternatives when existing corridors are available to expand transmission, both in the case of the small east or west route decision and the major "norther route" alternative than rural Dane and Iowa counties. I fully understand that if wind power generation is to remain a viable landscape feature and source of electricity, then there has to be transmission capacity to support it. However, the purpose of evaluating alternatives is to select the one that is cost effective and minimizes "damage" – including ecological damage. On a small scale, the western alternative from Highway J to Mount Horeb certainly appears to me to be the best choice. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Craven, Professor Emeritus

11/12/2019

SWCA Mail - FW: Cardinal-Hickory Creek in Wisconsin

Department of Forest and Wildlife Ecology

UW – Madison



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David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

EIS Comment

1 message

Betsy Dangelo [REDACTED]

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 9:56 PM

To: "comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

The land and the people must take precedence over greedy corporate interest! No need has been proven that would justify tearing up and altering forever Southwest Wisconsin.

The Driftless Area is a unique ecosystem that needs to be protected. Its topography and beauty are loved by the residents and the tourists who come here to escape urbanization and connect with Nature.

Building industrial-sized Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission lines will devastate the area. Worse yet, the corridor it creates will pave the way for even greater devastation as more unneeded projects are developed. When the PSC announced their decision approving CHC Commissioner Mike Huebsch told us we had better get used to transmission lines because more are coming.

In Chapter 4 you acknowledge this problem. You note the scenic quality of the Driftless landscape. You note that the CHC corridor would provide an opportunity for new electrical construction in the future. You acknowledge that CHC will adversely affect scenery and that subsequent electrical infrastructure will make matters even worse.

You should have taken your observations to their logical conclusion and stated that we should not allow the destructive process to begin. Cardinal-Hickory Creek should NOT be built.

Betsy Curtis D'Angelo
[REDACTED]



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

FEIS comment about CHC

1 message

Betsy Dangelo [REDACTED]

Sun, Nov 24, 2019 at 10:34 PM

To: "comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

The final EIS is greatly expanded over the draft EIS. Frankly, I cannot tell if this is an improvement because the document continues to be almost impossible to read. For something so cumbersome a very basic help would have been to include a Table of Contents at the beginning of each Volume.

I am disappointed to say that your responses to my comments are inadequate.

PINE RELICTS

Thank you for adding a description of pine relicts. You state that they are of “conservation concern, State Rank S2.” That means they are “. . . imperiled in Wisconsin due to a restricted range, few populations or occurrences, steep declines, severe threats, or other factors” (*DNR website*). Although they now are acknowledged in the FEIS I cannot find any information about how their value will be respected and protected. If the potential impacts are disclosed as you claim I cannot find it. Section 3 is dominated by wetlands, and pine relicts are buried in the forest category.

TOURISM

I stated: “Your charts do not compare places before and after transmission lines are built so there is no data to tell how tourism income would be impacted.” You refer me to 3.12 for potential impacts. I do not see any data or statistics, just your theories. Using New Hampshire as a measure of the impact, stating that the destinations were more important than deterrents, is inappropriate since New Hampshire has more historic sites than the Driftless Area. In New Hampshire “destination” and “history” are synonymous; in Southwest Wisconsin “destination” and “natural” are synonymous. You state that the impact will be minor in “more developed landscapes.” That completely misses the point about the Driftless: The beauty and allure of the Driftless for tourists is precisely that it has rural, not developed, landscapes. I do not believe your analysis.

PROPERTY VALUES

I stated that property values are severely reduced in areas known for their scenic beauty. Even if the line does not cross a property, the value is reduced if the towers or lines can be seen from the property. I can’t help but wonder why you did not investigate the reference I sent from a Wisconsinite land appraiser, Kurt Kielisch, who also was an expert witness before the PSC. His findings give a much more serious picture than the studies you chose. I do not agree with your conclusion that the impacts would be short term.

THE QUESTION OF NEED FOR AND BENEFITS OF CHC

You referred me to Chapter 1. Sounds like a combination of the CHC website and ATC’s PR. Where is the independent analysis of need?

THE GREATER COMMON GOOD

I stated that I thought the purpose of an EIS should first be to assess if a project is needed and serves the common public good. This EIS uses ATC’s statement of need and assumes Cardinal Hickory Creek is being built. “Comment noted” to me is not adequate for this very important consideration.

THE QUESTION OF BIAS

11/25/2019

SWCA Mail - FEIS comment about CHC

I raised the issue of whether it was appropriate for the federal government to subcontract work to a company whose stated purpose is to “support all types of electric transmission projects” and that “transmission project owners can benefit from SWCA’s proficiency with federal regulations.” Since you do not defend yourself but instead say “Comment noted,” I take that to mean guilty as charged.

Betsy Curtis D’Angelo





David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Route of the Line

1 message

David J. Dybdahl [REDACTED]
To: "comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Mon, Oct 28, 2019 at 10:34 AM

The route selected should not impact area that do not have public works project now.

Keep the industrial human impacts to a minimum.

Do not run north of highway 18 after Dodgeville to save dollars.



David Dybdahl, CIC, CPCU, MBA, ARM

President

American Risk Management Resources Network, LLC

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



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David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

oppositional comments against CHC project

1 message

DD Eide [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

Mon, Nov 25, 2019 at 2:39 PM

Please consider my personal comments following, Nov 25, 2019:

The RUS Report acknowledges the unique geology and topography of the Driftless Region and describes it in some detail in parts of Volume 3. RUS is aware that the line will have a major impact on the Driftless. However it keeps coming back to the same story, and that is that the public good that will be served by the CHC line outweighs any potential damage that might be done to the Driftless Region and posterity. The RUS report states its position in Volume 3, Chapter 4:

"Any projects that would result in modification of the landscape—such as transportation improvement projects, new energy development, new or rebuilt transmission lines, and urban development projects—would contribute to the cumulative adverse impacts to visual quality and aesthetics. These developments, when added to the direct effects of the proposed C-HC Project, would incrementally convert the scenic quality of the natural landscapes into a more developed and industrialized landscape that would adversely affect scenery, and sensitive viewers over time." (quoted from Vol 3, Chapter 4, Section 4.4.10)

The opponents of the CHC project disagree that the visual quality and aesthetics of the Driftless should be sacrificed in order to build the line. We do not want to "convert the scenic quality of the natural landscape into a more developed and industrialized landscape that would adversely affect scenery." We are not NIMBYs who do not want the line on our property. The line idea should simply not proceed at all. NO!

masses of people and groups are opposed to this project. We attended the hearings at which WI residents had the opportunity to tell their opinions. We only heard one person who was not in opposition, and he was simply unsure.

Section 3.9 (Vol 2, p.280+) discusses cultural and archaeological issues raised by the CHC project. It once again minimizes issues that are important to the public. Robert Watson, who did several of the archaeological surveys for the applicants, stated in a March 26, 2018 memo to Amy Lee, ATC, that:

"The review of WHPD (WI Historic Preservation Database) has determined that 24 previously recorded archaeological or cemetery/burial sites are included within the 150 ft wide APE (Area of Potential Effects) of the proposed route segments. Portions of both prehistoric and historic archaeological sites fall within the APE. Prehistoric sites include isolated finds, lithic scatters and workshops, habitation sites, and mound groups and earthworks. Historic sites include farmstead and habitation sites, mining related sites, cemeteries, and historic trash scatters. Portions of some of the previously recorded archaeological or cemetery/burial within the APE have been investigated to assess potential project effects. Archaeological survey of unsurveyed portions of all sites within the final project alignment, temporary workspaces, or access routes is recommended to more fully assess potential project effects." (PSC REF#: 341912)

Unfortunately, the Report does not make it clear whether additional surveys of Cultural and Historic Resources will be carried out. The RUS does seem aware that there may be cultural and historic resources in the APE. For instance, on page 314 the Report states that:

“In addition, as a comprehensive cultural resources survey has not been conducted, any number of unknown resources may be present within the area analyzed for potential physical impacts. Prior to construction, RUS would attempt to identify and evaluate additional resources within the area analyzed for potential physical impacts. If, through consultation with the Iowa and/or Wisconsin SHPOs, RUS, the Utilities, and affected tribal groups, measures cannot be taken to avoid impacts to the characteristics that qualify any identified resource for inclusion in the NRHP, that may constitute a major impact.” (3.9.2.9.2)

Before giving its approval and funding to the CHC project, the RUS should require that the applicants carry out a survey of cultural and historic resources in the APE. We are concerned that construction of the line may start and then uncover cultural and historic resources.

To sum up, we do not feel that the Final Environmental Impact Statement makes a solid case that the CHC line is needed nor that it will benefit residents of the State of Wisconsin.

We do think however that the voice of the people should be heard and considered.

Debra Eide



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

CHC/ATC High Capacity Line

1 message

Myra Enloe [REDACTED]

Mon, Nov 4, 2019 at 10:39 AM

To: "comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

To Whom It May Concern:

I have previously submitted comments both online and in written form at public hearings but do not see those comments in any of the published documents. Therefore, I am once again submitting comments and expect them to become part of the public record of the dissent to the proposed CHC-ATC high capacity power line between Madison, Wisconsin and Iowa.

The Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate in addressing:

1. The need for such a line in light of decreasing energy demand in Wisconsin.
2. The need to urgently create new models for public control of common goods. Across the country we are seeing the development of models that provide more local control and smaller power grids that would be less susceptible to disruption like the power grids in California that are being shutdown to prevent forest fires. Other types of disruption are also possible, especially in an age where cyber security is not up to being able to block hacks that could threaten our society.
3. New technology. There is new technology on the horizon that will likely make these types of lines obsolete. The urgency to build this line now seems short sighted.
4. Negative environmental impact. If these power lines are built, there will clearly be a negative impact on the environment in the unique and delicate ecosystem of the Driftless Area.
5. The ability of for-profit companies to take private property under eminent domain is wrong.

Thank you for including my comments in the public debate of this issue.

Myra Enloe



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

CHC/ATC High Capacity Line

1 message

Myra Enloe

Wed, Nov 6, 2019 at 2:11 PM

To: "comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us" <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

To Whom It May Concern:

I have previously submitted comments both online and in written form at public hearings but do not see those comments in any of the published documents. Therefore, I am once again submitting comments and expect them to become part of the public record of the dissent to the proposed CHC-ATC high capacity power line between Madison, Wisconsin and Iowa.

The Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate in addressing:

1. The need for such a line in light of decreasing energy demand in Wisconsin.
2. The need to urgently create new models for public control of common goods. Across the country are seeing the development of models that provide more local control and smaller power grids that would be less susceptible to disruption like the power grids in California that are being shutdown to prevent forest fires. Other types of disruption are also possible, especially in an age where cyber security is not up to being able to block hacks that could threaten our society.
3. New technology. There is new technology on the horizon that will likely make these types of lines obsolete. The urgency to build this line now seems short sighted.
4. Negative environmental impact. If these power lines are built, there will clearly be a negative impact on the environment in the unique and delicate ecosystem of the Driftless Area.
5. The ability of for-profit companies to take private property under eminent domain is wrong.

Thank you for including my comments in the public debate of this issue.

Myra Enloe