

From: Charlotte Mitchell Smith
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 6:58:56 PM

The proposed towers for the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line will pass through a unique natural area—the Driftless Region of the Upper Midwest, a four state area the glaciers missed when they scoured the rest of the region. Not only do we have unique and endangered species, we are an area of outstanding natural beauty that will be forever destroyed the erection of the giant towers proposed.

Further there is no need for the lines—electrical usage is flat or declining.

The proponents have not examined alternatives. There are many that can produce the energy needed without an impact on the environment.



Please listen to those of us who know and understand the area being impacted and understand what dangers these towers hold for the area.

Charlotte Mitchell Smith



Last Name SPICER First Name Gretchen

[] Individual [x] Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

Street 
 City 

Notify/update me via email Yes No

EIS Scoping Input
 Cardinal Hickory Creek
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 200 Bursca Drive suite 207
 Bridgeville, PA 15017
 Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
 Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 30 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
TOWN OF CLYDE TREASURER

1. I have marked impacts that concern me regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value		Loss of Environmental Assets		Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats		Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health		Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals		Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants		Impacts on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Livestock		Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl		Impacts on Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Surface & Ground Water		Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<i>This is a unique & beautiful area and that is why people come here. This project will drive them away. We have a bed and breakfast here</i>	IOWA COUNTY CLYDE TOWNSHIP
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<i>Let's err on the safe side, what these transmission lines do to our health we don't know.</i>	IOWA County Clyde Township

3. Energy Investment Priorities

- A. As an electric customer, I prefer accelerated investment in end-user improvements in energy efficiency, load management and local renewable energy over spending that creates long term debt. Unlike imposing transmission, non-transmission alternatives have lower impacts on lands, economies and cultures and may also be more cost and environmentally effective.
- B. I request that the EIS include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of the above named non-transmission alternatives using the same budget that all electric customers would assume over 40 years to pay for the construction, financing, operation, maintenance, hardening and depreciation of the high voltage transmission option.
- C. I request that the analysis include innovative approaches such as community solar support at substations.

Signature Thomas M. Spicer, Gretchen Spicer Date 1-02-17
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

December 29, 2016

To the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) via SWCA

Ref: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

Stimulated by the December 7, 2016 scoping meeting in Barneveld, Wisconsin concerning the Cardinal-Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line

I am writing this letter to urge the RUS to undertake a serious and comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the CHC in comparison with non-transmission alternatives.

Should this analysis indicate that there is no need for the CHC, I urge RUS to choose the "No Action Alternative" when considering the proposal by the Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line.

At the same time, I am urging the RUS to take an "Action Alternative", that is, put the funds which it was asked to provide to the DPC for this transmission line:

- a) into improving the efficiency of electricity use by the users of the DPC electrical power and improving load management capabilities, and
- b) into the provision of community solar and other renewable energy systems for generating power locally.

See the attached paper for the logic behind this request.

See also attached a summary of my concerns with the CHC project.

Sincerely,



David Stanfield

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Email: [Redacted]

Tel: [Redacted]

Attachment A: Basis of Recommendations to RUS

2 November, 2016

David Stanfield () and Rob Danielson ()

A Systems Approach to Evaluating Utility Investments in Energy

In summary, this paper argues against most proposals for extending the old model of electrical energy generation, distribution and use—huge electrical energy generating plants connected by long transmission lines to distant users of that energy. In particular, the paper argues against making more investments in long range transmission lines. We focus on the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line (most of its 125 miles are in Wisconsin) and its justification by the Dairyland Power Cooperative electric utility for asking the Rural Utilities Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture for financial support.

There is another path which should be followed, that is, invest funds which were planned to be used in transmission line expansion into improving the efficiency of electricity use by the users of the utilities' electrical power and appropriate load management, and into the provision of community solar and other renewable energy systems for generating power locally.

The comparison in Figure 1 of the two energy system paths—transmission line expansion versus energy efficiency, load management and community solar (represented by the Focus on Energy legislation of 2009)—shows on the macro level, at least, that the planet cannot afford the transmission line expansion path.

Had Focus on Energy incentives been boosted \$1 per Month or \$100 million per year as Legislators approved in 2009,..

- * Annual Electricity Use and CO2 Emissions would drop 20% by 2040
- * Annual CO2 Reductions would have met 70% of the EPA's goals

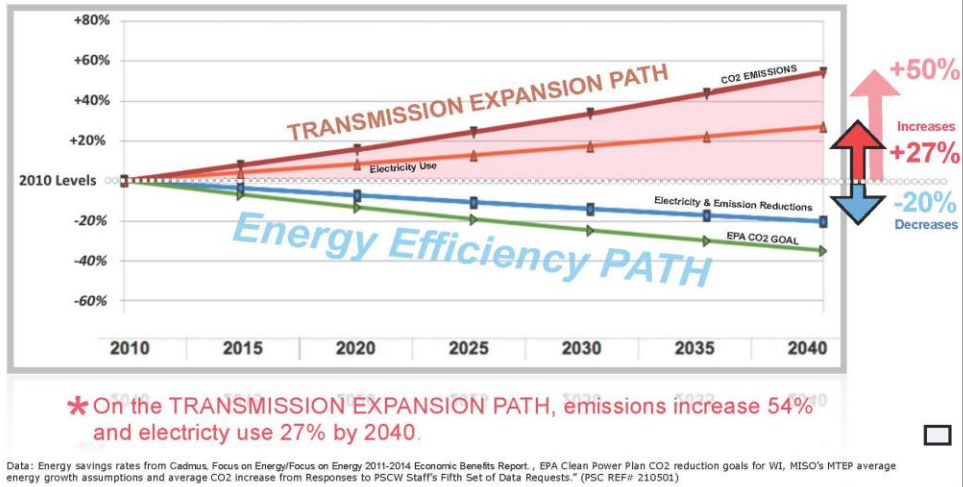


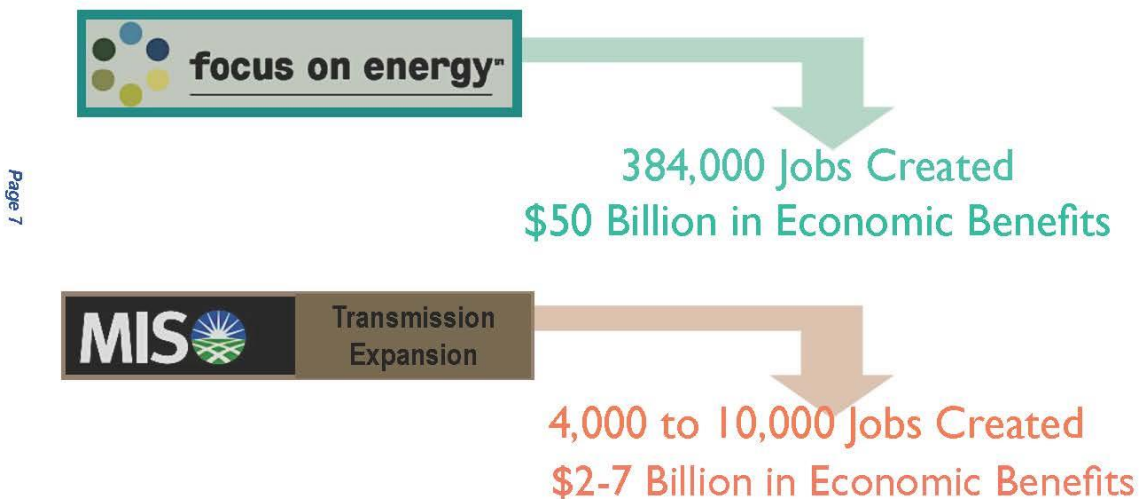
Figure 1: Two Energy System Paths and CO2 emissions by 2040

The Transmission Expansion Path will result in a 50% increase in CO2 emissions by 2040 over the 2010 levels. The Energy Efficiency Path using the FOE legislative initiative only will result in a 20% decline in CO2 emissions, close to the EPA goal by 2040. The choice should be easy for the RUS.

But maybe the transmission expansion path makes sense economically over a 25 year period even if it is highly questionable from a planetary health perspective?

Figure 2 shows just the opposite. The FOE path of increasing energy use efficiency and community solar adds 40 times the new jobs created just in Wisconsin than the MISO transmission expansion path over a 30 year period. The FOE path also adds over \$40 billion more economic benefits than the transmission line expansion path.

With these added impacts on Wisconsin Local Economies over 30 years,..



Data: Cadmus, Focus on Energy 2011-2014 Economic Benefits Report. MISO, MVP Benefits "One Pager" 2012. Wisconsin benefits at 14%.

Figure 2: Energy Options and Local Economies

While the data come from State level data, they are sufficiently persuasive in reference to the specific CHC project case, to conclude that the Alternative Evaluation Study that the Rural Utilities Service published earlier this year¹ should be re-done. The authors simply did not consider adequately the alternatives to transmission line expansion from a systems perspective.

But even if the macro data are not sufficiently convincing, the conclusion about re-doing the assessment of alternatives is supported by a "waste not, want not" value perspective².

As Wisconsin Public Service Commission reports have commented, a sustained, 18-year spending spree on power plants and transmission expansion is the primary source of Wisconsin's region-leading

¹ Dairyland Power Cooperative, "Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345 kV Transmission Line Project: An Alternatives Evaluation Study", prepared for the Rural Utilities Service of the USDA, July 2016

²Based on Rob Danielson, August 2016 article at http://lacrossetribune.com/news/opinion/rob-danielson-for-fair-allocation-of-electric-grid-costs-apply/article_f9de8067-389a-590a-82fa-136216ea9aaf.html

electricity rates and fixed fees. Recent commission decisions force families who practice conservation to confront exorbitant, fixed fees, yet effectively give high-use households and businesses bill reductions with small rate reductions. Totaling up the fee increases for escalating grid costs since 2012, Wisconsin households will pay \$7 billion more over 30 years — even then a small fraction of accumulated utility debt. How could a more perverse policy be devised if efficient use of electricity is one of the goals?

Amazingly despite this obvious unfairness, electric customers in their daily lives tend to practice “waste not, want not” moral values. Wisconsin electric customers are collectively using less and less power, even with meager rebates for energy efficiency and solar installations compared to adjacent states. So why are the utilities heavily committed to the opposite values demonstrated in a push for “waste more, want more” utility infrastructure?

Many utilities, even in some instances a cooperative like DPC, seeks to keep customers on-grid, paying down the massive debt which provides subsidized income to the cooperative. Every time the RUS finances a new transmission line, substation or power plant, the coop is guaranteed 10 percent returns on investments, plus operation, maintenance and other collections over the 30- to 40-year periods of loans and loan guarantees from the RUS. RUS does not adequately consider the billions in debt amassed in its contracts for cost benefit analyses. Utilities hide the costs of long-term indebtedness by accounting for only initial construction costs.

Records show that energy efficiency, load management and local solar are, by far, the most cost-effective measures to slash CO2 emissions, stimulate local economies and control costs and utility debt. RUS needs a utility policy that encourages end-user energy efficiency improvements and community solar to fairly compete with utility infrastructure proposals. A step in this direction is a fair assessment of the true costs and benefits of non-transmission line alternatives in comparison of the true costs of the CHC.

RUS can help ensure that all electric customers pay their fair share of the accumulated utility debt through adopting these goals:

1. Stop adding nonessential utility debt.
2. Triple available rebates (even so little as \$1 per month) for DPC customers to improve energy efficiency, upgrade load management capabilities, and invest in local, renewable energy program to dramatically reduce the need for long distance high voltage transmission lines and return billions in net savings.
3. Stop unfair fee increases. Apply the fairness rule to utility debt with customers paying proportionally to the amount of electricity they consume. This requires much smaller rate increases over the next five to seven years than those mandated by new debt and waste. Solar customers would pay their fair share of debt in the cost of grid power they use at night and on cloudy days.

Most non-solar households greatly prefer buying clean, relatively less costly power produced by their solar neighbors instead of electricity from the fossil fuel-laden grid power. Home, business and community solar improvements add no collective debt, lower grid costs and so deserve the same retail rate utilities are paid.

The nation's energy future shines bright, if we admit to our past mistakes and recommit to "waste not, want not" values and fair treatment of everyone.

Attachment B: Summary of Concerns about Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project

Last Name Stachura First Name John David

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street Address [Redacted]

City [Redacted] Zip [Redacted] Email [Redacted]

Input to EIS for Cardinal-Hickory Creek
 Mail to: SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
 200 Busca Dr. Suite 207, Bridgeville, Pa 19017
 Or scan and email to:
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
 Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 43 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Board Member, Commission

1. I have marked impacts of concern regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of Tourism Related Business
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
Effects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance
Effects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compromises on Local Economy
Effects on Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
Effects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Effects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental impacts I am concerned about (e.g. water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town/Municipality
<u>E. Dandy Marsh land and especially sandhill cranes and plovers which use that land and fly over along & near to it</u>	<u>Vermont / Done Creek</u>
<u>Businesses impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.</u>	<u>Town/Municipality</u>
<u>Tyrol town is a hub of bikers and motorcyclists during summer, spring and fall, most of whom camp at Tyrol. Most of these people are attracted to Vermont, topography which would be disrupted by CHC</u>	<u>Vermont / Done Creek</u>
<u>Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)</u>	<u>Town/Municipality</u>

3. Energy Investment Priorities

	Agree	Disagree
a. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements in energy efficiency and local renewable energy over investments that create long term debt.	<u>Strongly</u>	
b. Investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations may be superior to investments in high voltage transmission. The Rural Utility Service (RUS) EIS conducted for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek proposal should include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non-transmission line alternatives.	<u>Strongly</u>	

Signature: [Signature] Date: Dec 29, 2016

I am aware that my comments and contact information may be included in the EIS report and confirm that only RUS may send me e-mail updates on Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project.
 [Attach any other comments which you may have on a separate page.]

Mr. and Mrs. J. David & Sandra Stanfield



RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comment
200 Bursca Drive
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

7-145357



Last Name STANFIELD First Name DAVID

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes No

As an electric customer, I much prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission. Therefore, I adamantly request that the Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Another negative impact I am concerned about is:

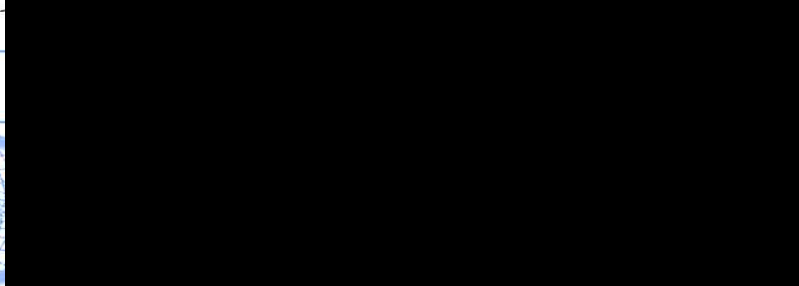
Signature David Stanfield Date 12-19-2016

RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

December 20, 2016
EIS Scoping Input

Please accept the enclosed seven (7) scoping input sheets. I personally observed and am acquainted with each of the signatories. Also please note the "energy investment priorities" the signers circled at the bottom of the page.

Thank you,



From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: OPPOSITION TO TRANSMISSION LINES/DRIFTLESS AREA
Date: Tuesday, January 03, 2017 11:46:59 AM

January 3, 2017

SWCA Environmental Consultants
200 Bursa Dr. Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Attn:Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS

I wish to state my opposition to the proposed transmission lines.
I live in the Driftless area and am constantly aware of how unique this area.
is geologically.

This proposal would destroy so many elements of this special place.
Others have written to you and stated the detailed reasons that we
feel this is totally unnecessary and destructive.

My intent with this letter is to add my voice of opposition to this proposal.
Please listen to our plea and DO NOT put up these power lines.

Thank you,
Sincerely,

Diane Angela Sterba
[REDACTED]

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by voicing your ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. These comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. If you prefer, you can submit comments via email to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

Against both Routes -
Especially Northern Route!

- Population not growing in this area -
+ won't as area is sold in acreage
parcels for single family dwellings.
 - Invasive species will be introduced.
 - Ancient Indian Mounds.
 - Frank Lloyd Wright Scenic drive area.
 - Interruption of Bird Flight patterns.
 - Natural old timber hardwoods will be
at risk, as well as freshwater streams.
 - (Power is already reliable!)
 - Visual eye-sore!
 - Expense of the varying elevations.
- Charmaine Stewart

From: [Roger-Gayl Stewart](mailto:Roger-Gayl.Stewart)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Opposition to Transmission Line
Date: Wednesday, December 28, 2016 9:50:51 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my concerns about the Cardinal/Hickory Creek Transmission Line Proposal.

Governor Dodge State Park is an aesthetic and recreational gem in the Driftless area of Wisconsin. This powerline passing near the entrance to the Park and the associated clearing of vegetation will negatively impact tourist's first impression of the Park. Tourism dollars are a large part of this economy.

A thorough study of the necessity of this power transmission line needs to be made. We have an Energy Star Home and receive 60 % of our power from Photovoltaic. Homeowners and businesses (Like EPIC in Verona, Wisconsin) should be encouraged to utilize more energy efficient buildings and more sustainable sources of electrical power at a lower cost both environmentally and economically.

Please consider less damaging alternatives that also protect the environment of this unique Driftless area.

Sincerely,
Gayl Stewart

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Driftless Spirit
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 1:10:09 PM
Attachments: [Untitled attachment 00704.sql](#)
[IMG_1370.JPG](#)
[Untitled attachment 00707.sql](#)
[IMG_1371.JPG](#)
[Untitled attachment 00710.sql](#)
[Untitled attachment 00713.sql](#)
[Untitled attachment 00716.sql](#)

Dear People,

I want to stand for the heart and soul of this special piece of the country, how the original land calls artists, writers, musicians to create and thrive.

Yes, there is the worry of electric towers causing cancer, the possibility of stray voltage disturbing livestock, but I ask, "What of the heart and soul of the peace and natural beauty of our home?"

If you live in Iowa County, Wisconsin, unless you have stock in Cardinal Hickory Creek, how does this project benefit you? Ugly towers scarring the beautiful hills, valleys, woods, prairies, pastures, lush crop rows; will we lose our hearts to wires? You will not receive power from these giant towers, but you will pay, for many years, to the power company to have them here. Why? So a few will be paid by us, we who will not use the power, for many years.

At the original meeting at the Dodgeville Bowl, over two years ago, I asked a dapper representative of the company how one or two of these towers on my 22 acres would effect the value of my property. He turned away with a wry smile and shrugged.

I leave you with a small sample of art and poetry of mine about this spiritual land...I can tell you many more stories, and show you better art and poetry by better artists and writers, but perhaps you can catch a bit of the magic of the Driftless Area, without a horrific line of towers.

Thank you for your concern,
Elizabeth Strand

[REDACTED]

Postage
Required

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.
Thank you for your assistance.

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name:

FRANK STRONCEK

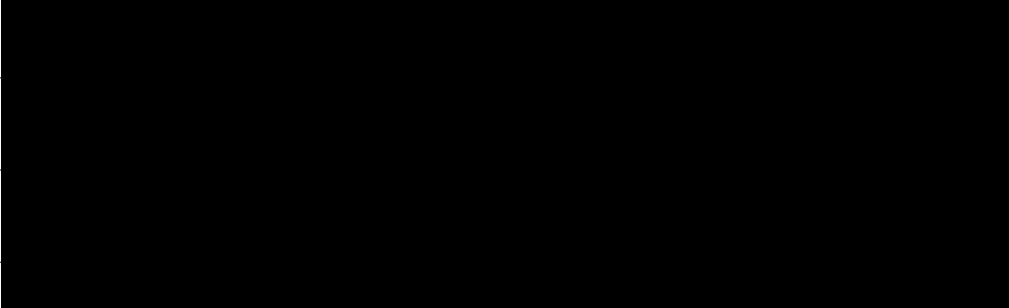
Organization (if any):

Seven Seeds Farm LLC

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:



Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

You are invited to participate in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process by voicing your ideas, suggestions, or concerns related to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. These comments will be considered as the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is developed. Feel free to attach additional sheets as needed. If you prefer, you can submit comments via email to: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us. The public scoping period ends on January 6, 2017.

Comments:

Our family is totally
opposed to this power line.
We run a sustainable organic
farm. Our organic certifier
told us we would lose any
organic land that would be
sprayed for weeds as the
power line could pass right
by us. It would be
a tragedy to lose our
farm.

Last Name STRONCEK First Name BREGRY

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Additional Information supplied for USDA/RUS
Environmental and Economic Impact
Statement Scoping Input.

Street _____
City _____

Years of residence in area: 12 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
OWNER OF SEVEN SEEDS ORGANIC FARM, ORAL AND MAXILLOFACIAL SURGEON - MADISON ORAL SURGERY AND DENTAL IMPLANTS.

1. I have marked impacts of concern regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats		Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals		Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	
Affects on Others Health		Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants		Compromises on Local Economy	
Affects on my Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl		Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water		Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

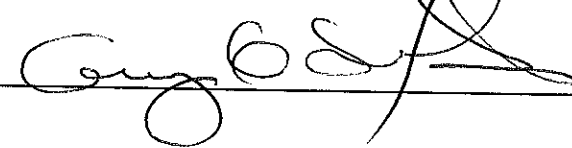
Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>ORGANIC PASTURED BASED SUSTAINABLE FARM ON BASED ON A SILVOPASTURE KEY LINE SYSTEM</u>	<u>TOWN OF Dodgeville</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>Seven seeds FARM LLC</u>	<u>TOWN OF Dodgeville</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in

3. Energy Investment Priorities
I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long term debt.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature  Date 11/1/14

Seven Seeds Farm cannot survive a passing ATC Cardinal Hickory transmission line

Our three generation family of five resides on my wife's family farm at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] We have chosen the name; Seven Seeds Farm, to represent our children's seven generation link to Ole Mickelson who began this family farm in the 1880's. The farm was conventionally managed until 2004 when my wife, Lea Dolan-Stroncek and I began the transition using sustainable and organic farming practices. Seven Seeds Farm began the pasture based journey with organic grass-fed beef, organic pastured hogs and organic pastured poultry and egg layers. All of our immediate family members and many other relatives have invested thier time and arduous labor in this difficult journey to establish a successful farm. In addition, Lea and I have invested much of our life's savings to repair the farm's infrastructure and provide the buildings and equipment to care for our animals and to create an on farm store. Over nine years the family team has painstakingly worked to establish Seven Seeds Farm store with items that we raise, a direct market meat business, a wholesale restaurant and grocery store component and agricultural-tourism for individuals and groups (school and cooperative members).

Most of our customers who visit our farm wish to see our animals, our re-established silvopasture model with 12,000 nut and fruit trees (which is a research site for the Savanna Institute), our 14 KV photovoltaic solar energy panels and two solar hot water arrays to heat our water and farm store. Our farm is a jewel in the area of sustainability and sound environmental practices. We are set up to sequester CO2 and reduce the world excess!!

The effect of the 17 story tall ATC transmission towers and power lines along County Road Z corridor would:

- 1.irreparably damage the landscape in the nationally treasured Driftless Area
- 2.detrimentally effect our organic and Animal Welfare Approved status close to the corridor as toxic prohibited spray would be used to kill vegetation

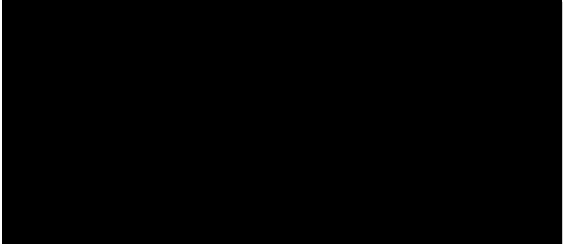
3. decrease our land and farm values
4. irreparably damage Seven Seeds farm's business
5. possibly detrimentally effect the Henslaw's Sparrow on the Federal species concern list as this is in the County Road Z corridor
6. be psychologically devastating for all our family members who choose this beautiful Driftless Area to spend the rest of our lives!
7. Increase CO2 with transmission expansion
8. needlessly increase our energy bills
9. effect other agricultural tourism in this corridor at Uplands Cheese and Taliesin (Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural school and home).

We ask that the USDA/RUS EIS include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives including accelerated spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local renewable energy.

Sincerely,

Gregory Stroncek DDS MS

Owner Seven Seeds Farm LLC



11/1/2016

OPPOSITION TO THE ATC CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK HIGH VOLTAGE
POWERLINE'S COORIDOR ON COUNTY ROAD Z IN IOWA COUNTY, WISC.

SWCA Environmental Consultants, Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS, 200 Bursa Dr. Suite 200,
Bridgeville, PA 15017 1/5/2017

To whom it may concern:

We live on the farm at [REDACTED]. Our farm, now called Seven Seeds Farm, has been in my wife's family for over 130 years. We have evolved to an organic pasture based farm, meaning that all our beef, hogs and chickens graze most of their life out doors. My wife's son, Michael Dolan co-leads an Iowa County conservation group that is implementing measures to control nutrient run off. Enclosed are photographs of our farm with our key-line system (1 % sloped ditches to control water) and our neighbors land showing erosion without conservation measures. Along the bottom of these ditches we have planted 12,000 perennial fruit and nut trees. Our farm is one of the largest in the United States to implement a restoration agricultural system using principals proposed by Mark Shepard and his book "Restoration Agriculture". Our farm is under a study from The Savannah Institute for the permaculture type system. We receive a significant amount of agri-tourism as a result of our restoration agricultural system and our farm produced organic meats available at our on farm store.

It would be a desecration of the land to bring the 15 plus story power lines which require a 300 foot corridor for toxic herbicide spray yearly along the lines passing by our farm. The high voltage power lines would be an "eye sore". The toxic spray would affect our organic status in land near the line and negatively affect our agri-tourism. We truly believe that this would be a most negative tipping point causing our business to fail. We in fact would consider selling the farm because of the passing high voltage line would not make it viable for us to continue living here for physical, emotional and psychological reasons.

We ask that this power line not be approved for any route as there is no increase in electricity demand over the past 10 years in this area and certainly request that the County Road Z corridor be dropped from consideration.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Gregory Stroneck DDS, MS

Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon, Co-owner of Seven Seeds LLC

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017







Postage
Required

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

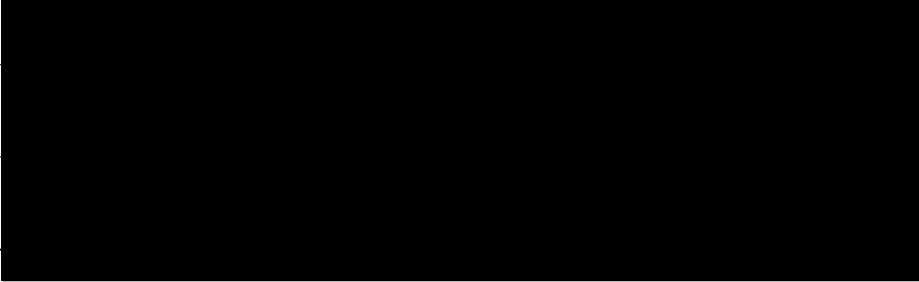
TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

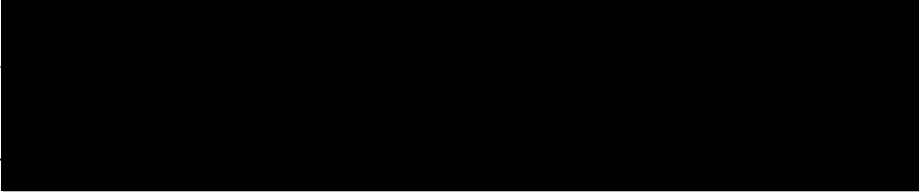
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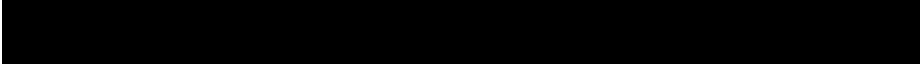
- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: GREGORY STRONCEK

Organization (if any): SEVEN SEEDS FARM LLC

Address: 

City/State/Zip: 

Email address: 

Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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Comments:

AS A LAND OWNER ON THE PROPOSED
COUNTY ROAD Z, I AM TOTALLY AGAINST THE
POWER LINE. WE HAVE AN ORGANICALLY
MANAGED FARM PRODUCING ORGANIC GRASS-
FEED BEEF, ORGANIC PASTURED CHICKEN AND
PORK. WE NOTATIONALLY GRAZE ~~THE~~
USING OUR 100 PLUS ACRES OF PASTURE.
OUR BUSINESS ALSO HAS AN ON
FARM STORE. THE PASSAGE OF
OF THE UNNECESSARY, COSTLY, ENVIRONMENTALLY
DAMAGING POWER LINE WOULD
DEVASTATE OUR BUSINESS AND POSSIBLY
CAUSE US TO MOVE OFF OUR
135 PLUS YEAR FAMILY FARM

From: Steve Stroncek
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Comments regarding Transmission Line Project
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 6:03:46 PM
Attachments: [Seven Seeds Farm Steve Stroncek 01_05_17.docx](#)

Hi,

Attached are my comments regarding the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project.

Regards,
Steve Stroncek

Postage
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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr..
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Thank you for your assistance.

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Steve Stroncek

Organization (if any);

Address:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Please note: Before including your address, telephone number, electronic mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comments, you should be aware that your entire comment (including your personal identifying information) may be made publicly available at any time. Although you can ask us in your comments to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

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Comments:

My comments are supportive of site - Seven Seeds Farm located at [REDACTED].

The need for a high voltage power line is not mine to question. Though, I understand that this power line is to be used for the benefit of areas not anywhere near the site (ie Chicago is the likely benefited recipient of the power line while the site in Spring Green bears the burden of the power line in fracture). It seems “unfair” for land owners in Wisconsin to suffer environmental and business damages for the benefit of Chicago.

The location of the high voltage power line is not appropriate for several reasons. First, the site is located in what many consider a very scenic area of Wisconsin, with the rolling hills and rivers. The area is scenic enough that Frank Lloyd Wright decided to build in the area many years ago. Tall high voltage towers located every several hundred yards would be intrusive to this scenery. Second, many studies have been conducted that question that safety of high voltage lines by homes. Third, as this site is an organic farm business, a portion of the property is likely to lose it’s organic status due to the towers, thus negatively impacting the business. Forth, property values will decrease if the power line is built. I have first-hand knowledge of a property owner in Lakeview, MN that has been negatively impacted by a high voltage power line and the company was forced to purchase his home due to the impact.

Finally, I believe the rational solution is to place any high voltage power line along established transportation/communication corridors. A high voltage power line was just completed from Monticello to close to Moorhead, MN; an approximate 200 mile length power line. This power line was placed along I-94. This seems like a sound solution that served well for both electrical power users and land owners across the Midwest.

From: Joan Stuessy
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Comment Letter on Proposed Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 10:56:53 AM
Attachments: [Transmission Line Letter January 6, 2017.pdf](#)

Hello, Here is our comment letter also attached in PDF Format.

=====

January 6, 2017

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants:

This letter is to comment on the new transmission line known as Cardinal Hickory Creek, that is being proposed near our home. Since 2006, we have lived at this address: [REDACTED].

We strongly oppose the proposed power line for the following reasons: 1) Lack of need, 2) Potential better alternatives, 3) Proposed routes conflict with Wisconsin Siting Standards, 4) Damage to vital conservation and natural resource areas, 5) negative economic impacts, 6) Farming concerns including stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).

We will address each of these concerns as it relates the most northern route/corridor which is currently being proposed in the driftless area. The proposed route also spans thousands of acres of currently undeveloped farmland and natural resource areas.

1) **Lack of need-** Demand for electricity has gone down in recent years due to industrial/manufacturing companies leaving Wisconsin as well as decreased demand due to conservation efforts. We feel further long term studies should be completed to determine if a true need exists.

2) **Potential better alternatives-** We feel if such a need is justified in the future, it

makes sense to propose the route to be along Highway 18/151 where distribution power lines already exist. This also provides easier access to install and maintain the transmission line, which would cost less to complete. The 18/151 corridor would be a more prudent utility investment.

3) **Proposed routes conflict with Wisconsin Siting Standards**-State law clearly intends that transmission avoid unnecessary impacts to the environment including natural and cultural resources and that new routes be created only as a last resort. The proposed line routes conflict with this intent. More information is described in the PSC document found at:

<http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric10.pdf>

4) **Damage to vital conservation and natural resource areas**- The proposed most northern route disturbs thousands of acres of farmland and forests, and would disrupt the scenic landscapes that are part of the historic area.

5) **Negative economic impacts**-The proposed transmission line would reduce property values, and stalls rural economic development. High voltage lines have a significant negative impact on property values.

6) **Farm Impacts including Stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields**-

According to the PSC report referenced and mentioned above: *“The placement of transmission structures can cause the following agricultural impacts:*

- a. *Create problems for turning field machinery and maintaining efficient fieldwork patterns;*
- b. *Increase soil erosion by requiring the removal of windbreaks that were planted along field edges or between fields;*
- c. *Create opportunities for weed and other pest encroachment;*
- d. *Compact soils and damage drain tiles;*
- e. *Result in safety hazards due to pole and guy wire placement;*
- f. *Hinder or prevent aerial spraying or seeding activities by planes or helicopters;*
- g. *Interfere with moving irrigation equipment;*
- h. *Hinder future consolidation of farm fields or subdividing land for residential development.”*
- i. **Stray voltage**- *“Stray voltage and its impacts on livestock and other confined animals have been studied in detail by state and federal agencies, universities, electric utilities, and numerous scientists since the late 1970s. The PSCW has opened investigations, encouraged the upgrade of rural distribution systems, established measurement protocols, and compiled a stray voltage database to track investigations, all in order to develop successful strategies for minimizing stray voltage in farm operations (<http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/electric/strayVoltage.htm>). Over the decades, significant resources have been allocated to understand this issue. Electrical systems, including farm systems and utility distribution. “*

Items mentioned above from the report significantly concern us. We have agricultural backgrounds and are concerned for the nearby large farm operations, which there are a number of large dairy and farmland

operations in the proposed northern corridor. There are thousands of acres of working farmland that would be destroyed by the construction of this power line. There have been studies that stray voltage has caused problems and the transmission lines also have been known to interfere with GPS systems used on tractors. This GPS technology is very expensive for farmers. The best solution is not to build a power line anywhere near a farm to alleviate these concerns including stray voltage potential.

We are most concerned that the northern most corridor would be the most expensive and not be a prudent utility investment. With the purchase of easements, and also the rugged terrain in remote territory, it doesn't make sense for this most northern route. This proposed route doesn't have easy access for installation or maintaining of the power lines. The proposed most northern route covers thousands of acres of uncharted territory, (compared to existing corridors Hwy 18/151).

We would like confirmation of this response and would appreciate updates to the proposal.

Sincerely,

Joan Stuessy and Walter Barger

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Mark Sturnick



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JAN 09 2017

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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Thank you for your assistance.

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: Mark Sturnick

Organization (if any):

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

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Mark Sturnick

Public Scoping Period Comment Card
Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service

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Comments:

I write in opposition to all Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Projects. They are not needed thanks to increased efficiency; and conservation has the potential to reduce power needs even more. I have reduced my electrical use from 600 kwh/mo, to 200 kwh/mo at home here in the Town of Moscow over the last 25 years. This is a large, harmful project on a fragile landscape. Please knock-off this nonsense and join the efficiency and conservation movements. Do it for my grandchildren and yours. No to Cardinal-Hickory Creek. No-no-no. Sincerely,
Mark Sturnick Mark Sturnick

From: Sullivan Denise
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Cc: [Town Springdale of](#)
Subject: Public Input on Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project (for EIS)
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 12:58:40 AM

My husband and I are very strongly opposed to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project for many reasons. We own property and live in the Town of Springdale and the revised preliminary corridor for the power line runs through our property and home at [REDACTED]. Our family also owns land in Vermont Township, and we are affected by the proposed corridor there as well. I also serve on the Town of Springdale Plan Commission and also worked on the Town of Springdale Comprehensive Planning Committee on the 25 year Smart Growth plan for our township.

We not only oppose the proposed routes for this power line, but oppose any additional high voltage power lines in this part of the state. Electricity demand in the Midwest has been declining recently while at the same time, Wisconsin utilities have been increasing charges for a growing transmission system. We are already paying some of the highest rates in the Midwest. We should meet future needs by continuing to improve energy efficiency and investing in community solar and wind facilities. The money we spend should stay here to create local jobs and lower emissions more efficiently. We also feel that in these times of daily hacking of computerized systems and terrorism, less centralized energy generation will be less vulnerable to large scale sabotage.

Both the law and the good of our environment demand that we use alternatives to this environmentally destructive power line. Construction of the line will do permanent damage to the land, and the harm would be ongoing with the use of cutting and herbicides to control vegetation. Fragmentation of forests will decrease plant diversity and reduce habitat for native species.

On our land alone there is a stream that runs into the Sugar River, animal dens, resident Barred Owls, Redtail Hawks, Coopers and Sharpshinned hawks, and migrating Sandhill Cranes, as well as many other smaller migrating songbirds and resident birds and mammals. The Driftless Area provides habitat for species that are declining and the remaining native grassland remnants need to be protected. The creation of corridors for this power line will also introduce invasive species as well as predators of native birds. In addition, there are cattle grazing on the land that this proposed corridor runs through.

We and several other families who also live in this proposed corridor have chosen to live here because of the natural beauty and peace and quiet that this place provides. We have worked hard on our land to restore that areas that were originally prairie and oak savanna. Many people in our township have also worked hard to help preserve the rural and agricultural character of this place. We strive to keep this a healthy place to live and work and are very concerned about the effects of the electromagnetic fields and herbicide drift.

As stockholders of Madison Gas and Electric, we oppose MG&E funds being spent on an unnecessary and damaging power line. We believe many other stockholders would feel this way if they had knowledge of how much it will cost. In addition, the corporate goals of XCELL energy shouldn't be allowed to push this power line through the Driftless Area to the detriment of all of it's residents.

The Military Ridge Rail Trail runs through the proposed corridor in the Town of Springdale, as well as a historic monument that is accessed off of Norwegian Trail. The historic Springdale Lutheran Church and cemetery would also be impacted by what would be a huge eyesore. We feel that this project would significantly decrease our property values, as well as that of everyone else living in the proposed corridor. It would also impact the value of places where future growth has

been planned (e.g. a school for the Mt. Horeb School District).

Respectfully,

Denise M Sullivan and Bernard J Schmelzer

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JAN 05 2017

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SWCA Environmental Consultants
Attn: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
200 Bursca Dr.
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

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Thank you for your assistance.

- Please add my name to the mailing list.
- Please withhold my name and/or address from the public record (see disclaimer below).
- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name: PHILIP L. SULLIVAN + JOAN B. SULLIVAN

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

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Public Scoping Period Comment letter 12/27/2016, from Philip L. Sullivan and Joan B. Sullivan,
[REDACTED]

We are strongly opposed to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project because:

1. It is not needed and would be waste of resources. Demand for electricity in Wisconsin has been flat or declining in recent years. Even the inadequate planning documents submitted to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission projected no or minimum growth, and any future needs can be met through increased energy efficiency, proper load management on the grid, and local renewable power options.
2. As federal and Wisconsin taxpayers we strongly oppose government money being wasted on this unneeded and destructive project. There are plenty of REAL needs in this country.
3. As stockholders in Madison Gas and Electric, one of the owners of the American Transmission Company, we strongly oppose MGE funds being wasted on this unneeded and destructive project. We believe the stockholders in all of ATC's owning companies would also oppose this project if they knew how unnecessary it is, and how much it would cost stockholders.
4. As property owners of Managed Forest acreage in Vermont Township of Dane County, WI, we strongly oppose the destructive construction of ATC's monstrous transmission towers, damaging the watersheds, the animal and bird habitats including those of declining species, fragmenting the forests, and forever despoiling and degrading the magnificent and fragile Driftless Area of Dane County and the surrounding countryside.
5. As property owners in Vermont Township of Dane County, we also strongly oppose the ATC high voltage project because it would greatly threaten property values throughout the area and add to residents health concerns. Just the construction alone would do permanent damage to the land, and there would be further harm because of ongoing vegetation control under the lines by cutting and herbicides, resulting in herbicide drift. This is not an acceptable risk.
6. Law, regulations and the good of the planet call for serious consideration of alternatives to this environmentally destructive project. The utilities that own the American Transmission Company should be required to do much better at conservation, better management of the grid, and supporting energy efficiency and renewable options like solar and wind power generation before being allowed to go ahead with the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project.
7. XCELL Energy is pushing hardest for this project, probably to expand their territory and meet their renewable portfolio by pumping in wind farm energy from western states (instead of meeting the intention of the EPA rules for utilities' creating renewables locally). Their corporate goals should not drive the construction of this ATC project to the serious disadvantage of Wisconsin's beautiful Driftless Area and the included watersheds and wildlife. If XCELL chooses to enlarge their Hickory Creek Substation, and build an unneeded new substation near Montfort, they should not be allowed to do it on the backs of the residents and property owners along the proposed routes.

Thank you for your consideration,
Philip L Sullivan Joan B Sullivan

8. Safety issues loom as well. We have heard that some possible routings include individual right angle turns or a succession of right angle turns, and that such turns are less stable.

9. We're also concerned that in our age of terrorist threats, a huge interconnected regional/national grid is much more subject to wide-reaching sabotage. As well as being safer, decentralized energy generation would better support local economies, provide local employment, and minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts.

10. Both of the routes currently being proposed are unacceptable to the Wisconsinites who will bear the brunt of the negative results of this project.

From: Juniper Sundance
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: CHC comments for RUS EIS
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 11:49:51 AM
Attachments: [ATC-EIS comments.pdf](#)

Hello, rather than use one of your forms, I am attaching my letter of comments on the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project, with the same copied below in case your system doesn't like attachments.

Sincerely,
Juniper Sundance

[REDACTED]

re: EIS Scoping Input Cardinal Hickory Creek

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a homeowner in the Town of Clyde, WI. As a person who believes strongly in the necessity to decrease our energy dependence on centralized sources, I have installed a 4kW PV system on my roof. It is currently tied in to the utility grid, but I am also looking at new developing technology & protocols which allow distributed storage of excess PV energy which can later be drawn upon by the utility company (this is more than simply a battery for my own energy use). I have also assisted my mother in becoming a member of Legacy Solar Co-op, where she can help finance non-profits, businesses and individuals in installing solar in Dane County and surrounding area.

I have some questions that I would like addressed, interspersed with my comments:

1. Will the EIS conduct and include a comprehensive analysis of non-transmission alternatives such as accelerated energy efficiency, load management and development of local renewable power? Have you contacted renewable energy businesses in the affected counties for their input?
2. Will the EIS study the use of targeted energy efficiency, load management and community solar to prolong the lifespan of the smaller "reliability" transmission lines that the applicants have identified?
3. Will the EIS study and compare the impacts *on local economies* of the high voltage transmission line verses the impacts of accelerated spending on accelerated energy efficiency, load management tools and development of local renewable power?

A case cannot be made for the need for the transmission line in the interests of energy security when the US Department of Defense itself is investing in renewable, dispersed storage energy. A case cannot be made for "public benefit" when the energy usage of the affected area has been decreasing over the last 10 years due to conservation and energy efficiency installations as well as renewable energy installations. A benefit of profitability for a company, even for a utility company, is not a public benefit when the customers end up paying the costs.

4. Will the EIS study the impact of increased utility rates on customers of the utility companies? We have already seen companies request rate increases many times because of "increased costs", yet why should the customers be the ones to foot the cost of a poor business decision in the building of an underused, unneeded transmission line?
5. Have you or your colleagues determined the economic activities that are currently bringing in new revenue and growing the tax base in rural local economies in WI? I

encourage you to look at the economic study funded by the Wisconsin Towns Association which found that the development of retirement housing in areas of natural beauty is a large driver of new revenue. http://bit.ly/WTA_Econ_Study

6. What impacts on local economies do you plan to evaluate? Will you compare local economic impacts on tourism from the high voltage transmission line and those from investments in energy efficiency and other non-transmission alternatives?
7. Have EIS researchers studied how energy dollars have been spent in Wisconsin in recent years? Are you aware that this transmission line would be the eight high capacity line added in 10 years? Are you aware that WI spends much less on energy efficiency compared to adjacent states,..(under \$1 a month compared to 2-3 times this amount for MN, IL and MI)
8. Will the EIS conduct independent analysis for up to date load forecasts or rely on utility projections? If you plan to rely on utility data, please explain this choice.
9. To what extent will the EIS use field workers to collect actual, on site environmental and economic data?

I have volunteered since 2014 surveying rare plants for the WI DNR Natural Heritage Inventory. I know other friends who have volunteered in grassland bird surveys and Dry Prairie habitat surveys. I can see that the current proposed route carefully avoids or circumscribes most State Natural Areas. However birds, insects, plants and animals do not restrict themselves to our artificial boundaries.

Additionally, by having detrimental infrastructures near existing habitat, the increase and expansion of rare or endangered species is hampered.

10. One of the proposed routes cuts into Belmont Prairie SNA. Study the environmental impact of a high voltage transmission line on the grassland species, including the listed species Dickcissel, upland sandpiper, Bell's Vireo, and grasshopper sparrow.
11. Proposed routes will be easily visible from Military Ridge State Trail, Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area, and Governor Dodge State Park, all of which have been enjoyed by my family. Study the impact on recreational use of these areas, and it's associated economic impact of decreased use on the local communities.
12. A transmission line has impacts beyond the construction period. What are the environmental impacts of methods of maintaining the line (e.g. controlling tree growth), or accessing off-road lines for repair during storm events?
13. The Barneveld area has suffered major tornado damage in the past. What is the likelihood of damage to the transmission line during a similar windstorm? If the line were damaged, what are the risks of injuries to nearby residents, or to their livestock?
14. Will the EIS consider, and request input from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, complete and appropriate environmental impacts on the Mississippi River Flyway, a major migratory route, which the proposed line will cross?
15. Will the EIS consider climate change and increased flooding (and consequent damage) on the infrastructure, especially as it crosses the Mississippi River?
16. The security of the grid is dependent on its vulnerable cyber network for management and control. Will the EIS study the ability of the infrastructure to preclude interruptions from cyber, Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP), or other actions resulting from manmade or natural disasters?

From: [Connie Swanson](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Transmission Line Project
Date: Sunday, December 18, 2016 3:02:20 PM
Attachments: [Transmission line reply.docx](#)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing because I am very concerned about the impact on the environment regarding the cardinal-hickory creek transmission line project.

The proposed area is so beautiful! It has virgin woods, great rock out cropping's and a lot of wildlife. It would be a shame to ruin the homes and the homes of the wildlife. People move out in the country to get away from the city and the big city noises. We only want to see natural beauty and hear nature sounds. We do NOT want to see big ugly transmission lines and listen to the humming noise that comes from them.

Iowa County and Dane County have many endangered/threatened etc. species. The Northern long-eared bat, whooping crane, Higgins eye pearly mussel, sheepnose, Hine's emerald dragonfly, mead's milkweed, Prairie bush-clover, eastern prairie fringed orchid and the cricket frog just to name a few.

If the transmission lines are put up, the ground underneath them will be full of chemicals that kill the plants which will run into other parts of the woods and could contaminate the resident's well water along with harming the plants and wildlife.

I do not see a need for this transmission line. It seems it would be more harmful to our world than helpful.

Sincerely,

Connie Swanson

Oct. 2, 2016

Members of the RUS Committee,

Accepting the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line only rewards the corporate stockholders, and coal burning, carbon spewing generating plants while we, the people, all wait for the resulting climate changing effects for the whole world. Money and profits for a very few should NOT be able to mar the environmental, economic, social and climatic problems for everyone else!

This new, proposed transmission line will slow the growth of sustainable energy resources for years to come as electric companies will lower the cost per kilowatt hour but continually raise monthly fees. Instead, Dairyland Power should use their federal loan to provide broadband internet for all of S. W. Wisconsin. Then they would be doing something actually beneficial for everyone!

WAKE UP BIG BUSINESS. WE DON'T WANT YOU!

Dean Swenson
Dean Swenson



Last Name Swenson First Name Dean

[] Individual [X] Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

Street Address [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED] Email [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

Years of residence in area: 79 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
Mail to: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017
Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Deadline: January 6, 2017

1. I have marked impacts that concern me regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	<input type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	<input type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input type="checkbox"/>

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
<i>CHC's path covers beautiful family farms that provide a living for many. Farms will be divided where ever it passes. Local healthy food is a product of small farms + entrepreneurs.</i>	<i>Arena Twp</i>
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<i>I believe all businesses and all property values will be negatively affected by ugly power towers.</i>	<i>Arena Twp</i>
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality

3. Energy Investment Priorities

- A. I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long-term debt.
- B. I oppose all high voltage transmission options as they would inherently detract from the natural environment and local economies. Should any electrical need be determined, I support a blend of minimal impact alternatives such as targeted energy efficiency, modern load management and distributed generation including solar-support at existing substations.
- C. I request that the Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of the lowest impact alternatives. The dollar amount applied to non-transmission investment options, studied alone and in combination, should equal the total cost of the high voltage transmission option assumed by all electric customers over 40 years including construction, financing, operation, maintenance and depreciation.

Signature Dean Swenson Date 1-2-17

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
JAN 09 2017

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comment
200 Bursca Drive
Suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017

Last Name Swenson First Name Dean

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street _____

City _____

Notify me by email Yes / No

As an electric customer, I much prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations instead of high voltage transmission. Therefore, I adamantly request that the Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Another negative impact I am concerned about is:

Price of KWH will stay steady BUT
Service charges will sky rocket
To pay stock holders continuous profits.

Signature Dean Swenson

Date 12-27-16

Nov. 2, 2016

Dear RUS Committee Members

I have the good fortune to live in the beautiful, ecologically important Driftless Area (a MOST unique eco-region!) here in Arena Township. Our family has lived, worked and farmed here since 1937 and we appreciate our beautiful rolling hills, the farmlands, forests, waterways and the wildlife we see here every day. For many reasons our area's economy now depends on both farming and, now even more heavily on tourism. For both to continue to flourish we need:

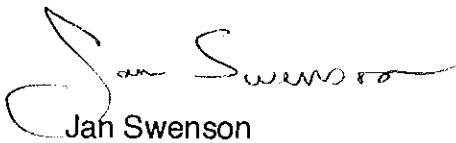
- *Farmland with usable, clean water,
- *Clean streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands
- *Plentiful wildlife habitat
- *Healthy forested areas
- *Protection of the aesthetic and recreation values throughout the area

How can you possibly be considering building huge transmission towers for miles right through the heart of this area? Just imagine how you would be devastating the midwest's most unique eco-region and our special scenic landscape!

Personally, I do not feel that a new power line is warranted at this time as demand for electricity in most of the midwest is either flat or declining. How about considering instead using some non-transmission alternatives like solar and wind generation which could be built and serviced in our local communities?

I also fear that if the towers are built we will face increased energy rates, reduced land values, higher taxes and loss of local control of our energy sources. Big business is in this to make money NOT to provide a service for our area!

In closing:" DO NOT build the towers here...or anywhere as far as I'm concerned.


Jan Swenson



RECEIVED
DEC 27 2016

December 20, 2016
EIS Scoping Input

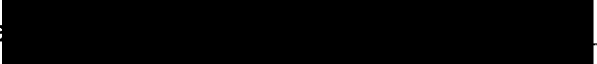
Please accept the enclosed seven (7) scoping input sheets. I personally observed and am acquainted with each of the signatories. Also please note the "energy investment priorities" the signers circled at the bottom of the page.

Thank you,



Last Name Swenson First Name Paul

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street 

City  Notify/update me via email Yes / No

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
Mail to: SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridgeville, PA 15017
Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 28 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

1. I have marked impacts that concern me regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	Loss of Environmental Assets	Loss of Tourism Related Business
Loss of Business Income	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
Effects on My Personal Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	Conflicts with My Energy Goals
Effects on Others Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	Compromises on Local Economy
Effects on My Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Location by Municipality
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality

3. Energy Investment Priorities

- A) I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investment in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increase dependency on utilities and create long-term debt.
- B) I oppose all high voltage transmission options as they would inherently detract from the natural environment and local economies. Should any electrical need be determined, I support a blend of minimal impact alternatives such as targeted energy efficiency, modern load management and distributed generation including solar-support at existing substations.
- C) I request that the Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of the lowest impact alternatives. The dollar amount applied to non-transmission investment options, studied alone and in combination, should equal the total cost of the high voltage transmission option assumed by all electric customers over 40 years including construction, financing, operation, maintenance and depreciation.

Signature Paul Swenson Date 3 Dec 16
I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

RECEIVED
JAN 05 2017

December 28, 2016

SWCA Environmental Consultants
Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
200 Bursca Drive suite 207
Bridheville, PA 15017

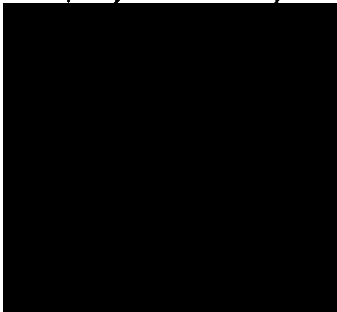
TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Enclosed are 9 signed EIS Scoping forms that were filled by residents of Wyoming Township, Iowa County, WI. The proposed Northern route for the CHC transmission line runs across this Township. Based on feedback, most Township residents are opposed to this Northern route because this is a rural region that is located in the heart of the unglaciated Driftless region of the Midwest. Its economy is dependent on tourism and recreation. Running 15-18 story transmission towers across this region would ruin its scenic beauty and endanger fragile plant and animal species.

If possible, please send me an email to acknowledge receipt of these RIS forms. You can also contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely yours,


Mary M Kritz



Last Name SYMON HANSON First Name JUDITH

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

Years of residence in area: 26 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

volunteer, tour guide TALIESIN

EIS Scoping Input

Mail to: **Cardinal Hickory Creek**
 SWCA Environmental Consultants
 Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS Comments
 200 Bursca Drive suite 207
 Bridheville, PA 15017

Or scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

1. I have marked impacts of concern regarding the high voltage transmission option:

Loss of Property Value	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of Tourism Related Business	
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	
Affects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on my Livestock	Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	

2. Itemized concerns I have about the high voltage transmission proposal:

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>They have permission to apply pesticides along the route. I worry about pollinating insect survival.</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>These towers will be in view of many tourist business areas, might cross local farms removing pasture and forage cropland.</u>	<u>Iowa County</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in

3. Energy Investment Priorities

4. As an electric customer, I prefer investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar support at substations instead of high voltage transmission and request that the EIS include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non transmission alternatives.

Agree	Disagree
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Signature [Signature] Date 11/26/2016

I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

JUDITH SYMON HANSON