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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

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.
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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:

Organization (if any):

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:

I am so tired of big companies, literally bullying people, just for their own profit without any consideration for the land, the beauty of the driftless area, the local people will not even benefit from this transmission line. It is not needed. Only the the company profits. Stop them from constructing this high voltage transmission line through this sacred & beautiful land.
Cynthia A. Taylor

The following information is provided for the purpose of the audit:
 The company has been established in the State of New York.
 The company is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.
 The company is engaged in the business of providing services to its customers.
 The company has a number of employees who are employed on a full-time basis.
 The company has a number of assets which are owned by the company.
 The company has a number of liabilities which are owed by the company.
 The company has a number of shareholders who own shares of the company.
 The company has a number of directors who are responsible for the management of the company.
 The company has a number of officers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company.
 The company has a number of employees who are employed on a part-time basis.
 The company has a number of assets which are owned by the shareholders.
 The company has a number of liabilities which are owed by the shareholders.
 The company has a number of shareholders who own shares of the company.
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 The company has a number of officers who are responsible for the day-to-day operations of the company.

The following information is provided for the purpose of the audit:
 The company has been established in the State of New York.
 The company is a corporation organized under the laws of the State of New York.
 The company is engaged in the business of providing services to its customers.
 The company has a number of employees who are employed on a full-time basis.
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Last Name Taylor First Name Cyathia

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

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street _____
 City _____

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

Years of residence in area: 7 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
tour guide at Pendarvis Historical Site

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

Loss of Property Value	Loss of Environmental Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss of Tourism Related Business	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Loss of Business Income	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	<input type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	<input type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Compromises on Local Economy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects of Electromagnetic Fields & Noise	Effects on Surface & Ground Water	<input checked="" 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 am opposed to the construction of the power line because it will destroy the beauty of the area involved. The tax payers

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. Location by Municipality

will not benefit. They do not need it. Alternative energy should be studied & used if needed.

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) Location by Municipality

The ATC must be stopped. Tourism wild life, and the environment in general belong to people here, not companies!

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 Cyathia A. Taylor Date 12/27/16

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



David Reinhart <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>

Cardinal-Hickory Creek Public Scoping Comment

2 messages

Mon, Dec 26, 2016 at 3:06 PM

Reply-to: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us

National Environmental Policy Act comments regarding the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project.

First Name: Charlene

Last Name: Taymor

Email: [REDACTED]

Comments: I am concerned about the impacts the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project will have on our local wildlife and environment. Vermont has wonderful cold water creeks and adjacent wetlands that are home to native brook trout and endangered species such as Blanchard's Cricket Frog and Blanding's Turtle. The transmission line would also impact habitat areas of oak savannas which are home to bird species like Loggerhead Shrike, Henslow Sparrows, and a variety of neo tropicals that use the township as a summer home. Butterflies like the Regal fritillary and Karner blue are seen in the uplands and wetlands that could be damaged by the clearcutting necessary for the installation on these huge towers. The hawks and eagles that regularly hunt over the Driftless cliffs here can be killed or hurt impacting the towers or lines.

I am concerned about the lack of alternative energy options being considered in the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. Large scale energy transmission ties us to the use of out-of-state power generation and overlooks the better option of local alternative power generation and conservation measures. I have also seen studies that show flat or declining energy use in our area.

Comments <comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us>
To: Adrian Hogel <AHogel@swca.com>

Thu, Jan 19, 2017 at 2:41 PM

[Quoted text hidden]

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line comments
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 3:44:15 PM

I'm writing to submit my comments on the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project and what I learned at the Public Scoping Meeting in Barneveld.

I could not approve of this project until an analysis has been done comparing the full costs of this project and its benefits compared with other energy options such as distributed energy from renewable sources and improved energy efficiencies conservation practices - which are proving so successful in our neighboring states.

Any attempt to rush this project through benefits ONLY the investors who hold shares of ATC, ITC and others. It will unnecessarily burden those who much use and pay for this transmission line.

ENVIROMENTAL CONCERNS:

I also want to address the potential environmental issues of this project. There is no way to run a construction and maintenance project of this magnitude through the fragile environment of the Driftless Area without doing irreparable harm.

Because of its geological history as the only area in this region that was not affected by the last three glaciers, four state departments of natural resources in the area have identified the Driftless Area as the most important ecological region in the Midwest. This transmission line would slash through delicately balanced micro-ecosystems that work together to create the area's unique environment. There is no method to repair the damage that would be done by destroying habitat and creating runways for invasive animals and plants that would destroy the rare systems that have evolved there over thousands of years,

We need to find alternative ways to genuinely serve the electric energy needs of this area. The Driftless Area is too valuable and too vulnerable for the installation of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONCERNS:

The Driftless Area depends significantly on its scene beauty to draw tourists to the area. A great many of them are people who are looking for a respite from their urban lives. The untouched, natural beauty would be destroyed if transmission poles and their lines were dwarfing the trees below them and disfiguring the breathtaking landscape for the foreseeable future. Many business and residents would suffer, and tourists would lose a valuable natural getaway. These are serious losses.

Please be very thorough as you analyze these crucial environmental, social and economic concerns and protect the Driftless Area.

Please add my name to your email list for responses and updates.

Sincerely,

Denise Thornton
[REDACTED]

“The wealth of the nation is its air, water, soil, forests, minerals, rivers, lakes, oceans, scenic beauty, wildlife habitats and biodiversity... that's all there is. That's the whole economy. That's where all the economic activity and jobs come from. These biological systems are the sustaining wealth of the world.” Gaylord Nelson

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Comments:

Against both proposed 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.

M. Todd
Melissa Todd

From: darren tremelling
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal - Hickory Creek Comments
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 11:21:41 PM

The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project is identified as a multi-benefit project. This designation includes reliability, economic, and public policy benefits. The public policy benefit aspect distinguishes this project as multi-benefit. The project context allows for wind generation in Iowa and nearby regions access to eastern power markets. Historically, costs of wind generation is higher than traditional fossil generation, and continue to be, considering the capacity factors of this intermittent generation. However, if renewable energy is the goal of the public policy, costs, capabilities, and predictability of solar become more interesting than wind. Module and inverter costs have significantly dropped in these last years. This resource is intermittent, as wind, but solar will be economically deployable at local and bulk power scales. Coinciding with surprising reductions in battery costs, the solar resource greatly diminishes the assumption in the public policy that wind is the only large scale renewable resource available in the Midwest. Therefore, a portion of project motivation is based on suspect assumptions, requiring review of project justification.

A variety of factors place in question the assumption of increasing electrical loads in the mid-term. The emergence of LED lighting provides possibility of wide scale load reductions, in conjunction to closure of large scale industrial plants such as Oscar Mayer in Madison. Longer term, there is a question of grid loading posed by electrical vehicles, which have proven to be a broader market niche than earlier anticipated. Considering again battery cost reductions, use of electrical vehicles may provide significant load increases in the decades ahead on the electrical grid.

In respect to reliability, there is little question that the southwest portion of Wisconsin is devoid of significant transmission capabilities, but of limited generation and load presence, so larger scale transmission is not locally needed. At a state level, significant differences in electrical costs across the MISO territory exist. As the majority of the MISO benefit is footprint diversity which the transmission grid enables, buildout of the grid does make sense on a large scale. However, choice of 345 kV limits overall grid capabilities, while impacting greater areas for equivalent power transmission.

Considering known and unknown costs and benefits, a more serious consideration of 765 kV system buildout presently terminating in Chicago may make more sense than the piecemeal buildout of the 345 kV system. This higher voltage system would then allow for greater and more efficient bulk power transfer, allowing greater flexibility in siting fossil and other generation types. This approach would also give credibility to an organization coordinating electrical power transmission in regions from Canada to the Gulf Coast, without significant capability to wheel power across this corridor, as well as transport between these distant regions.

Routes should remain to be sited with priority of existing utility corridors, then transport corridors, other corridors, and after these opportunities are exhausted, virgin corridors.

Overall impacts during construction such as access roads, soil compaction, and clearing right of way are to accurately viewed, in addition to longer term view of corridor maintenance. As development commonly occurs around exiting corridors, taller towers may help mitigate concerns of electromagnetic fields as well as sound to those in closest proximity to the lines. As transmission lines carry fiber optic cables along grounding conductors, utilizing corridor to provide for fiber optic access may provide local benefit to those affected by line siting. Thus, those effected no longer see the line as a local cost for a societal benefit, but the line as providing access to the world beyond. Broadband access may be provided in this way, ironically, as the transmission line cannot provide this direct access to the electrical grid.

Darren D. Tremelling, PhD

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [John Troy](mailto:John.Troy)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Opposition to High Tension Wires
Date: Friday, December 02, 2016 2:24:54 PM

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the high tension wire project being planned through the driftless area of Spring Green/Dodgeville, WI. In the spring of 2016 I purchased a home at 5194 North Clayhill Road, Spring Green WI. A proposed route for the high tension wires would be in close proximity to my home and would greatly affect the value of my home. Furthermore, these high tension wires would have a negative impact on the environment and surrounding beauty of the landscape. Lastly, these lines are not economically warranted and the dribbles area would be negatively impacted without any benefit.

For all the foregoing reasons I respectfully request that this project be denied the necessary approvals and discontinued.

--

John Troy
Assistant Superintendent of Business &
General Counsel
Minooka Community High School District 111

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From: [Christine Tsubokura](mailto:Christine.Tsubokura)
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: American Transmission power line
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 1:45:40 PM

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants,

I am writing out of concern for the proposed American Transmission power line. I support efforts to not have it go through the heart of the Driftless Area, which includes where I live in Iowa County.

I have lived in Iowa County for over 35 years. When I first arrived, after growing up in California, I went looking for the spectacular natural beauty I grew up with. But there were no towering Sierra Nevadas, or breathtaking Highway 101 coastlines in Iowa County. It took some time for me to recognize and appreciate the quiet, important, understated beauty of the Driftless Area. I have come to feel strongly that it must be preserved. I continue to learn about the wildlife and the unique ecology of the area beyond the visual beauty.

I also recognize that the Driftless Area depends economically on attracting tourism to outdoor activities/recreation, as well as attracting real estate opportunities to live in this unique area. This is a poor, rural area, and any decrease in its economy, which is fragile at best, will affect and hurt many people.

To destroy the integrity of the Driftless Area in order to erect a 17-story power line that is not even necessary is a travesty. It is my understanding that we do not need the extra power because electricity usage has been flat or decreasing throughout the upper Midwest. Also, renewable resources have increased, and clean energy programs are being met with success. Therefore, there are less damaging clean energy alternatives.

More than ever, I ask that the environmental impact statement consider a vision beyond the immediate, commercial interests, and plan for current and future generations. This is a shared obligation we have at this time in history.

So I ask, for a thoughtful, and future looking vision when you consider this proposal.

Sincerely,
Christine Tsubokura, LCSW

Sent from my iPad

11/2/16

Thirty years ago - on this very date Nov. 2, 1986 my late wife Karen and I moved to this area from Illinois. Over the years we owned a number of properties in Mineral Point and rural Dodgeville. For 17 years we had a place next to Governor Dodge Park on 5 beautifully wooded acres.

Over the years, any visitors we had marvelled at this area around the park and the incredible beauty of the majestic hills extending north to Spring Green.

Today we are given the opportunity to voice our opposition to a project which would surely violate this area in which we live.

Potential loss of tourism dollars, property values and also the burden of a guaranteed 10.2% annual profit for ATC which would be foisted on the local power customers are important to consider.

Most important to me is the loss and effects to important habitats of plants and animals - many of which are endangered.

This meeting today should have been delayed until a time when adequate public information had been distributed to all our citizens and interested, and affected parties in our area.

I trust and hope that there will be future meetings for greater participation of those who deserve this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Carl Tunestam

CARL TUNESTAM

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 5:55:44 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a farmer in Iowa County, and our family farm and home is near the route of the proposed transmission line. I have several concerns about the impacts of the proposed line which I hope to see addressed in the Environmental Impact Statement. These concerns include:

Economic Impacts

- 1) How much of the cost of the new infrastructure will be passed along to rate payers? How much can I expect my utility rates to increase?
- 2) How would such a line impact property values, especially those less than 5 miles from the proposed route?
- 3) Farms adjacent to other regional transmission lines have been negatively impacted by stray voltage. Please calculate economic impacts from lost dairy production and assess plans by the developer to avoid such impacts.
- 4) The Driftless Area is a unique landscape that draws substantial income from tourism. Please assess the impact on tourism revenue of such a transmission line.

Environmental Impacts

- 1) The Driftless Area has lots of high quality grassland, savanna and woodland habitat which is home to numerous threatened and endangered species. I am very concerned about damaging impacts of building a large new transmission line on these sensitive species and habitats. What specific efforts in the routing and design of the line can be taken to minimize damage to the environment? What threatened and endangered species reside in the impact area of the transmission line and how will it impact their habitat?

Need/Alternatives

- 1) I would like to see details on alternatives such as local power generation or upgrading existing lines considered. Is a large new transmission line truly, demonstrably necessary? Please publish the assumptions for load growth and local renewable energy production costs. I am under the impression that there is no load growth on the horizon in Wisconsin and that local renewable energy production is cost-competitive with imported wind from other states. I would like this thoroughly analyzed by the decision-makers and permitting authorities.

Thank you for consideration of these thoughts.

Sincerely,

Eric Udelhofen

Last Name _____ First Name _____

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

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Email _____

Notify/update me via email Yes / No

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

EIS Scoping Input
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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on My Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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Effects on My Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input checked="" 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
	Town of Dodgeville Wisconsin
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
We have lots of tourism	Town of Dodgeville
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
Cancers miscarriage leukemia tumors	

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 *[Signature]* 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

From: Ruth Ruppna
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: The ATC line
Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2016 6:38:33 PM

The ATC line from Dubuque to Middleton is not needed !!!

--

There's a better way forward to supply the energy we need for a healthy, prosperous future in the Driftless Area. Let's build that future together. Thank you .

Ruth C Uppena



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- Please add my name to the mailing list.
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- I prefer to be updated by email.

Name:

I M. VanSicklen family
Registered at the door

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State:

Email address:

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Comments:

I own (with my wife) two agricultural property totalling 910 acres in Iowa County. Our home farm is near the Military Ridge proposed route; and our Densen Rd property is near the City Hwy 7 alternative proposed route. Our lands are a mix of fields, pre glacial rock formations, woods and prairie. We have six (6) ancient rock-art sites; two are extremely rare ... >2,000 years old!

My family have owned our main farm since the 1940's. We strongly oppose this power line, it is unnecessary. I worry stray voltage will hurt our livestock. The value of the Iowa County "Driftless" area is driven by its scenic beauty. Myself and area friends will be tempted to move away if its blighted with an ugly line. We also invest in tourist/recreational businesses. We'll be likely to invest elsewhere if this line depresses tourism and recreation in this area.

The proposed route ignores the extraordinary nature of our driftless scenery, businesses and sense of community.

PLEASE draft AN EIS that protects our homes.

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Name:

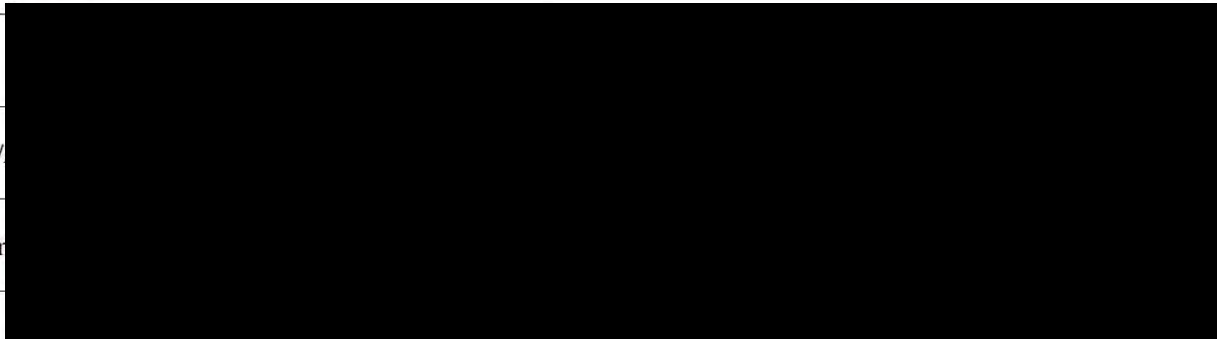
Mike Van Sighlen, attorney

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/

Email address:



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Comments:

Placing the Line across either of the proposed routes from Dodgeville to Middleton is a terrible idea.

The power isn't needed and the visual and environmental impacts on the beautiful "driftless" area of SW Wisconsin will be disastrous. Putting a 100-150' high power line down the military ridge bike path or down County Z + Hwy 23 near Governor Dodge State Park will negatively impact tourism and the local social fabric of folks who live here to enjoy the use of the Park and Trails.

I own > 400 acres (in several parcels) near both alternative routes. I am a 30+ year litigation attorney and will fight this Line with all possible vigor. It isn't needed + the location couldn't be more poorly chosen.
Julie Valli

From: Mike Van Sicklen
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Comments on "Scoping" Task for EIS
Date: Wednesday, January 04, 2017 8:45:32 PM

My family and I live on our 357-acre farm (and tree farm) in Iowa County near the Highway 151-Military Ridge route option East of Dodgeville. We are very concerned about the negative impacts this project will have on our farm life, livestock and beautiful SW Wisconsin "Driftless" environment.

When we look at the current public records provided by the utilities involved in this project, it appears to me that the demand in the SW Wisconsin area to be served has been decreasing or flat. Please study the need issue based on the current records (not the old stuff from back before 2011) and the use in our area, not Northern Indiana. I think it is improper to use condemnation powers to take my land in order to supply power to the utilities' customers in Indiana.

Our land has 5 indigenous native rock art sites that the UW researchers have estimated to be approximately 2,000-2,500 years old. Those pictographs are on very delicate sandstone outcroppings which could be destabilized or destroyed if the proposed line goes in and requires, as predicted deep footings. These sites have importance to our native American friends and should not be destroyed for a transmission line that isn't needed.

Please consider what effect stray voltage will have on livestock. Also, I'm told that the weedy and brushy areas under the line may be controlled with herbicides. Those may get into our water table, hurt our wells, and destroy our ability to claim fields as being "organic". Please study those effects as well.

We also own a 15-acre rental property on Dyresen road, near the alternative route down highways 23/county Z. Our tenant has indicated that they will not likely renew our lease if the line is built due to the line destroying the reason he moved here--namely, the rural, unblemished views of the Driftless area. When they leave it will hurt not only me on the lost rent, but also all the many small local businesses he and his family use. Extrapolate that effect on many folks leaving and study that as well.

Finally, please consider what the negative effect will be on tourism and property values and the ability to obtain small business loans for our area given that so much of the value of our lands and local businesses is tied to the unique beauty of our Driftless area.

Thank you for your work on this important study.

Mike and Susan Van Sicklen (and our 3 sons and their families)

From: Ben Vondra
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Public comment submission
Date: Thursday, January 05, 2017 10:56:51 AM
Attachments: [Vondra - Cardinal Hickory Comments - Final .pdf](#)
[Untitled attachment 00655.sql](#)

Please see attached PDF for comments. Thank you.

Public Comments

Cardinal – Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project – Iowa & Wisconsin

Ben Vondra

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

January 5, 2017

To: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Please consider the comments below when creating the draft environmental impact statement regarding the application in question. The proposed project by the applicant (Dairyland Cooperative) and associated parties has substantial negative impacts and threatens southwest Wisconsin's economy, environment, cultural resources and the health and safety of residents and visitors. Moreover, the project does not provide sufficient justification to overcome these negative impacts. I strongly urge the Rural Utility Service to reject the applicant's request for federal financing and issue a "no action" record of decision.

The Project is Unnecessary

The applicant has been unable to provide convincing evidence that supports the need for the project. Beneficial economic, environmental and social claims in the application are unclear and/or contain insufficient support. The applicant claims that the transmission of power from western states will support electricity independence for Wisconsin and the region. It is clear the opposite is true. According to the US Electricity Information Service, Wisconsin has been a net importer of electricity for about a decade. This project will further support electricity importation into the state and undermine Wisconsin's efforts at energy independence and local electricity generation (including reducing jobs).

Moreover, the project does not meet the intent of the [Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended](#). The United States Federal Government has a long and successful history of connecting rural residents to electricity. Tens of thousands of homes and business were connected to "the grid" over several decades in the late 1800s and early 1900s through programs intended to subsidize, construct and provide the necessary infrastructure and training to electrify the countryside. The electrification of rural areas generated increased productivity on farms and in businesses, increased innovation among workers, improved health in homes, and spurred the imagination of young minds. However, according to the Energy Information Administration (EIA), over 99% of homes and business in the US are now connected to electricity, and the objectives of the rural electrification programs have changed. Electrification projects are now considered that may have little impact on rural residents or may, in fact, harm rural residents in indirect ways. For example, many rural areas do not have redundant electricity delivery systems due to the fact that the network has been building larger and larger high-voltage lines that pass rural areas by, meaning utility companies do not invest in smaller, more dense, lower-voltage lines that

may offer easier, cheaper and quicker access to electricity for rural residents in case of an emergency. It is clear the project only narrowly serves the interests of rural residents and may harm them in the end.

Further, the project undermines the possible benefits of rural generation of electricity in Wisconsin. Rural residents have an opportunity to generate their own electricity through alternative means on smaller scales or through contracts with local wind-farm projects, bio-fuel or manure digesters. This project threatens those possible rural benefits. This project would make those projects less economical or would have a lower level of support among regulators and industry if this transmission project were constructed.

It is clear that mega-transmission projects are bad for rate-payers. This project's multi-million dollar cost and continuing operating costs, and the incredible costs of other intra-state, mega-projects are ultimately passed on to rate-payers. There are much more economical and environmentally responsible ways to meet the needs of electricity demand in the future that does not involve building this project and increasing rates for customers. These include conservation, local generation and innovation. In fact, in a report published in 2015, the Energy Information Administration found that in the US between 1980 and 2009 *"the aggregate energy intensity per household and per square foot declined by 24.2% and 43.1%, respectively"*. The demand for electricity is waning because of conservation, innovation and changing consumer priorities. This is an amazing statistic that supports the argument against construction of high-voltage power lines.

Moreover, electricity redundancy can be accomplished without this mega-project. This can be done through investments in existing high-voltage lines as admitted both in the project report to MISO and the Wisconsin Public Service Commission's annual energy report.

The Alternatives Evaluation Study (AES) does not support the project and does not sufficiently demonstrate that the project's alternatives are less costly or have lower negative impacts than the proposed project. The applicant's documents proposed to MISO contain only a very short section on an alternatives analysis and only one paragraph on a "no-build" or "electricity conservation" option. This is inadequate. A complete, transparent and inclusive analysis must be performed to determine if electricity conservation and local electricity production in the impacted region are not viable alternatives for future electricity needs. The section's brevity can only be interpreted as a complete dismissal of the alternatives analysis. Indeed, an analysis that may very well determine the project is unneeded. RUS should require that a more comprehensive study be completed. The applicant should fund a third-party, transparent engineering and planning analysis to determine if investment in existing infrastructure could and should be pursued.

Further, the project will not create valuable electric distribution redundancy as stated. Relying on a single mega-transmission line is the very definition of "putting all your eggs in one basket" and is much more subject to failure and/or sabotage impacting many more people than if the system was decentralized. Instead, the project will create electric distribution dependency.

The project does not support Federal requirements for clean electricity production through both the President's Executive Action and Congress's investment in clean energy. Importing potential clean electricity from other states undermines Wisconsin's efforts to produce our own clean electricity in-state. Indeed, importing potential clean electricity from other states will result in lower motivation to

eliminate dirty electricity sources in Wisconsin and allows Wisconsin electricity generation to continue developing and producing electricity from these dirty sources. Wisconsin needs to build our own clean electricity sources. This will benefit the local economy and the local environment. Clean electricity built and produced in Wisconsin is a win-win scenario for rate payers, Wisconsin's economy and the environment. Benefits include:

- a. The project under proposal will be unnecessary,
- b. the electricity is still produced,
- c. the clean generation occurs in Wisconsin improving the environment, and
- d. local jobs are created in construction and maintenance of local electricity generation and transmission.

The Project's Negative Impacts are Substantial

The proposed project corridor threatens southwest Wisconsin's valuable cultural resources including the view shed, white-tailed deer hunting traditions, prairie remnants, farming, and maintaining the uniqueness of the Driftless area for future generations.

1. View shed

The impact of the mega-project on the "feel" and "experience" of southwest Wisconsin will be substantial, including how the area looks. The route along highway 151 is the highest ridge in the area and can be seen for well over 50 miles on a clear day. The project should use GIS 3D mapping (similar to what telecommunications projects use) to identify ALL land from where the project will be visible. The applicant should then send multiple alerts in several formats to those landowners, businesses, tenants and other impacted parties alerting them to the project and their rights under Federal, state and local law.

2. Deer hunting traditions

Wisconsin's annual white-tailed deer hunters harvested thousands of deer in southwest Wisconsin and spent thousands more hours in the hills and valleys. Hunters participate for a variety of reasons including tradition, sport, sustenance and ecological benefit. All of these hunters positively impact the economy through the purchase of hunting gear, fuel, equipment, hotels, meals, etc. This project will take physical space where these hunters once participated, will take a psychological toll on the tradition of the rural hunt and will undermine the economy that is supported by these hunters.

Because of the rolling hills, forests, streams, low-density development, farms and valleys, southwest Wisconsin has a rural, "up-north" feeling that attracts hunters from around the world to participate in the tradition of white-tail deer hunting. Moreover, the landscape of southwest Wisconsin supports some of the most dense deer populations with the largest white tail bucks, drawing trophy hunters from around North America. This project will be a black-eye on the beautiful landscape and remind hunters that they are not far from a mega-project and civilization, damaging their experience.

3. Prairie remnants

Wisconsin's most endangered landscape is the few remaining prairie remnants. At one time, this was the most common ecologic landscape in southwest Wisconsin. These are at great risk for extirpation. Their recovery is dependent on a very fragile network of prairie enthusiasts, climate, land owners, state and federal programs and volunteers. Damaging even one of these sites, or adjacent land, puts these recovery efforts at great risk. Strikingly, most of these prairie remnants are not shown on any state or federal map or officially protected by law, making them even more susceptible to destruction by this project. It is clear that this fact means their existence was not taken into account by the corridor mapping exercise. This project risks damaging these irreplaceable landscapes and forever losing them for future generations.

4. Farming

According to data from the Dairy Producer License list as of October 1, 2016, Division of Food Safety, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection in a report published by the USDA, Wisconsin lost nearly 400 dairy farms in the past year. This is followed by several years of losing over 500 dairy farms per year. This is bad for Wisconsin's heritage, tradition, economy and landscape. Small family farms are a cultural and economic resource critical to what it means to be a Wisconsinite and to visit Wisconsin.

Southwest Wisconsin hosts a particularly dense number of small family dairy farms. This is due to the unique nature of the landscape (hills, valleys, small streams, steep slopes, forests, wetlands) that promote smaller fields and plots not necessarily suitable for large-scale farming operations. This project threatens to eliminate even more small family dairy farms by splitting land and potentially unfairly targeting already economically struggling family farms. The project's physical footprint will further divide small fields and farms that cannot afford to lose productive land. Moreover, the economic incentive of easement payments for some farmers will be the deciding factor in closing even more small family dairy farms.

The soil in southwest Wisconsin is some of the most productive agricultural soil in the nation. According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), counties in southwest Wisconsin have some of the highest rated common crop productivity index (CCPI) for corn and soybeans in Wisconsin and are ranked in the top of counties nationally. Moreover, southwest Wisconsin has some of the highest corn yields of any county in Wisconsin year-over-year. Removing many acres of this productive cropland for this project would undermine Wisconsin food-production economy and the livelihoods of farmers.

5. Driftless (unglaciated) heritage for future generations.

Southwest Wisconsin is home to a unique landscape like nowhere else on Earth. Referred to as the "Driftless Area", it is an unglaciated area in a temperate climate that contains rocks, soil, vegetation, terrain and other features that escaped the impacts of the glacial advance 10,000 years ago that impacted much of the Midwest. This preservation of the land means a unique area offers a glimpse into the distant past and fundamentally defines southwest Wisconsin. The rolling hills, valleys, streams, view shed, vegetation, cultural resources and the people all combine to form an area that is special in time and place. This mega-project threatens the very fundamental nature of everything that is special about a place that cannot be recreated and can only be conserved. Future generations can know what it feels like to gaze from the lookouts at Blue Mounds State Park without the intrusion of a high-voltage power

line to tarnish their experience. Looking out at the landscape of southwest Wisconsin is both looking into the past and dreaming about the future. Adding this project to the landscape irreparably harms our ability to teach young minds about our environmental and cultural heritage and damages the inspiration that comes from imagining the future.

The proposed project threatens southwest Wisconsin's valuable environmental resources including wetlands, world-class trout streams, soils, groundwater, migratory birds and many others.

1. Wetlands

Southwest Wisconsin contains wetland areas critical to the wildlife and fresh water resources further downstream. These wetlands provide critical habitat for a variety of plants and animals, some of them at risk of extirpation. Wetlands filter water and provide a "sponge" to soak up flooding that would otherwise cause environmental and property damage.

2. Trout Streams

Southwest Wisconsin contains some of the Nation's best trout streams. These are put at direct risk by the project due to erosion, construction of bridges, pesticides used in maintenance, heavy machinery and yet-unknown impacts of the radio and electro-magnetic fields generated by high-voltage power lines. It is well known that fish and other wildlife use magnetic fields to navigate, find mates and feed. The impact of these powerlines requires further study before any new lines are constructed.

Trout enthusiasts are less likely to fish under or near high voltage power lines. Trout fisherman and fresh water enthusiasts will be less likely to visit these special places if the intrusion of noise and metal mar their experience, further damaging southwest Wisconsin's economy.

3. Pollution during construction

Various caustic and toxic chemicals are used in on-site equipment and materials used in the construction of high-voltage power lines including but not limited to diesel fuel, pesticides, herbicides, gas, various engine oils and machinery lubricants, welding fuels, "cleaners" and others. Introducing these chemicals into the fragile environment of southwest Wisconsin poses inherent risks of spills and dispersal even under lawful and manufacturer recommended use.

Moreover, the construction poses risks to fragile soils, which are the very bedrock of our food system and society. Current "best-practices" of soil "remediation" do not adequately restore the soil to pre-construction conditions or better, resulting in a permanent loss of soil characteristics including but not limited to erosion controls, crop productivity, vegetative usefulness and wildlife.

Temporary bridge construction causes massive erosion in and around streambanks that are vital to southwest Wisconsin's economy, environment and for future generations to enjoy.

Noise pollution is a serious concern in rural areas. The construction of the high-voltage power line will utilize heavy machinery, sound-producing hand-held tools (including chainsaws) and even helicopters. Construction will produce dramatic noise pollution for miles at decibel levels that are harmful to operators and residents in nearby homes and businesses. Moreover, studies show even noise pollution at low decibel levels causes stress, anxiety and other health problems for humans. Further, wildlife rely

on sound to mate, detect predators, find food, construct shelter and communicate. Noise pollution in this area will undoubtedly cause harmful effects on various species, including some species that are listed as species of concern or endangered that are far outside the physical construction right-of-way.

Air pollution is another major concern for rural residents and visitors, including communities along the path which have schools, nursing homes, businesses and homes. Southwest Wisconsin residents enjoy air resources largely free of pollutants. This project cannot be completed without substantial impacts by large equipment to the quality of air in the area of the project. Post-combustive gases from equipment operation, specifically internal combustion engines, is known to cause cancer, asthma, heart-attacks, among other serious health ailments. Residents will be unable to clean their own air, move their residence or otherwise protect themselves from air pollution introduced by this construction and operation. Many residents reside in the rural area for the very reason to avoid air pollution, either because they are elderly, have a medical condition that is worsened by unclean air, or because they care about the impact of poor air quality on their health and the health of their children. Idling and working heavy machinery will drastically reduce the quality of the air in the vicinity of the construction area.

Unfortunately, this project threatens the drinking water and wastewater treatment systems of rural residents and communities. It is well known that pollution of ground water can travel great distances laterally and horizontally from a single point source. The construction of the high-voltage power line introduces potential pollutants in liquid and solid form (i.e. treated lumber, diesel fuel, and metal working supplies) that can leach into the soil and eventually groundwater. Impacts of this pollution may not surface for months or even decades but may have disastrous consequences for residents, visitors and wildlife. Nearly all residents in rural southwest Wisconsin rely on well-water from ground water sources. Potential pollution of their source of clean, fresh water is a direct threat to their life, livelihood and property. As one example, Atrazine, a chemical commonly used in herbicide application on electricity transmission right-of-ways and currently banned for all use in Europe and other countries, is known to leach into ground water and pollute wells. Atrazine is known to cause birth defects and other hormonal imbalances in adults and children, often impacting normal development of neurological function in young people. Even when applied lawfully and under manufacturer's recommendations, this chemical can leak onto the ground and into fresh water sources, eventually making its way into people's wells and drinking glasses. It is undetectable by sight, smell or taste and therefore can be an invisible threat to the quality of life of people who consume it. The only way to protect the drinking water of southwest Wisconsin is to forgo this project.

4. Migratory birds

Wisconsin's southwest is home to major migration routes of federally-protected bird species. Because of the proximity to wetlands, the Wisconsin River, the Mississippi River and many tributaries, southwest Wisconsin is both a bird-watcher's paradise and a bird's paradise. A high-voltage power line reaching over 150 feet in height above the ground along hills, ridges and valleys produces a terrifying and deadly barrier to migrating and resident bird populations. Studies (not commissioned by the energy industry) show mortality of these high-voltage lines can produce significant declines in migratory bird populations along the route. No high-quality, low-cost and effective deterrents for this mortality exist except not constructing the line.

The proposed project threatens southwest Wisconsin's valuable economic resources including logging, tourism, construction and many others.

1. Logging

Wisconsin's Managed Forest Law (MFL) allows for rural landowners with eligible forestland to substantially reduce their property tax payments in exchange for managing their land in accordance with Wisconsin's forestland management objectives. A high-voltage powerline running through these properties will negatively impact a landowner's ability to participate in the MFL program and may result in substantial property tax increases. For example, if the powerline reduces the acreage eligible for MFL to below the minimum threshold, the landowner may become ineligible for the program across the entire property, increasing property tax payments many times over that may equate to thousands of dollars each year.

Wisconsin's forestlands provide a stable and sustainable source of income for both landowners and logging employees for generations to come. Removing acreage from productive forestland threatens the economic benefits of logging in southwest Wisconsin. The company should provide an estimate of how many jobs will be lost and how much revenue forgone over the next several generations.

2. Tourism

Southwest Wisconsin's topography, roads and view sheds produce desirable conditions for bicycling enthusiasts. Various organized cycling events including the Horrible Hilly Hundred and Ironman Wisconsin utilize the Driftless area of Wisconsin to host their events. The area is home to several off-road bike trails including the popular Military-Ridge trail operated by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Indeed, the Driftless hills are an enormous draw for cycling enthusiasts from around the world for events, training and recreation. In fact, several communities are positioning themselves to capture the economic benefit of the visiting cyclists by improving roads, publishing cycle maps, attracting business that cater to cyclists and marketing themselves as bicycle-friendly communities. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek high-voltage power line project will harm the ability of these communities to attract cyclists and will negatively impact the experience that cyclists have when visiting the area. An enormous steel and concrete structure is exactly the opposite of what these visitors expect to see when visiting the area, and in many cases is exactly what they are escaping when they leave the large cities they live in.

It may come as a surprise, but according to several economic studies, Wisconsin's largest outdoor activity economic generator is bird-watching, bringing the state of Wisconsin over \$1 billion per year in revenue. Bird-watching generates economic activity in the form of equipment, fuel, lodging, food, tours and other travel. In addition, secondary businesses benefit such as wineries, clothing shops and others. Bird-watchers are not as conspicuous in Wisconsin as orange-clad deer hunters, and largely go unnoticed as they travel about the landscape searching for birds. Bird-watching is an activity that surpasses the limitations of age or disability, as nearly everyone is able to travel and view birds at locations throughout southwest Wisconsin. As noted previously, high-voltage power lines will impact the migratory routes of birds and eventually impact the ability of these birdwatchers to catch the sight of rare and/or endangered species. Further, the powerline may impact nesting, mating and feeding of

local resident bird populations. The high-voltage power line will only harm the experience of these bird-watchers and, thus, the economic generation they bring.

The spectacular scenery of the Driftless area draws photographers, both professional and amateur, from across the globe. These photographers generate economic activity while they are here and provide visual evidence of southwest Wisconsin's scenic beauty to others through their work. These photographs often depict a landscape nearly free of major human impacts - rolling fields of prairie, farmland, forests and valleys. A tall high-voltage power line will forever mar these landscape photographs and the experience of the photographers. This visual intrusion on these photographs will deter both the photographer's efforts and the ability of southwest Wisconsin to market itself as a beautiful, less-traveled and idyllic landscape.

3. Damage to the local economy

Further electricity importation into the state will undermine the local economy. Local companies that produce clean electricity will be competing with subsidized electricity generation and subsidized electricity transmission from out-of-state. This unfair, government-sponsored (taxpayer funded), free-market intervention distorts Wisconsin's clean electricity economy in favor of out-of-state companies and generation.

Innovative start-up electric generation companies (including software developers, solar generation companies, and conservation companies) will not want to work in a state with high-levels of electricity transmission subsidization. This competition will stifle innovative growth in conservation and local electricity generation and is unnecessary, unfair and poor policy.

4. The project undermines Wisconsin's electricity conservation programs

Local utility programs will not want to subsidize tree planting, light bulb replacement, A/C efficiency support, etc. in the face of electricity generated from out-of-state and subsidized transmission. Using less electricity by rate-payers will not substantially reduce the cost to the utility because the main cost is due to the mega-transmission projects and out-of-state generation, which the utility has no control over. Wisconsin's Focus on Energy program will be harmed. Electricity state-wide program will lose support both among users and tax-payers.

5. Further electricity importation into the state will undermine Wisconsin's electricity production programs

If electric transmission bringing in out-of-state electricity is subsidized this will directly compete with Wisconsin's current generators of electricity and future generators of electricity. Current generation in Wisconsin does not meet demand. Wisconsin is a net-importer of electricity for about a decade. For economic reasons, it is in the best interest of rate-payers to have electricity that is generated locally and engage in energy conservation measures. These efforts will result in more robust electricity generation, lower rates and higher number of local jobs.

The proposed project threatens the life, safety and well-being of southwest Wisconsin's residents and visitors.

1. Safety and Security

The project increases safety and security risk for those working, playing and living near the line. Tornadoes and severe storms are common in southwest Wisconsin and will severely damage lines risking life and economic damage. Line damage will cut off rural residents to work, home, schools, hospitals and family. Damage to a centralized power distribution system is less redundant than a system with many generation and distribution systems.

A centralized physical mega-transmission line that several million households and business rely on for life and economic vitality is a target for terrorists and criminals. Moreover, a centralized electronic computerized control electric distribution network is a threat to national security and a target for terrorists and criminals.

2. Health and Well-Being

High-voltage power lines pose serious, known risks to human health including coming into contact with powerlines and structures, damage to the lines, electro-magnetic fields, construction and operating dangers, among others. Studies show living near high-voltage power lines leads to higher levels of anxiety and stress, holding all other attributes the same. This may be due to the noise, electro-magnetic conditions, or the visual impact these structures have on the everyday life of residents. Further, public health studies show populations living for extended periods near high-voltage power lines have a higher incidence of several types of cancer. The line is a threat to public health if it were ever damaged by a tornado or storm. The line would cross many rural roads and interstate highways if it were to fail, risking damage to property and putting lives at risk. Moreover, lines would become a travel barrier to emergency services personnel when they are most needed.

RUS EIS Process Should Not Support the Project

1. NEPA and RUS

The Rural Utility Service (RUS) is obligated under NEPA and Part 1970 to ensure the applicant and parties associated with the project meet all applicable responsibilities before providing a determination on the project, and before and during funding, if approved. This includes, but is not limited to, establishing verifiable records of when, if, who and how construction equipment, contracts, easements, staging, engineering, planning, strategy, ground-breaking, hiring, procurement has or will occur among the applicant and parties to the project.

2. Confirm status of financing for the project.

Financing agreements, development, or research is not allowable before a determination of funding by RUS has been made. This is fundamental to the project and it is critical that RUS research and confirm no party to the project has made any attempt to secure or solicit financing and that any agent of a financing entity that has contacted the applicant or parties to the applicant regarding the project in question be reported to RUS to ensure transparency among all parties.

3. Review corridor mapping methodology.

RUS has an obligation to thoroughly research the methods by which the applicant and agents of the applicant developed the corridor for the project. The implications associated with corridor development may only become clear when an investigation reveals details of how and why certain methods were employed or not employed.

For example, many corridor mapping exercises involve the use of computerized Geographic Information Systems (GIS). If that is the case in this project, how was GIS used? The applicant should fully describe the methodologies, industry best practices for corridor mapping, and other pertinent decisions made regarding the use of this technology.

The applicant should provide the data and narrative of the datasets used and datasets determined not to be used. i.e. what are the layers (attributes, overlays, variables) used? RUS should work to verify the authenticity and suitability of the data sources, the methods used to retrieve them, and the decisions of why they were used. For example, what was the data used for determining wetland delineation boundaries, and was that the best available data set? If not, why not?

RUS should conduct an analysis to determine what data may be missing as compared to projects in other states or among other utility corridor mapping projects. Why is that data missing? Are there any glaring absences of data that is used in other, similar projects but not used here?

The applicant should thoroughly describe how and why the corridor mapping process went through multiple iterations, both public and private. How many iterations were done? What iterations were created that were not publicized? Why were they not publicized? Are the publically available routes the only plausible routes?

RUS should carefully review the data used and the methodology for route selection. Many questions about the corridor can be answered with an analysis of the methodology, such as 'did the applicant utilize unethical data or methods in determining the route(s)?' Also, was tax parcel data used to identify landowners that were delinquent on tax payments, thus making them more likely to accept easement agreements favorable to the applicant?

Also, were layers (attributes, overlays, variables) weighted? If so, how was the weighting determined? Does the weighting reflect a favorable route for the applicant or does the weighting reflect Federal NEPA priorities? Does the weighting reflect the best interest of the public?

Finally, thank you for considering the comments above when creating the draft environmental impact statement regarding the application in question. The proposed project by the applicant (Dairyland Cooperative) and associated parties has substantial negative impacts and threatens southwest Wisconsin's economy, environment, cultural resources and the health and safety of residents and visitors. Moreover, the project does not provide sufficient justification to overcome these negative impacts. I strongly urge the Rural Utility Service to reject the applicant's request for federal financing and issue a "no action" record of decision.

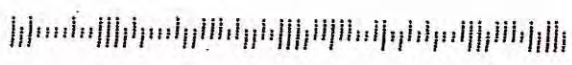
Ben Vondra

Ms. Anna Voytovich
[Redacted]
DEC 2016 PMS 1



RECEIVED
JAN 05 2017

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



Last Name Voytovich First Name Anna
 Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [Redacted]
City [Redacted]

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 [Handwritten Signature] Date 12/26/16

Last Name Voytovich First Name Anna

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

Street _____
City _____

EIS Scoping Input
 Mail to: **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: _____ 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
<i>I am very concerned about the transmission lines' affect on animals and their habitats in the Black Earth and Vermont Townships</i>	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Location by Municipality
<i>It will definitely have a detrimental impact on</i>	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Location by Municipality
<i>My parents' ashes are scattered on property in Black Earth - one of the most beautiful spots on earth in my view. I am appalled by the</i>	

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. *location of high voltage power lines in such a pristine location*

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 _____ Date 12/26/16
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

From: Nick Vreeland
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Proposed Transmission Line
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 10:49:13 PM

Hi,

My family is strongly against the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line that is being proposed, especially the "northern" route that goes near Hyde, WI in Iowa county.

Our main concern about the line is how this will affect the beautiful countryside that we live in, and that many people choose for that very reason.

If this line runs through or near our small (7 acre) property, our property values would be destroyed. When we bought our house and property 5+ years ago, we would not have considered it if there was a transmission line nearby; we wanted a peaceful, serene, and beautiful setting for our family, and a transmission line does not meet that. I'd imagine anyone wanting to move out there would be looking for something similar, and we would have a very hard time selling our house.

This transmission line would affect the local tourism industry as well. In the summer, many motorcyclists and bicyclists cruise the country around Hyde and stop at local businesses (and in the winter, snowmobilers). By introducing a transmission line, the natural beauty of the countryside would be tarnished, and therefore there would be less folks out enjoying it and frequenting these businesses. One proposed route would place it around 1 mile from the 165 year old historic Hyde Mill, and 100+ year old Hyde Church. And that's just in one little area - imagine all of the other history that would be disturbed and tarnished along the entirety of the route.

There is absolutely no upside, and a huge downside, for Iowa county.

If this transmission line goes through, and is near our home, we will be moving elsewhere.

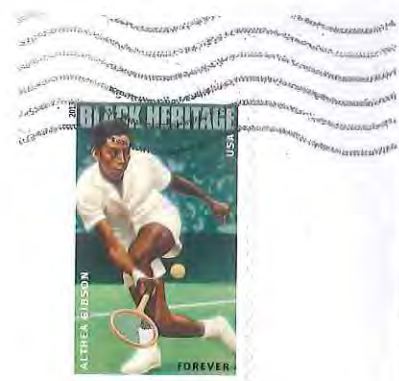
Sincerely,
Nick Vreeland and Jessie Steien

MILWAUKEE WI 530

05 NOV 2016 PM 3 L

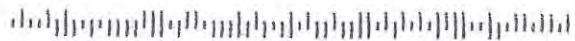


La Nell L Wagner



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

15017-145357



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

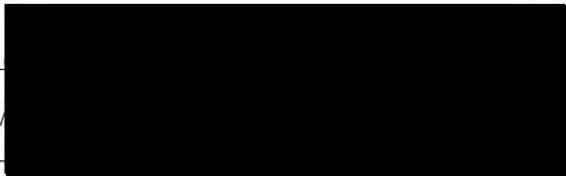
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes.
Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: LaNell L. Wagner

Organization (if any):

Address: _____



City/State: _____

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

RECEIVED
NOV 04 2016
8th

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:

This land, part zoned Village of Cobb and part Eden Township, in Iowa County is all that we have. It holds our past (history and memories) and our future. We ask that it be left unfettered by visual and environmental pollution. This little piece of the world is dear to us. Please don't spoil it.

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:

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

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Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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12/7/16

Comments:

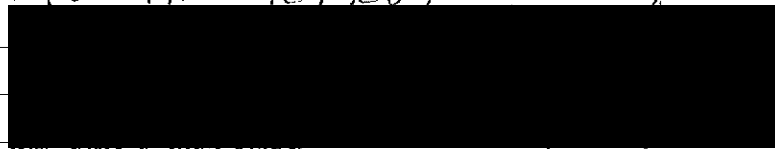
Thank you for holding this public meeting and remaining cool under duress!

The Sept. 2016 proposal for the ATC High Voltage Corridor through Arena Wyoming and Vermont townships or along Hwy' 18 & 151 seems to be very flawed.

There is an existing electrical corridor along Hwy 1D (old 18 & 151) from Blue Mounds to Mt. Horeb — with links to the west and Dodgeville. Why with the presently ideal location would you (U.S. Dept. of Ag. and Cardinal Hickory Creek Trans) now put a line through prime farmland, forests, land prime deer country and biking trails?

Why not use currently acquired electric line areas instead of disturbing the land about seven miles north?

Thank you,
Mrs. Rob Weigner,



~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~



Mr. Robert Wagner

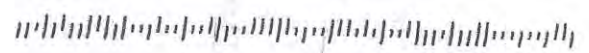


NOV 2016 PM 9 1



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

15017-145357



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

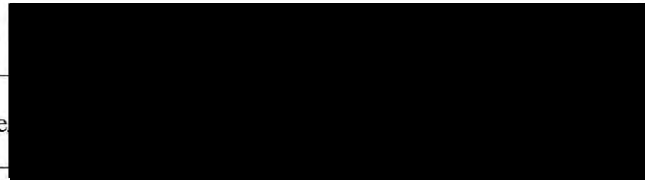
To help us keep our mailing list accurate and up-to-date, please check the boxes below that apply to your wishes. Thank you for your assistance.

- 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: Robert Wagner

Organization (if any):

Address:



City/State

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

RECEIVED
NOV 08 2016

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:

- Transmission lines may go through some of best farm land in the State. Will take some of that land out of production and make it more difficult to till some of the rest. It will disrupt our homes, our land, and our life.
- Concern about ~~the~~ stray voltage and its effect on animals (especially dairy cows) and people near the lines.
- Result in increased health risks - especially an increased incidence of cancer. Possible loss of life.
- Places an economic and health burden on persons near the transmission lines.
- Results in a decrease in the quality of life for persons near the transmission lines.
- There is no need for this project. The need for ~~the~~ power provided by transmission lines has not increased over the last 10 years or so. Wind and solar power are on the increase and are the sources ~~of~~ for increased power for the future. The only ones benefiting from this project are the Transmission Line Companies. They will receive \$500 million for this project. ~~If we don't~~ They are more interested in the revenues ~~or~~ from these projects than the need for them. ~~Their~~ ~~existence~~ ~~depends~~ depends on getting these projects approved - even when there is no need for them.

Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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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 fresh water streams.
- (Power is already reliable!)
- Visual eye-sore!
- Expense of the varying elevations.

Heide Weiss
Heide Weiss

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Proposed Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 5:44:14 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am a land owner in Iowa county, very near to where the proposed transmission line would run. I am in opposition on the line for many reasons and would like to share a few of my concerns.

First, my husband and I are farmers and are committed to sustainable agriculture. We strive to improve our ecosystem and one way we do so is to provide habitat for threatened species. We fear that this transmission line would destroy areas that these already endangered species depend on. We are doing our part, and would like to know if there would be any efforts made to minimize the impact on these areas.

Secondly, I support renewable and alternative energy sources like wind and solar, and worry that this new transmission line, which will use up an enormous amount of resources to construct, is not even needed. Is there evidence of demand for increased energy and is this transmission line the only way to deliver that?

Third, this transmission line would stand out sorely against the landscape of the driftless region, which is a geographically unique area. Many people come to enjoy the beauty of the driftless, from hunting and fly fishing to cycling, and I worry not enough consideration has been given to the impact this transmission line will have on tourism in this area, and how that will effect the local economies.

So, my question is: is this transmission line the best choice? Can you have the lowest impact on the environment and affected communities by building this transmission line, or are there alternatives that would prove to be a better investment?

Thank you for taking the time to hear my thoughts.

Sincerely,

Halee Wepking

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Steve Wernikoff](#)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: Fwd: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
Date: Wednesday, December 07, 2016 11:47:15 AM

Re: Cardinal / Hickory Creek Transmission Line Proposal

Please accept this comment on the scoping of the Environmental Impact Statement that the Rural Utilities Service will be preparing with respect to the transmission line referred to by its developers as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line. The construction of this power line would come at a huge cost, both financial and environmental, and I encourage you to address a full range of questions with the EIS before taking action that will negatively affect the Driftless Area, which contains some of the most beautiful and important environmental areas in the U.S.

First, please evaluate the considerable environmental impact of this potential project in its broadest context, including geology, soils, farm land & land use, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, surface / groundwater, wetlands & floodplains, cultural, historic & paleontology resources, air quality & noise, socioeconomic & environmental justice issues, transportation, visual resources, and health & safety.

Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.

Finally, this is not a false choice between building this transmission line and doing nothing at all. The EIS should analyze whether a combination of non-transmission alternatives – new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response – would meet actual electrical demand at a lower cost both economically and environmentally.

Thank you,

Steve Wernikoff

From: John Wiest
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: ATC Cardinal/Hickory Creek High Voltage Transmission Line
Date: Saturday, January 07, 2017 11:31:19 AM

Dear SWCA Environmental Consultants, A little about me, my name is John Wiest I'm 68 years old and have lived on and farmed our family farm for most of my adult life. A farm that has been in our family since 1868 and is located North of Ridgeway in the Pleasant Ridge area so I have a lot of love and respect for this beautiful and for the most part unspoiled landscape. I'm asking you please don't allow it to be spoiled by this high voltage transmission line that hasn't been proven necessary. I have children and grand children who love and appreciate this land and they deserve the right to enjoy it as well. If at some time more power is needed there are better alternatives and more being developed all the time. Power from sources like bio fuels, anerobic manure digesters, natural gas, and expanded solar and wind. Who knows what the future will bring but once this is done now unnecessarily our landscape is ruined for nothing. Something like this should be a last resort not a first resort and done only after you have exhausted all the other more local alternatives. Thanks for considering my comments and I pray you make the right decision and don't allow this unneeded project to move forward. John

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS
Date: Tuesday, December 20, 2016 2:52:25 PM

To all concerned,

I am writing to support the concerns of residents and friends in the Dodgeville, Wi. community, as well as to express my own feelings. While I personally do not live in the area, I am a frequent guest and have spent many hours and have covered hundreds of miles cycling through the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. My closest friends and I make an annual commitment to participate in the "Dairyland Dare" and other local bicycle tours joining thousands of other enthusiasts enjoying the beautiful countryside. I fear that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line will have a negative impact on the area, and I urge the developers and the local utilities to reconsider moving forward with the project.

My friends in the area would like you to consider the environmental impact this project will have on geology, soils, farm land & land use, vegetation, wildlife, special status species, surface / groundwater, wetlands & floodplains, cultural, historic & paleontology resources, air quality & noise, socioeconomic & environmental justice issues, transportation, visual resources, and health & safety. I'm sure the homeowners, farmers and other business owners would like their property values, farm operations and business revenues to be unaffected by a project that many feel is unnecessary.

Personally, I would like you to consider the economic impact of the line on tourism and recreation in an area that offers some of the most scenic views and challenging cycling in the country. I am an experienced rider and I am not alone in a very large and growing movement of cycling enthusiasts who choose to travel to beautiful and serene locations where we can spend our time and money in a healthy and environmentally friendly way. I believe that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line will encourage many of us to reconsider where we travel to as we plan our cycling vacations in the future.

Sincerely,

Alan C. Williams



WILMINGTON DELAWARE
09 DEC 2016 PM 7 L



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

15017-14557
TO MAIL BACK, FOLD HERE AND TAPE BELOW (NO STAPLES PLEASE)

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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: _____

Organization (if any): _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Email address: _____

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

RECEIVED
DEC 12 2016

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:

Dec. 7, 2016

The 150' easement that this line requires would essentially gut the MFL (managed forest law) timber parcel I own at the corner of Blue Ridge Rd & Roberts Rd in ARENA Township. I rely on this woodlot (producing high quality red oak lumber) for a substantial part of my yearly income. It is my retirement account having been carefully managed by me (according to DNR foresters' guidance) to produce highly valued red oak logs for lumber.

The steep hilly terrain of the area is suited mainly for timber production which would be eliminated under the line. I also see a conflict with access to a divided parcel of timber. The erosion potential for a line of this nature would be huge.

The land value of the area would drop like a rock from such an invasive eyesore.

From the data I have seen and the experience I have had with Alliant Energy, the electrical power supply is reliable and entirely adequate. If the money that would be spent on this line was instead spent on conservation and local energy production (solar power, gas fired plants, etc) there would be many jobs available with much less total expenditure.

Because of these data and the environmental and economic implications of this power line we urge you to reject the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line.

Sincerely,

Don & Deb Wines



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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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:

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Email address:

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Public Scoping Period Comment Card

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

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Comments:

USE existing ~~power~~ transmission line
crossing over Mississippi to
avoid migratory bird collisions

Project appears to avoid public
natural areas such as Bankston park
to Governor Dewey State Park

Charles Winterwood

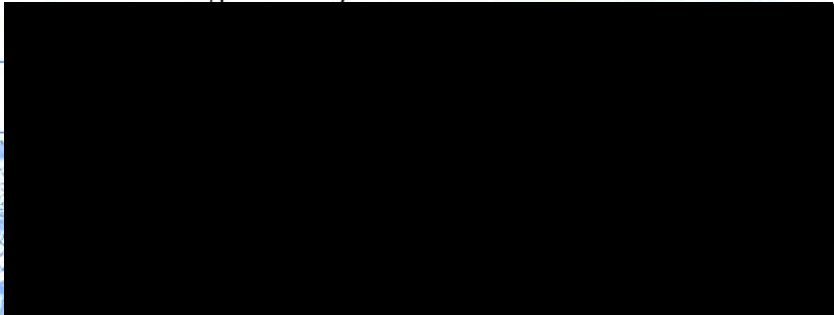
Chair White Pine Group Sierra Club
Conservation chair Dubuque Audubon Society

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 WIRTS First Name DANNY

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street [REDACTED]

City [REDACTED]

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: 50 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 Danny Wirts Date 12-3-16
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

Last Name WOHL First Name EDWARD

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek
PSCW Docket 05CE146

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

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

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Years of residence in area: 44 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:

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		Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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>WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF THESE HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION ON LIFE OF FLORA & FAUNA - EVERYONE & EVERY THING!</u>	<u>RIDGEWAY</u>
<u>Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.</u>	<u>RIDGEWAY</u>
<u>BUSINESSES WILL BE AFFECTED IF TOURISM IS DIMINISHED & PROPERTY VALUES DECLINE</u>	
<u>Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)</u>	<u>Town located in</u>
<u>HEALTH ISSUES FOR RESIDENTS & ANIMALS HAVE NOT BEEN TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION</u>	

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 Edward Wohl

Date NOV. 2, 2016

Last Name Wojtowycz First Name Myron

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

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street _____
 City _____

Years of residence in area: 29 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
professor emeritus - UW Madison

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

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

Use the reverse side or additional pages as needed.

Environmental Impacts I am concerned about (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats) Location by Municipality
further fragmentation of wooded habitats Vermont township

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth. Location by Municipality
I have lived in Vermont township
AND immediate family continue to live there

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions) Location by Municipality
esthetic damage to rural landscapes such as I observed near Silver Springs State Park outside of Plano, Illinois
my childhood home

3. Energy Investment Priorities
 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 Myron Wojtowycz, MA Date 2 JAN 2017
 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

From: Ann Wolfe
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 12:20:46 PM

To: USDA RUS

I live in rural Iowa County in Ridgeway township. I am very concerned about the American Transmission Company's (ATC) proposed Cardinal-Hickory-Creek (CHC) high capacity transmission line. It is an unnecessary project that will, in addition to blighting Wisconsin's unique Driftless Area, cost Iowa county electric bill payers between \$500 and \$700 million. Unlike our public highway system, this is in essence a project largely for the financial benefit of ATC, a privately owned company. • **The financial costs of the transmission line is very high and Wisconsin rate payers will foot the bill. ATC will make a profit from this project.**

- Wisconsin residents will pay for these transmission lines with higher electric bills, while ATC, and their shareholders profit from them. It will cost 500-700 million dollars to build the line. But the total cost to electric customers for CHC will be roughly 2 billion dollars which will cover the total cost of constructing, operating, and maintaining the lines, paying landowners for land voluntarily sold or forcibly condemned, and compensating local municipalities for the (under)estimated economic, environmental, and social impacts of the lines.

- Wisconsin electric customers will pay for this line over the 30 to 40 year debt period, including the interest on the loan taken out to build this line. ATC investors get 10.2% back on their investment paid for by us, the rate payers. It is a fund transfer from our pockets to the investors bank account. And this is a product we are effectively forced to buy.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->In the past seven years Wisconsin electric rates have gone from the 2nd lowest in the Midwest to the highest.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->These unnecessary profit incentives tend to cause ATC and their power company owners to choose high-cost projects over lower-cost and more broadly beneficial alternatives. Transmission companies make money by “planting steel into the ground.”

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->This situation is actually more nuanced. The costs for CHC will be spread among 17 states. At the same time, Wisconsin rate payers will have to pay their share of the other 17 states so it's a wash.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Wisconsin won't even benefit from the transmission line since it will carry electricity through Wisconsin to other states.

- **There are other financial costs beyond higher rates.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->There is the **loss of property value to home owners**, which then effects the tax base of towns and counties. According to ATC,

Xcel Energy and the WI PSC, counting ONLY the number of 2,770 acres directly lost to the shaved transmission corridor, the “fair” economic and natural value per acre over 50 years is less than \$300 per year.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->○ <!--[endif]-->There is the **loss of tourist dollars**. The proposed northern route of CHC runs along Governor Dodge State Park; the proposed southern route runs along Military Ridge Bike Trail. The impact on small business will be significant. The lines will radically and permanently change the “viewscape” of the Driftless Area. They are a massively ugly assault on one of Wisconsin’s most beautiful landscapes.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->**There are conservation risks.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->ATC clear cuts a 150 foot swatch along the entire length of the transmission path. Additionally, they use highly toxic herbicides to kill all vegetation within that 150' wide path. An ATC flyer states: “A tree does not need to make direct contact with a transmission line to create a hazard or a dangerous situation ... and power outages.” ATC has control of 9,940 acres of easements in four states and plans to clear-cut all of it.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Oil and gas line developers often pursue expanding the width of a corridor previously granted for electricity use to locate underground gas and oil lines.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->**The Driftless Area is a unique landscape**, having escaped the glaciers. Its bedrock is 480 million years old; it’s deep ravines and high bluff cut by wind and water.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->It is **home to an endangered species**, the Iowa Pleistocene Snail (yes, it is that ancient), and a threatened plant, the Northern monkshood. The proposed routes of CHC will transverse the "Driftless Area National Wildlife Refuge," which is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->**There are better and cheaper alternatives.**

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The linear grid is centralized distribution. It was built for fossil fuels, which are reliable, steady, and predictable. Renewables stress the grid with their unpredictability – too much wind or no wind, too much sun or too many clouds. Fossil fuels are used as back up, which creates more problems (they take time to come online). Plus we have an excess of power in the US and no place for it to go. In Hawaii in 2015, the electric company refused to tie any more home solar systems into the grid because they have too much current with no one to use it.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Linear transmission lines and substations are vulnerable to terror attacks, hacking, and solar storms. The military is currently converting all their electricity to micro grids. So is New York State. **Micro grids are small, flexible, fast, adaptive, and local and they can use energy produced by any source.**

The questions you must ask in your Environmental Impact Statement are: where and when are these high capacity transmission lines appropriate, are they needed, are there better alternatives, and what are the conservation values at risk?

Thank you for listening to public comments on this proposal.

Ann Wolfe



From: [Steve Woodman](mailto:Steve.Woodman)
To: comments@cardinalhickorycreekeis.us
Subject: comments on the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line project
Date: Sunday, December 18, 2016 3:34:23 PM

My comments on the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line project.

I do not believe that additional electric power grid transmission is needed and this transmission line should not be built. All of the studies I have looked at show a flat or even declining demand for electricity in the upper Midwest due to overall improvements in the efficiency of industry, home appliances and increased conservation efforts. I believe that there has not been a convincing argument made for building this transmission line. I have also not seen a reason presented why this transmission line would be needed to help distribute renewable energy. The primary reason to build this transmission line is to increase the profit of ATC at the expense of the electric rate payers in Wisconsin and Iowa.

However, if the PSC does in fact approve the transmission line, the route chosen should follow the southern route as it travels through Iowa and Dane counties in WI using existing right-of-way corridor(s) and US Hwy 18/151. There would be much more environmental harm if the northern route was used which is in close proximity to major tourist attractions House on the Rock, Frank Lloyd Wright home, American Players Theater, and Governor Dodge State Park. The northern route is very rugged with untouched natural beauty throughout the townships of Wyoming, Arena in Iowa County and the township of Vermont in Dane County. The southern route should be chosen over the northern route for the following reasons.

- 1) The northern route would be a completely new corridor and right-of-way which is the lowest priority route (priority 4) per Wis. Stats. 1.12 (6) which establishes guidelines for building transmission lines. Priority 1 routes should follow existing right-of-way utility corridors and priority 2 routes should follow major highways. There are no existing transmission corridors or even any east/west roads along the northern route. The southern route has both existing corridors (priority 1) and major highways (priority 2) and is therefore preferable per Wis. Stats. 1.12 (6).
- 2) The southern route is mostly open crop land and the northern route is heavily forested, thus the southern route is preferable with the land still available for farming in the corridor. The northern route would clear cut forest and would remain clear of forest within the corridor changing the land use dramatically and disturbing the large contiguous forest in this area.
- 3) The southern route terrain is less hilly than the northern route which has rock cliffs and outcroppings with very aggressive terrain making it more environmentally destructive to build and maintain the transmission line following the northern route.
- 4) The aesthetic impact to the southern farmland route following existing highways and transmission lines would be far less than a completely new right-of-way plowing

through untouched natural beauty and the nearly virgin landscape of the northern route.

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:

Organization (if any):

Address:

City/State/Zip:

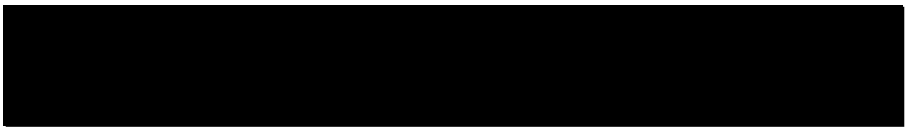
Email address:

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.

Last Name Wright First Name John, Marigan

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.

Years of residence in area: 24 yrs Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Town of Arena Supervisor

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Loss of Property Value	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Tourism Related Business
<input type="checkbox"/> Loss of Business Income	<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Rising Energy Costs
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affects on Personal Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance
<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Others Health	<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Compromises on Local Economy
<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on my Livestock	<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Raptors & Waterfowl	<input type="checkbox"/> Loss/diminished Cultural Assets
<input type="checkbox"/> Affects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	<input type="checkbox"/> Affects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	<input 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 (water bodies, animals, plants, habitats)	Town located in
<u>Concerned w/ property value loss and affects on plants & animals Cost of project / no return for community</u>	<u>Iowa Co township of Arena</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>View from Brigham Park - what a disaster</u>	

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>Stray electricity</u>	

3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

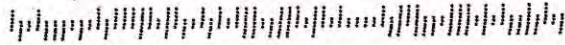
Signature *John Marigan* Date 11/2/14
Marigan Wright



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DEC 27 2016

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

145357



Last Name WRIGHT First Name XENIA

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

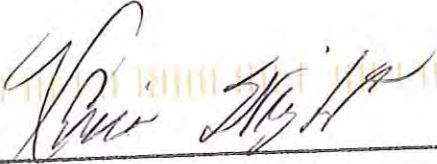
Street 

City 

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  Date 12-16-16

Last Name York First Name Martha

EIS Scoping Input

[] Individual Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

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

Street [Redacted]
 City [Redacted]

Or scan and email to
 comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Notify/update me via email Yes/No

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 1 Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Employed @ Taliesin Preservation; volunteer @ Taliesin; Private practice: psychotherapy
Resident of rural Wyoming (Village of)

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Affects on Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Affects on Rare & Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Impacts on Religious, Personal Values or Cultural Assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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>We are concerned about the total impact on the beautiful Driftless area including water, animals, humans, geography. High voltage transmission would be a heart-break to all living things here in our sacred valley & county.</u>	<u>Wyoming Spring Green Dodgeville</u>

Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town located in
<u>Family Therapy Private Practice (self employed) Taliesin and other Historical Sites / Tourism Lovers of nature, wild life, rare Driftless communities that derive livelihood from farming, tourism, etc.</u>	<u>Wyoming Spring Green Dodgeville Arena.</u>

Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town located in
<u>Health benefits of country living/gardens/ecology needs. We moved to the Wyoming Valley (Iowa County) for the beauty, natural wild life, tourism of Taliesin historical; Governor Dodge State Park from dense urban center.</u>	<u>Wyoming</u>

3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
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.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

don't ruin this special area
 Agree Disagree

Signature [Handwritten Signature] Date 11/27/2016
 I am aware that my comments, including my address and contact information, are subject to be included in the EIS report.

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DEC 05 2016

Last Name Zander First Name Michelle & Bernard

EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek

[] Individual Family [] Business [] Frequent Visitor

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

Street [REDACTED]
City [REDACTED]

Or scan and email to
comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

^{23 years to} Notify/update me via email Yes No

Deadline: January 6, 2017

Years of residence in area: 47 years Positions held and/or responsibilities assumed in my community:
Michelle - Black Earth Library, Ben - Crop Farmer, Cattle graze on land

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	
Loss of Business Income	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Habitats		Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	
Effects on My Personal Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Animals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conflicts with My Energy Goals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Effects on Others Health	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Rare/Endangered Plants		Compromises on Local Economy	
Effects on My Livestock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl		Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	
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
<u>Concerned about impacts to Black Earth Creek and natural habitants for animals in the area. Also concerned about destruction of cropland, wooded areas (habitat where animals live), and impact to cattle that graze on our land.</u>	<u>Town of Vermont Town of Cross Plains</u>

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
<u>We are extremely concerned about the dangers to our health and that of livestock grazing on our land if these high voltage lines were placed on or near our property. My husband has some health issues already and the EMFs → over</u>	<u>Town of Cross Plains Town of Vermont</u>

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 Michelle A. Zander Date 1-17

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

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JAN 09 2017

Health Impacts (cont'd)

that would be emitted from these high voltage transmission lines would be detrimental to his health and to the well-being of the rest of our family.

From: Ann Zimrin
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Subject: Cardinal Hickory Creek line
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 7:02:50 AM

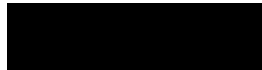
Dear Sirs

I wanted to let you know how strongly I feel about the proposed line. We have property adjacent to the route of the line north of Dodgeville. I am very interested in alternative energy and improving our grid, but this proposed line does not seem to do anything helpful in that regard. The energy utilization in the Midwest is declining, despite a rising population, because of improved efficiency. Locally-sourced alternative energy is being put in place, which will further reduce demand. We have already made arrangements to install solar panels on the roof of our barn, and know of others who have similar plans. The Driftless area is unique in many ways - it is an ecosystem that does not exist elsewhere in the country. The area attracts tourists which help support the local economy. This would be decimated by the placement of unsightly electrical towers across the countryside.

I implore you to reject this money-grab by the ATC corporation, who are looking to line their pockets at the expense of rate-payers in Wisconsin and landowners and visitors to one of the most scenic places in the country.

Sincerely

Ann Zimrin



From: david zimrin
To: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: American Transmission Co. Comment
Date: Friday, January 06, 2017 7:42:26 AM

The proposed transmission line through the Southwest Wisconsin Driftless Area is not needed. Energy consumption is not rising at a rate which justifies the original assumptions for future need and more sensible alternatives for distributing energy now exist as well, particularly locally produced and distributed solutions rather than the outdated national grid concept. In addition, the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin is a unique environmental treasure and the proposed line is a very expensive and unnecessary mechanism for damaging it.

David Zimrin
Dodgeville WI