



Town of Holland

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August 15, 2011

Wisconsin Public Service Commission
610 N. Whitney Way
Madison, WI 53705-2750

Ref: Docket #5-CE-136 (345kV high voltage power line Alma to No. La Crosse)

Dear Commissioners:

The Town of Holland Board has some grave concerns with the Xcel Energy/Dairyland Power proposed CapX2020 (a 345 kV high voltage power line from Alma to North La Crosse).

The proposed route corridor not only cuts across rivers, farms, valleys and scenic bluffs but affects wildlife and waterfowl habitats in the township. The Town is charged with protecting and enhancing the public safety and assets, including the scenic beauty of the hills and coulees, which would be adversely affected by the 130 to 175 foot steel towers and high voltage power lines proposed for the CapX2020 project.

Our Town recently completed a Comprehensive Plan that studied land use issues and made recommendations based on public input. If a substation were to be placed on the proposed 40-acre parcel, it would not be in compliance with the "Exclusive Ag" use designation of our plan. We question how the transmission line can trump all our careful planning.

We also question the necessity of this massive transmission line when the use of electricity in Wisconsin has declined significantly since a 2006 peak and demand is projected to remain flat in the predictable future. And, when considering the future electrical needs, it is our belief that there are other options that should be explored before a high capacity transmission is considered. Such options could include conservation, demand and supply side management, dispersed renewable generation, and energy-related economic development.

Another huge concern for our township is that the building of a high voltage transmission line would require use of public rights-of-way and condemnation of private property for easements. The centerline of this transmission line on a 150 foot right-of-way could be placed within 75 feet of a residence. The land values of all the homes along this route would be greatly diminished. And, while the Q1-Highway 53 route would pose less risk to our residents, it would harm the Van Loon Wildlife Refuge and scenic by-ways, which affects tourism and would have adverse affects on the economy of our small township.

We believe the ratepayers deserve a better option than this \$23-36 billion grid expansion project in the Midwest (the costs for the Alma to North La Crosse alone is projected to cost \$250 million).

Rather than import energy from dirty coal, we believe it to be in the best interest of our citizens to spend such large sums of money on local sources (again, conservation, renewables, etc.)

The Town is also charged with public safety. There is a growing body of health concerns including medical studies which have shown an association between exposure to electromagnetic fields produced by high voltage transmission lines and childhood leukemia, neurological diseases and conditions, and other health effects.

Ultimately, we consider this proposed 345kV transmission line as having multiple negative impacts: an increase electricity costs for all ratepayers, a loss of property value because of the dangers that high voltage power lines inherently carry, and an adverse effect on the area's tourism and general economy.

Therefore, on August 10, 2011, the Town Board of the Town of Holland unanimously voted to oppose the planned grid expansion project in the Midwest and specifically the Alma to North La Crosse power line.

We respectfully request that the PSC deny the joint application of Dairyland Power, Northern States Power and Wisconsin Public Power.

On behalf of the Town Board,



David Carlson, Town Chairman