

## **ATTACHMENT A**

### **SCENIC 69-kV TRANSMISSION LINE AND SUBSTATION PROJECT**

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

## Commenter A

**From:** Loren J. Hegge  
**To:** [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** "Scenic 69kV"  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 5:01:28 AM

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As a summer resident and winter visitor of the area I am not in favor of the overhead power line being proposed in the Scenic State Park , Chippewa Forest area. If the request for overhead lines is granted for these area others will use that as an excuse to get overhead lines being granted in other vulnerable area. There are reasons the park and forest service recommend buried power lines in these areas and every plan should be looked at to make buried power lines a reality.

A1  
A2  
A3

Loren Hegge

**From:** Doug Hoffbauer  
**To:** [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** Scenic state park proposed power line  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 6:43:43 AM

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B1 If policy is to bury line and to stay along road way, why vary. Stay with policy. No B2  
ugly powerlines in state park. Costs to utilities are not a state park issue B3

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

**From:** CAROL UECKER  
**To:** [MN Review, Environmental \(DNR\)](#)  
**Subject:** GRE power line  
**Date:** Thursday, June 27, 2019 8:43:47 AM

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Hello,

Parts of the State of Minnesota and it's old growth forests was preserved within our state parks. I am writing to state my objection to running further power lines through our natural areas. Please follow the alternate proposal suggested. Wooden power poles are not substitutes for trees within state or national scenic areas. "Just because it is shorter" is not an valid argument in favor of destruction of natural areas.

Carol Uecker, Duluth, MN

C1  
C2  
C3  
C4



Commenter D

July 11, 2019

Cynthia Novak-Krebs, EAW Project Manager  
Environmental Review Unit  
DNR Division of Ecological and Water Resources  
Box 25  
500 Lafayette Rd  
St Paul, MN 55155-4025

Re: Scenic 69-KV Transmission Line and Substation EAW

Ms. Novak-Krebs,

I appreciate being given the opportunity to comment on the above listed project. Portions of the project area are situated within a landscape that exhibits moderate to high potential for previously unrecorded archaeological sites. However, based on the negative finding from the Phase I archaeological survey conducted in 2018 by Wenck Associates (*Phase I Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey for the Scenic 69 kV Transmission Line, Itasca County, Minnesota*), the Office of the State Archaeologist recommends no additional survey at this time. If project plans change, additional survey may be recommended.

D1

Please note that a negative archaeological survey does not preclude the presence of archaeological remains. If archaeological materials, features, or burials are encountered, construction activities should cease and this office should be notified.

D2

Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Tworzyanski  
Assistant to the State Archaeologist  
Office of the State Archaeologist  
Kellogg Center  
328 West Kellogg Blvd  
St. Paul, MN 55102  
jennifer.tworzyanski@state.mn.us  
651-201-2265

Jennifer Tworzyanski  
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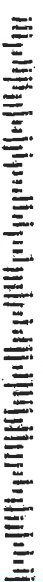
Cynthia Novak-Krebs, EAW Project Manager

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July 23, 2019

Cynthia Novak-Krebs  
Environmental Planner  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Scenic 69 kV Transmission Line Environmental Assessment Worksheet

Dear Cynthia Novak-Krebs:

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Scenic 69 kV Transmission Line project (Project) in Itasca County, Minnesota. The Project consists of construction of a new 14-mile transmission line. Regarding matters for which the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has regulatory responsibility or other interests, the MPCA staff has the following comments for your consideration.

#### Water Resources (Item 11)

##### *Surface water*

The Wetlands and Wetlands-Forested category acres listed in the table on page 7 do not match the acres of permanent loss described under part iv. Surface Waters on page 18. Please also note that the conversion of forested wetlands to another wetland type does not offset any loss of another wetland type, i.e. conversion does not create wetland credits. For questions about wetlands, please contact Jim Brist at 651-757-2245 or [Jim.Brist@state.mn.us](mailto:Jim.Brist@state.mn.us).

E1

E2

##### *Stormwater*

- It appears that the 93 acres of vegetation removal plus additional acres for construction of the substation, access roads, and staging areas are likely to result in at least 50 acres of disturbed land. Also, because stormwater from the Project has the ability to discharge into Gale Brook, which has a construction-related impairment, the Project proposer will need to submit the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) to MPCA prior to obtaining National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System General Construction Stormwater permit (CSW Permit) coverage. If the total disturbed acres will be less than 50 acres, then the SWPPP does not need to be submitted to the MPCA.
- Because the Project has the ability to discharge stormwater to an impaired water, the SWPPP will need to specify that disturbed soils require stabilization within 7 days of temporarily ceasing activity on any portion of the Project site. The SWPPP will also need to include the requirement for installing redundant down gradient sediment controls where construction encroaches 50 feet of existing buffer to any surface water or wetland.
- The EAW indicates there will be no new impervious area. However, the Project includes construction of a substation, which the EAW states has already been partially constructed. The substation along with concrete pier foundations are considered new impervious surfaces. Both phases of the construction are likely considered part of a common plan and need to be included in the total new impervious area along with any permanent access roads, or other hard surfaces constructed as part of the Project. If the total new impervious area created by the Project (including previous

E3

E4



July 23, 2019

construction that was part of the same plan) results in 1 acre or more, a permanent stormwater management system must be designed and constructed in accordance with the CSW Permit.

Questions regarding CSW permit or SWPPP requirements should be directed to Roberta Getman at 507-206-2629 or [Roberta.Getman@state.mn.us](mailto:Roberta.Getman@state.mn.us).

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Project. Please provide your specific responses to our comments and notice of decision on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement. Please be aware that this letter does not constitute approval by the MPCA of any or all elements of the Project for the purpose of pending or future permit action(s) by the MPCA. Ultimately, it is the responsibility of the Project proposer to secure any required permits and to comply with any requisite permit conditions. If you have any questions concerning our review of this EAW, please contact me by email at [Karen.kromar@state.mn.us](mailto:Karen.kromar@state.mn.us) or by telephone at 651-757-2508.

Sincerely,



Karen Kromar  
Project Manager  
Environmental Review Unit  
Resource Management and Assistance Division

KK:bt

cc: Dan Card, MPCA, St. Paul  
Roberta Getman, MPCA, Rochester  
Jim Brist, MPCA, St. Paul  
Suzanne Hanson, MPCA, Duluth