



La Crescent, Minnesota

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Letters to the editor

Act now to stop high voltage power line project

TO THE EDITOR,

Three massive high voltage power lines are proposed by Xcel, Dairyland Power and nine utilities. One line would extend from the Twin Cities to La Crosse (345 kV project) and will be funded by us, the rate-payers. Recently, the Administrative Law Judge released recommendations suggesting CapX2020 proceed n now the decision is with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Sadly, the judge didn't require any conditions for wind or C-BED (Community-Based Energy Development). This means that dirty coal, nuclear or any energy source can travel on these wires, keeping us in an old-world energy system, which is costly and dangerous for our environment.

Citizens Energy Task Force petitioned the Commission to reopen the record due to newly discovered evidence that electric demand for some utilities has significantly declined, rather than growing as the CapX2020 utilities predicted. Based on new actual demand data and the recessionary economy, there is no regional energy need for the CapX2020 projects. Hearings on the Certificate of Need are set for Tuesday April 14, with an expected decision on Thursday, April 16th (9:30 a.m. each day) at the MPUC, Large Hearing Room - 3rd Floor, 121 7th Place E, Saint Paul, MN. Citizens are encouraged to attend. If a certificate is granted, next are long and painful "routing" sessions n where landowners confront the issue of power line invasion (with current eminent domain laws, the utilities can condemn private property for the project).

Concerned about this multi-billion dollar project we're paying for? Increased health risks (electro-magnetic fields), negative impact on environment, massive 200-foot towers, decreased home values, as well as hurting tourism are the outcomes. E-mail and call your Federal/State legislators urging them to contact the MPUC and re-open the Certificate of Need record. Local, renewable and sustainable energy should be our future using local jobs. www.cetf.us and www.ilsr.org.

Jeremy Chipps,

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