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Area residents learn more about CapX2020 high-voltage power line project

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Unanswered questions and concerns surround a controversial powerline project so Thursday night both sides of the debate made their case.

Minnesota State Senator Sharon Erickson Ropes hosted a town meeting in Houston to talk about the CapX2020 project and its effect on area residents.

One of the proposed locations of the powerlines is from Minneapolis to La Crosse with it crossing over the Mississippi River at Alma, Winona or La Crescent.

Xcel energy officials say the powerline project is needed to meet the growing needs of customers and make services more reliable and affordable.

Those against CAPX2020 say there are other alternatives for energy that won't harm the environment and will cost less.

Script continues on the video..... including comments from George Crocker

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WXOW-TV 19

<http://www.wxow.com/Global/story.asp?S=11006095>

HOUSTON, Minnesota (WXOW) -- There was a town hall meeting in Houston, Minn. Thursday, but this had nothing to do with health care reform.

People living along the Root River are in the path of one of the proposed routes for the CapX 2020 project.

The proposal would build 150-foot tall power lines from the Twin Cities through Southeast Minnesota and into Wisconsin.

State Senator Sharon Ropes moderated the meeting, which included Xcel Energy officials in support of the project and a citizens group opposed to it.

Supporters of the plan say it will provide energy to a growing population. Opponents say it's not needed and will damage the environment.

