

Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project Scoping Report

Volume III: Appendices C-I

Prepared for

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service**



Committed to the future of rural communities.

Prepared by

SWCA Environmental Consultants

May 2017

**CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK 345-KV
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT**

SCOPING REPORT

VOLUME III: APPENDICES C-I

Prepared for

**U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service**
1400 Independence Avenue SW, Mail Stop 1671, Room 2244
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571

Prepared by

SWCA Environmental Consultants
200 West 22nd Street, Suite 200
Lombard, Illinois 60148
Telephone: (630) 705-1762
www.swca.com

May 17, 2017

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix C** Agency Scoping Letters and Mailing List
- Appendix D** Tribal Scoping Letters and Mailing List
- Appendix E** Local Government Scoping Letters and Mailing List
- Appendix F** Comment Coding Structure
- Appendix G** List of Commenters
- Appendix H** Comment Summary Table
- Appendix I** Form Master (Blank)

This page intentionally left blank

Appendix C: Agency Scoping Letters and Mailing List

This page intentionally left blank



October 14, 2016

Seth Moore
 Environmental Review Coordinator
 Iowa Department of Natural Resources
 502 East 9th Street
 Des Moines, IA 50319

Subject: Notification of Rural Utilities Service Agency Scoping Meetings for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Seth Moore,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will host agency scoping meetings on October 31 and November 3, 2016 to solicit comments for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV electric transmission line that would extend approximately 125 miles, connecting Dane County, Wisconsin, and Dubuque County, Iowa (see enclosed map). More specifically, the line would originate in the Hickory Creek Substation in Iowa and terminate at the Cardinal Substation in Wisconsin. In addition, a new intermediate 345/138 kV substation would be constructed near the Village of Montfort, in either Grant or Iowa County. The RUS is hosting the meetings to obtain feedback as part of the federal review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to be used to prepare the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. You are invited to attend one of two meetings to provide input. The meeting details are listed below. The content covered at each meeting will be the same, so your attendance is only requested at one location. Those unable to attend in person are encouraged to attend via conference call on Thursday, November 3.

Date	Time	Venue	Conference Call Access
October 31, 2016	10:00am - noon	Peosta Community Center 7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068	No call is available
November 3, 2016	10:00am - noon	Madison Marriott West Greenway Room 1313 John Q Hammons Drive Middleton, WI 53562	Dial: 866-740-1260 Access code: 6030811



If you are not able to attend the agency scoping meetings, or if you are also interested in participating in the public scoping process, RUS also will be holding public scoping meetings at the times and locations listed below.

Date	Location	Time	Venue
October 31, 2016	Peosta, Iowa	3:00–6:00 p.m.	Peosta Community Center 7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068
November 1, 2016	Cassville, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Cassville Middle School Cafeteria 715 E. Amelia Street Cassville, WI 53806
November 2, 2016	Dodgeville, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Dodgeville Middle School Cafeteria 951 Chapel Street Dodgeville, WI 53533
November 3, 2016	Middleton, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Drive Middleton, WI 53562

The Utilities have tentatively identified two potential transmission line corridors, the “West” and the “South” corridors, as well as several subroutes, as part of their siting studies. These siting studies have been summarized in reports prepared by the Utilities and will be posted to the RUS project website for your review:

- Macro-Corridor Study (MCS)
- Alternative River Crossings Analysis (ACA)
- Alternative Evaluation Study (AES)

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dennis Rankin at 202-720-1953 or at dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Additional information about the project, including project reports, can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements>
<http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>.

Sincerely,

Greg Poremba
 Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
 SWCA Environmental Consultants

Enclosure: Draft agenda for agency meeting
 Map of proposed transmission line corridors



Draft Agenda
Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Project
Environmental Impact Statement
Rural Utilities Service
Agency Scoping Meetings

Welcome – Dennis Rankin (RUS)

Introductions – Dennis Rankin (RUS)

Overview of project progress since previous meetings with agencies – Utilities

Agency coordination and Schedule – Dennis Rankin (RUS)

Potential issues of concern – SWCA Environmental Consultants

Summary of meeting and action items – SWCA Environmental Consultants

Kathy Gourley
State Historical Preservation Office
Historical Society of Iowa
300 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Seth Moore
Conservation and Recreation Division
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kelly Stone
Floodplain
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kelly Poole
Sovereign Lands
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Joe Griffin
Stormwater
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Christine Schwake
Water Quality
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Bryan Bradley
Traffic and Safety
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Jim Sundermeyer
Utilities Division
Iowa Utilities Board
1375 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Pamela Schuler
Ice Age National Scenic Trail
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

Adam Ingwell
Division of Energy Regulation
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Jim Lepinski
Division of Energy Regulation
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Kevin Zidarich
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
810 Main Street
Muscatine, IA 52761

Wendy Frohlich
Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Jeff Nelson
Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Joseph Lundh
Mississippi River Project Office
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 534
Pleasant Valley, IA 52767

Donna Jones
Rock Island District, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Donna Hardy
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Todd Vesperman
St. Paul District, Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
20711 Watertown Road, Suite F
Waukesha, WI 53186

Paul St. Louis
Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Nathan Wallerstedt
St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

Kerrie Hauser
St. Paul District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1114 South Oak Street
La Crescent, MN 55947

Tim Yager
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street - Rm 106A
Winona, MN 55987

Wendy Woyczik
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
470 Cliff Haven Road
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Andrew Horton
Twin Cities Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Tom Melius
Midwest Region
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437

Kraig McPeck
Rock Island Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

Sabrina Chandler
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street - Rm 106A
Winona, MN 55987

Charlie Blair
Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437

David R Siebert
Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Joshua A Brown
Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Sustainability
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Joey Shoemaker
Rock Island District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, WI 61204

Kristen Lundh
Rock Island Ecological Services
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

Officer-in-Charge
USCGC Wyaconda (WLR-75403)
U.S. Coast Guard
60 E. First Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Jim Keefer
Chicago Airports District Office, CHI-ADO-600
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Bob Fasick
Bureau of Highway Maintenance
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
PO Box 7986, Room 501
Madison, WI 53705

Mike Finkenbinder
Emergency Relief
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707

Marilyn Weiss
Agricultural Impact Statements
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer
Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718

Alice Halpin
Agricultural Impact Statements
Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer
Protection
2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53718

**Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Agency Scoping Meeting
October 31, 2016 - Peosta, Iowa**



Name	Agency/Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Chuck Thompson	Dairyland Power	608-787-1432	chuck.thompson@dairylandpower.com
DOUG JONES	IOWA SHPO	515 281-4358	doug.jones@iowa.gov
Don Hazan	ITC	515-897-8236	dhazan@itctransco.com
Amy Lee	ATC	608-877-3670	alee@atellc.com
Angela Jordan	ITC	319-297-6819	ajordana@itctransco.com
Ellen Loechner	USFWS - RIFU	309 428 4565	ellen-loechner@fws.gov
Jeff Nelson	USACE - Rock Island	309-794-5833	Jeffrey.E.Nelson@usace.army.mil
Tim Yager	USFWS - Refuges	507-494-6219	timothy-yager@fws.gov
Annette Carter	USACE - Rock Island Dist.	309-794-5081	Annette.N.Carter@usace.army.mil
Joseph Lundh	USACE - Rock Island Dist.	309-794-4528	Joseph.S.Lundh@usace.army.mil
BRIAN SUTHERLAND	USDA - RUS EES	615- 783 -1383	brian.sutherland@tn.usda.gov
DENNIS RANKIN	USDA - RUS - EES	202-720-1953	dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov
DON TORMEY	IOWA UTILITIES BOARD	515.725.7347	don.tormey@iub.iowa.gov

**Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Agency Scoping Meeting
November 3, 2016 – Middleton, Wisconsin**



Name	Agency/Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
JACK GILBERTSEN	FAA CHI ADO	847-294-8253	jgilbertsen@faa.gov
Adam SCHLEICHER	WisDOT	608-516-6487	adam.schleicher@dot.wi.gov
Mark Ryan	ITC	563 590 6134	mark@itc-transloc.com
Adam Ingwele	PSC-WIS	608-267-9197	adam.ingwele@wisconsin.gov
Josh Brown	WI DNR	608-267-2770	joshuaa.brown@wi.gov
Joe Dorawa	USDA - RD	715-345-7149	Joseph.Dorawa@wi.usda.gov
Robyn Jensen	RUS	715-425-7484	robyn.jensen@wdc.usda.gov
Kellie Kubena	RWS	202-720-1649	kellie.kubena@wdc.usda.gov
Amy Lee	ATC	608-877-3670	alee@atelle.com
Chuck Thompson	DPC	608-787-1432	chuck.thompson@Dairyland.com
Mike Finkenbinder	WisDOT	608-266-1620	michael.finkenbinder@dot.wi.gov
MARILYN WEISS	DATCP	608- 226 ²²⁴ -4650	marilyn.weiss@wisconsin.gov
Sara Walling	DATCP - Ag Impact Stmt	608-224-4501	sara.walling@wi.gov
Coleman Burnett	SWCA	505-603-0811	cburnett@swca.com

**Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project
Agency Scoping Meeting
November 3, 2016 – Middleton, Wisconsin**



Name	Agency/Organization	Phone Number	Email Address
Greg Poremba	SWCA Environmental	206-781-1909	gporemba@swca.com
Pete Holtz	ATC	262-506-6874	pholtz@atcllc.com
LAUREN AZAR	AZAR LAW FOR ATC	608-332-9691	LAUREN@AZARLAWLLC.COM
TOM SCHEMM	ATC	920-360-5688	tschemm@atcllc.com
BRIAN SUTHERLAND	USDA- RUS	615-406-4711	brian.sutherland@fn.usda.gov
Dennis Rawkin	USD- RUS	202-730-1953	dennis.rawkin@wdc.usda.gov
JON CALLAWAY	ATC	608-877-3540	JCALLAWAY@ATCLLC.COM
John Madden	National Park Service	608-441-5610	john.madden@nps.gov
MARY TANO	N.P.S.	608-441-5610	mary_tano@nps.gov
Jean Darling	Olsson Associates	402-474-6311	jdarling@olssonassociates.com
Wendy Fritsch	Corps of Engineers	309-794-5573	wendy.m.fritsch@usace.army.mil
Kerrie Hauser	USACE- St. Paul District	651-290-5903	kerrie.j.hauser@usace.army.mil
Dan Hagan	ITC	515-897-8236	dhagan@itetransco.com

Attended
via
phone



Rural Development

November 17, 2016

Rural Utilities Service

Kathy Gourley
Historical Society of Iowa
300 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

1400 Independence
Ave SW, Room 2242
Stop 1571
Washington, DC
20250

Subject: Notification of Additional Rural Utilities Service Public Scoping Meetings for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line Environmental Impact Statement

Voice 202.720.1649
Fax 202.690.0649

Dear Kathy Gourley,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will host public scoping meetings, in an open house format, on December 6 and 7, 2016 to solicit comments for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV electric transmission line that would extend approximately 125 miles, connecting Dane County, Wisconsin, and Dubuque County, Iowa (see enclosed map). More specifically, the line would originate in the Cardinal Substation in Wisconsin and terminate at the Hickory Creek Substation in Iowa. In addition, a new intermediate 345/138 kV substation would be constructed near the Village of Montfort, in either Grant or Iowa County.

The RUS is hosting the public meetings to obtain feedback on the scope of the environmental review for the project as part of the federal environmental review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to be used to prepare the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The meeting details are listed below.

Date	Location	Time	Address
December 6, 2016	Peosta, Iowa Peosta Community Center	4:00–7:00 p.m.	7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068
December 7, 2016	Barneveld, Wisconsin Deer Valley Lodge	4:00–7:00 p.m.	401 West Industrial Drive Barneveld, WI 53507

Public scoping meetings were previously held in Iowa and Wisconsin on October 31–November 3, 2016. An additional meeting was added in Iowa to meet notification requirements. Based on public input, an additional meeting also was added in Wisconsin in order to give the public more opportunities to review the project.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dennis Rankin at 202-720-1953 or at dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Additional information about the project, including project reports, can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements>

<http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>.

Sincerely,

Greg Poremba, Signatory on behalf of RUS
Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Enclosure

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Kathy Gourley
Archaeologist and Review Coordinator
Historical Society of Iowa
300 E. Locust Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Seth Moore
Environmental Review Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kelly Stone
Floodplain Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Kelly Poole
Endangered Species Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Joe Griffin
Stormwater Coordinator
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Christine Schwake
Environmental Specialist
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
502 East 9th Street
Des Moines, IA 50319

Bryan Bradley
State Utility Engineer
Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010

Jim Sundermeyer
Utilities Engineer
Iowa Utilities Board
1375 E. Court Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50319

Mary Tano
Outdoor Recreation Planner
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

John Madden
Superintendent
National Park Service
700 Rayovac Drive, Suite 100
Madison, WI 53711

Adam Ingwell
Environmental Issues
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Jim Lepinski
Transmission Service Planning
Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
PO Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707

Kevin Zidarich
Natural Resource Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
810 Main Street
Muscatine, IA 52761

Wendy Frohlich
Biologist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Jeff Nelson
Real Estate Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Annette Carter
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Joseph Lundh
Environmental Review
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 534
Pleasant Valley, IA 52767

Donna Jones
Chief, Enforcement Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Donna Hardy
Project Manager
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Todd Vesperman
Southeast Section Chief
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
250 N. Sunnyslope Rd., Suite 296
Brookfield, WI 53005

Paul St. Louis
Section 408 Coordinator/Section 10 Review
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204

Nathan Wallerstedt
Section 408 Coordinator/Section 10 Review
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
180 Fifth Street East, Suite 700
St. Paul, MN 55101

Kerrie Hauser
Natural Resources Specialist
Regulatory Branch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1114 South Oak Street
La Crescent, MN 55947

Tim Yager
Deputy Refuge Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street - Rm 106A
Winona, MN 55987

Wendy Woyczik
McGregor District Assistant Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
470 Cliff Haven Road
Prairie du Chien, WI 53821

Andrew Horton
Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
4101 American Boulevard East
Bloomington, MN 55425

Tom Melius
Midwest Regional Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437

Kraig McPeck
Field Office Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

Sabrina Chandler
Complex Manager
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
51 East 4th Street - Rm 106A
Winona, MN 55987

Charlie Blair
Midwest Region Chief of Refuges
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
5600 American Blvd West, Suite 990
Bloomington, MN 55437

Ellen Loechner
Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

David R Siebert
Director
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Joshua A Brown
Wetland and Waterway Permits
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
101 S. Webster Street, PO Box 7921
Madison, WI 53707

Joey Shoemaker
Section 404 Review/Iowa
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
PO Box 2004
Rock Island, WI 61204

Kristen Lundh
Biologist
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1511 47th Avenue
Moline, IL 61265

Officer-in-Charge
Officer-in-Charge
U.S. Coast Guard
60 E. First Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Jack Gilbertsen
Federal Aviation Administration
2300 E. Devon Avenue
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Bob Fasick
Statewide Utility Accommodation Policy and Permits
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
PO Box 7986, Room 501
Madison, WI 53705

Mike Finkenbinder
Program Manager
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
PO Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707

Adam Schleicher
Utility Engineer
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
3550 Mormon Coulee Road
La Crosse, WI 54601

Marilyn Weiss

Agriculture Impact Analyst

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer
Protection

2811 Agriculture Drive

Madison, WI 53718

Sara Walling

Agriculture Impact Analyst

Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer
Protection

2811 Agriculture Drive

Madison, WI 53718

Don Tormey

Communications Manager

Iowa Utilities Board

1375 E. Court Avenue, Room 69

Des Moines, IA 0

Kathy Kowal

U.S. EPA, Region 5

77 W. Jackson Blvd, Mail Code: E-19J

Chicago, IL 60604

Chip Brown

Wisconsin Historical Society

816 State Street

Madison, WI 53706

This page intentionally left blank

Appendix D: Tribal Scoping Letters and Mailing List

This page intentionally left blank



October 17, 2016

Tribal Administrator Stephanie Crowder
Bah Kho-je - Iowas of Oklahoma
335588 E 750 Road
Perkins, OK 74059

RE: Scoping Meeting Invitation for the Proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project, from Dubuque, Iowa to Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Tribal Administrator Stephanie Crowder:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. The proposed project is a new, approximately 90- to 125-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Dubuque County, Iowa, and Dane County, Wisconsin (please see the enclosed map). The proposed project is a joint initiative of three transmission utilities in Iowa and Wisconsin: Dairyland Power Cooperative, American Transmission Company; and ITC Midwest LLC. Additional information about the project, including available project reports, can be found here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements> and <http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>.

Dairyland Power Cooperative intends to request financial assistance from the RUS to fund its anticipated ownership interest in the transmission line portion of the project, which will represent 9% of the total project investment. Federal funding from the RUS is the federal nexus, which requires the proposed project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to right-of-way acquisition and construction. RUS is the designated lead Federal agency for the NEPA review process.

If RUS elects to fund this application, it will become an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800. Pursuant to 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RUS has issued a blanket delegation to its borrowers to initiate and proceed through Section 106 review. In accordance with this blanket delegation, [Dairyland and its environmental consultant-SWCA Environmental Consultants] is initiating Section 106 review on behalf of RUS. In delegating this authority, RUS is advocating for the direct interaction between its Electric Program borrowers and Indian tribes. RUS believes this interaction, prior to direct agency involvement, will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to historic properties of importance to Indian tribes earlier in project planning. In accordance with 36 CFR §800.2(a)(2), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, the RUS will serve as the Lead Agency for purposes of Section 106 review.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 680-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

The RUS is initiating the public scoping process for the draft EIS, and invites you to attend the open house meetings at the following locations and times.

Date	Location	Time	Venue
October 31, 2016	Peosta, Iowa	3:00–6:00 p.m.	Peosta Community Center 7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068
November 1, 2016	Cassville, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Cassville Middle School Cafeteria 715 E. Amelia Street Cassville, WI 53806
November 2, 2016	Dodgeville, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Dodgeville Middle School Cafeteria 951 Chapel Street Dodgeville, WI 53533
November 3, 2016	Middleton, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Madison Marriott West 1313 John Q Hammons Drive Middleton, WI 53562

At this time, we are respectfully requesting that you review the enclosed information and provide your input regarding general locations of cultural properties or other resources important to you in the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Study Area. The RUS will be sending additional future mailings to initiate further discussions regarding the proposed project. Cultural resources are among the important resources that will be addressed during preparation of the EIS for the proposed transmission line project. The RUS wants to ensure that any important cultural and natural resources and that are located within the project area are considered in any decision-making regarding the project.

We look forward to discussing the project with the Bah Kho-je - lowas of Oklahoma, should you wish to engage. If you have any questions regarding the project, or require any additional information, please contact the RUS Project Manager, Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 202-720-1953 or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov or myself, Greg Poremba, at 206-781-1909 or gporemba@swca.com.

Sincerely,

Greg Poremba, Signatory on behalf of RUS
Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Enclosure: Map of proposed transmission line corridors



Rural Development

November 17, 2016

Rural Utilities Service

1400 Independence Ave SW, Room 2242
Stop 1571
Washington, DC 20250

Voice 202.720.1649
Fax 202.690.0649

Tribal Administrator Stephanie Crowder
Bah Kho-je - Iowas of Oklahoma
335588 E 750 Road
Perkins, OK 74059

RE: Second Scoping Meeting Invitation for the Proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project, from Dubuque, Iowa to Madison, Wisconsin

Dear Tribal Administrator Stephanie Crowder:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), intends to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project. The proposed project is a new, approximately 90- to 125-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line between Dubuque County, Iowa, and Dane County, Wisconsin (please see the enclosed map). The proposed project is a joint initiative of three transmission utilities in Iowa and Wisconsin: Dairyland Power Cooperative, American Transmission Company; and ITC Midwest LLC. Additional information about the project, including available project reports, can be found here: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements> and <http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>.

Dairyland Power Cooperative intends to request financial assistance from the RUS to fund its anticipated ownership interest in the transmission line portion of the project, which will represent 9% of the total project investment. Federal funding from the RUS is the federal nexus, which requires the proposed project to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) prior to construction. RUS is the designated lead Federal agency for the NEPA review process.

If RUS elects to fund this application, it will become an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 54 U.S.C. 306108, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800. Pursuant to 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970). In accordance with 36 CFR §800.2(a)(2), the regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA, the RUS will serve as the Lead Agency for purposes of Section 106 review.

The RUS has initiated the public scoping process for the draft EIS, and invites you to attend the second set of public scoping meetings at the following locations and times.

Date	Location	Time	Venue
December 6, 2016	Peosta, Iowa	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Peosta Community Center 7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068
December 7, 2016	Barneveld, Wisconsin	4:00–7:00 p.m.	Deer Valley Lodge 401 West Industrial Drive Barneveld, WI 53507

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Hickory Creek Study Area. The RUS will be sending additional future mailings to initiate further discussions regarding the proposed project.

Cultural resources are among the important resources that will be addressed during the preparation of the EIS for the proposed transmission line project. The RUS wants to ensure that any important cultural and natural resources that are located within the project area are considered in any decision-making regarding the project.

In accordance with 7 CFR § 1970.5(b)(2) of the regulations, "Environmental Policies and Procedures" (7 CFR Part 1970), RUS has issued a blanket delegation to its borrowers, (Dairyland and its environmental consultant-SWCA Environmental Consultants), to initiate and proceed through NEPA and Section 106 review. In doing so in accordance with 36 CFR 800.8(a)(1) of the regulations, RUS is streamlining NEPA and Section 106 responsibilities to engage tribes as early as possible in the process through our borrowers and their consultant. RUS believes this engagement will support and encourage the consideration of impacts to cultural resources under NEPA and historic properties under Section 106 early in the project planning process.

We look forward to discussing the project with the Bah Kho-je - lowas of Oklahoma. If you have any questions regarding the project, or require any additional information, please contact the RUS Project Manager, Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, at 202-720-1953 or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov or me, Greg Poremba, at 206-781-1909 or gporemba@swca.com.

Sincerely,



Greg Poremba, Signatory on behalf of RUS
Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Enclosure: Map of proposed transmission line corridors

Tribal Administrator Stephanie Crowder
Bah Kho-je - lowas of Oklahoma
335588 E 750 Road
Perkins, OK 74059

Chairperson Wally Dupuis
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
1720 Big Lake Road
Cloquet, MN 55720

Chairperson Harold "Gus" Frank
Forest County Potawatomi
5416 Everybody's Road
Crandon, WI 54520

Chairperson Michael Isham
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
13394 N. Round Lake School Road
Hayward, WI 54843

Chairperson James William Jr.
Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
N4698 US 45
Watersmeet, MI 49969

President Joni Greendeer
Ho-Chunk / Winnebago Nation of Wisconsin
W9814 Airport Road, Tribal Office Building
Black River Falls, WI 54615

THPO William Quackenbush
Ho-Chunk / Winnebago Nation of Wisconsin
W9814 Airport Road, Tribal Office Building
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Chairperson John Blackhawk
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
100 Bluff Street, PO Box 687
Winnebago, NE 68071

Chairperson Gary Besaw
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
PO Box 910
Keshena, WI 54135

Chairperson Judith Bender
Meskwaki Nation - Sac and Fox Tribe of the Mississippi in Iowa
349 Meskwaki Road
Tama, IA 52339

Chairperson Brigitte Robidoux
Ne ma ha ha ki - Sac and Fox Nation in Missouri
305 North Main Street
Reserve, KS 66434

Chairperson Wes Martin Jr.
Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
N7210 Seminary Road
Oneida, WI 54155

Chairperson Liana Onnen
Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation
16281 Q Road
Mayetta, KS 66509

President Shelley Buck
Prairie Island Indian Community Minnesota
5636 Sturgeon Lake Road
Welch, MN 55089

Tribal Chair Bryan Bainbridge
Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
88385 Pike Road
Bayfield, WI 54814

Principal Chief George Thurman
Sa ki wa ki - Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
920883 S. Hwy 99 Bldg. A
Stroud, OK 74079

THPO Sandra Massey
Sa ki wa ki - Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma
920883 S. Hwy 99 Bldg. A
Stroud, OK 74079

Chairperson Chris McGeshick
Sokaogon Chippewa Community Mole Lake Board
3051 Sand Lake Road
Crandon, WI 54520

Chairperson Lewis Taylor
St. Croix Band Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
24663 Angeline Avenue
Webster, WI 54893

President Shannon Holsey
Stockbridge Munsee Community of Wisconsin
N8476 MoHeConNuck Rd.
Bowler, WI 54416

Chairperson Robert Blanchard
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Tribe
PO Box 39
Odanah, WI 54861

Chairperson Tim Rhodd
Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska
3345 B. Thrasher Rd.
White Cloud, KS 66094

Chairperson Henry Butch St. Germaine
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
PO Box 67
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538

Chairperson David Pacheco
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 70
McLoud, OK 74851

THPO George Strack
Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1326
Miami, OK 74355

THPO Wesley Andrews
Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
7500 Odawa Circle
Harbor Springs, MI 49740

THPO Michael Blackwolf
Fort Belknap Indian Community
656 Agency Main Street
Harlem, MT 59526

Chairperson Lyman Guy
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
PO Box 1330
Anadarko, OK 73005

This page intentionally left blank

Appendix E: Local Government Scoping Letters and Mailing List

This page intentionally left blank



Rural Development

November 17, 2016

Rural Utilities Service

Dave Considine
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

1400 Independence
Ave SW, Room 2242
Stop 1571
Washington, DC
20250

Voice 202.720.1649
Fax 202.690.0649

Dear Representative Considine,

The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will host public scoping meetings, in an open house format, on December 6 and 7, 2016 to solicit comments for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV electric transmission line that would extend approximately 125 miles, connecting Dane County, Wisconsin, and Dubuque County, Iowa (see enclosed map). More specifically, the line would originate in the Cardinal Substation in Wisconsin and terminate at the Hickory Creek Substation in Iowa. In addition, a new intermediate 345/138 kV substation would be constructed near the Village of Montfort, in either Grant or Iowa County.

The RUS is hosting the public meetings to obtain feedback on the scope of the environmental review for the project as part of the federal environmental review process required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), to be used to prepare the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed project. The meeting details are listed below.

Date	Location	Time	Address
December 6, 2016	Peosta, Iowa Peosta Community Center	4:00–7:00 p.m.	7896 Burds Road Peosta, IA 53068
December 7, 2016	Barneveld, Wisconsin Deer Valley Lodge	4:00–7:00 p.m.	401 West Industrial Drive Barneveld, WI 53507

Scoping meetings were previously held in Iowa and Wisconsin on October 31–November 3, 2016. An additional meeting was added in Iowa to meet notification requirements. Based on public input, an additional meeting also was added in Wisconsin in order to give the public more opportunities to review the project.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Dennis Rankin at 202-720-1953 or at dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. Additional information about the project, including project reports, can be found at the following websites:

<http://www.rd.usda.gov/publications/environmental-studies/impact-statements>
<http://www.cardinal-hickorycreek.com/>

Sincerely,

Greg Poremba, Signatory on behalf of RUS
Cardinal-Hickory Creek EIS Project Manager
SWCA Environmental Consultants

Enclosure

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Dave Considine
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Dianne Hesselbein
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

Sondy Pope
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Todd Novak
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Travis Tranel
Wisconsin State Assembly
PO Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708

Howard Marklein
Wisconsin State Senate
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Jon Erpenbach
Wisconsin State Senate
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Scott McDonell
Dane County Clerk
210 MI King Jr Blvd Rm 106A
Madison, WI 53703

Audra Anderson
Blue Mounds Village President
3019 Jones St
Blue Mounds, WI 53517

Dennis Jelle
Blue Mounds Town Chairperson
2000 Highway 78
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Pat Andreoni
Cross Plains Village President
3041 Creek Side Way
Cross Plains, WI 53528

Greg Hyer
Cross Plains Town Chairperson
4296 County Road P
Cross Plains, WI 53528

David Shaw
Middleton Town Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer
7555 W Old Sauk Rd
Verona, WI 53593

Sara Ludtke
Middleton Town Deputy Clerk
7555 W Old Sauk Rd
Verona, WI 53593

David Becker
Mount Horeb Village President
303 Golfview Dr
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Vicki Anderson
Springdale Town Clerk
2379 Town Hall Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Barbara Grenlie
Vermont Town Chairperson
9973 Greenwald Rd
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Robert Keeney
Grant County Chairperson
320 N Aarlocker St
Mount Hope, WI 53816

Thomas Cartwright
Beetown Town Chairperson
9446 Old Beetown Rd
Cassville, WI 53806

Keevin Williams
Cassville Village President
502 E Amelia St
Cassville, WI 53806

Douglas Schauff
Cassville Town Chairperson
9973 Rattlesnake Rd
Cassville, WI 53806

Steve Barth
Clifton Town Chairperson
827 Rock Church Rd
Livingston, WI 53554

Jim Broihahn
Ellenboro Town Chairperson
4641 Kingsford Rd
Lancaster, WI 53813

Nathan Niehaus
Harrison Town Chairperson
3190 Baker Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

Jerry Wehrle
Mayor, City of Lancaster
206 S Madison St
Lancaster, WI 53813

Patrick Schroeder
Liberty Town Chairperson/Grant County Supervisor
3945 Hypoint Rd
Lancaster, WI 53813

Pat Ostendorf
Lima Town Chairperson
1188 Rawson Ln
Platteville, WI 53818

Tom Brown
Livingston Village President
140 S Franklin St
Livingston, WI 53554

James Schmitz
Montfort Village President
304 Dale Dr
Montfort, WI 53569

Karen Kurt
Platteville City Manager
75 N Bonson St
Platteville, WI 53818

Tom Weigel
Platteville Town Chairperson
570 College Farm Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

Curtis Fetzek
Potosi Town Chairperson
5230 County Road O
Potosi, WI 53820

Gary Schneider
South Lancaster Town Chairperson
8690 Rusty Ln
Lancaster, WI 53813

John Patcle
Waterloo Town Chairperson
6049 Dutch Hollow Rd
Lancaster, WI 53813

Kevin Bickford
Wingville Town Chairperson
13818 County Road G
Montfort, WI 53569

John Meyers
Iowa County Chairperson
3110 County Road K
Barneveld, WI 53507

Curt Kephart
Iowa County Administrator
222 N Iowa St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

David Lucey
Arena Town Chairperson
6780 Baker Rd
Arena, WI 53503

Scott Leahy
Barneveld Village President
10 Kent Dr
Barneveld, WI 53507

Jason Carden
Brigham Town Chairperson
7701 Lone Pine Rd
Barneveld, WI 53507

Bob Roelli
Cobb Village President
103 Clifton St
Cobb, WI 53526

Todd Novak
Mayor, City of Dodgeville
100 E Fountain St
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Curtis Peterson
Dodgeville Town Chairperson
4966 STH 23
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Larry Stenner
Eden Town Chairperson
3654 Cave Hollow Rd
Dodgeville, WI 53533

Allan Kosharek
Highland Town Chairperson
5029 Lagoon Rd
Highland, WI 53543

Dean Liddicoat
Linden Town Chairperson
1948 Avenell Rd
Mineral Point, WI 53565

Mark Pinch
Mifflin Town Chairperson
250 Rundell Rd
Livingston, WI 53554

Paul Simon
Rewey Village President
PO Box 44
Rewey, WI 53580

Jon Steen
Ridgeway Village President
199 Kirby St
Ridgeway, WI 53582

Joe Thomas
Ridgeway Town Chairperson
2751 County Road BB
Dodgeville, WI 53533

John Hess
Wyoming Town Chairperson
5851 County Road Z
Spring Green, WI 53588

Brad Schobert
Belmont Town Chairperson
25626 Schultz Ln
Belmont, WI 53510

Bradley Kettler
Elk Grove Town Chairperson
30826 Center Drive Rd
Platteville, WI 53818

Roy D. Buol
Mayor - City of Dubuque
50 West 13th St
Dubuque, IA 52001

Mike VanMilligen
City Manager - City of Dubuque
50 West 13th St
Dubuque, IA 52001

Mary Willett
City Manager - City of Guttenberg
PO Box 580
Guttenberg, IA 52052

Geoff Barkalow
City Manager - City of East Dubuque
185 Wisconsin Ave
East Dubuque, IL 61025

Wayne Demmer
Dubuque County Supervisor
9018 Lone Pine Rd
Epworth, IA 52045

Gary Bowden
Clayton County Supervisor
600 Gunder Rd
Elkader, IA 52043

Pam Jochum
Iowa State Senator
2368 Jackson Street
Dubuque, IA 52001

Michael Breitbach
Iowa State Senator
301 W. Mission Street
Strawberry Point, IA 52076

Tod Bowman
Iowa State Senator
812 Grant Street
Maquoketa, IA 52060

Kristi Hager
Iowa State Representative
578 Lonning Drive
Dorchester, IA 52140

Abby Finkenauer
Iowa State Representative
1040 Rush Street
Dubuque, IA 52003

Charles Isenhardt
Iowa State Representative
PO Box 3353
Dubuque, IA 52004-3353

Randy Littel
Mt. Horeb Village President
704 E. Main Street
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Ed Eloranta
Springdale Town Chairman
2520 Lunde Lane
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

Appendix F: Comment Coding Structure

This page intentionally left blank

Code	Resource Issue/Topic	Code	Resource Issue/Topic
101	Code TBD/Pending	233	Air Quality
102	No Further Response Required	233.01	Air - Dust
102.01	Beyond Scope	233.02	Air - Equipment Emissions
102.02	Position, No Rationale	233.03	Climate Change
102.03	Already Addressed	234	Soils
102.0401	Procedural, already decided by law/ regulation/policy/direction	234.01	Disturbance, Erosion, etc.
102.0403	Procedural, addressed through No Action Alternative	234.02	Compaction from Project
110	Decision Process	234.03	Soil Health/Organic Matter
110.01	Cooperating Agency Involvement	234.04	Sub-Soil/Tilling/De-compaction
110.04	Laws, Policies, Courts	234.05	Sensitive Soils
110.0401	Case Law	235	Geology
110.0402	Court decisions	241	Vegetation
110.0403	Violates Law/Regulation/Policy	241.01	General Vegetation
110.0404	Federal Laws	241.02	Threatened/Endangered Plant Species
110.0405	Endangered Species Act	241.03	Noxious Weeds
110.0406	Other Fed. Agency Policies	243	Wildlife
110.0407	State Laws, Policies	243.01	WL - General Animal Species
110.0408	County, Municipal Policies	243.02	Migratory Birds
110.07	Objections -General	243.03	Habitat Fragmentation
111	Public Involvement	243.04	Threatened/Endangered Wildlife
111.01	Collaboration, Meetings	244	Land Use
111.02	Government-to-government consultation	244.01	Agriculture
111.03	Comment Period	244.02	Livestock/Range
120	NEPA Process	244.03	Commercial
120.01	Proposed Action	244.04	Residential
120.02	Purpose and Need	244.05	Mining
121.03	Alternatives	244.06	Conservation Easement
121.0301	Range of Alternatives	244.07	Special Designations
121.0304	New Alternative Proposed	245	Recreation and Natural Areas
121.04	Connected Action	245.01	Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge
122	Impact Analysis	245.02	Historic Trails
122.01	Cumulative Impacts Analysis	245.03	State Natural Areas/State Trails
122.02	Disclosure of Impacts	245.04	Recreation - General
122.03	Technical, Editorial	245.05	Hunting/Fishing
122.4	Mitigation	246	Paleontology
232	Water, Watershed Management	250	Transportation System
232.01	Surface Water/Groundwater	250.01	Public Access
232.03	Riparian Areas/Wetlands	250.02	User-Created Roads/Unauthorized Routes
232.04	Water Quantity/quality	250.03	Road Closure
232.05	Mississippi River	250.04	Decommissioning
232.06	Watershed Condition	250.05	Road Reconstruction
232.07	Floodplain/Meadow	250.06	Road Density
		250.07	Railroads
		250.08	Aviation
		260	Visual Resources

Code	Resource Issue/Topic	Code	Resource Issue/Topic
280	Socioeconomics	507	Requests for Information/Map
280.01	Jobs	507.01	Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)
280.02	Local Economics	507.02	Requests Documents or Info
280.04	Environmental Justice	507.03	Mailing list or nothing to code
280.05	Social - Other	507.04	Remove from mailing list
281.01	Resource Value	507.05	Confirm receipt of letter
281.0101	Market values	508	Comment Period Extension
281.0102	Nonmarket values	509	Literature Cited, not provided, need to find
281.02	Cost/Benefit Outcome	510	Literature cited, provided, requires review
281	Communications Infrastructure	511	References other project
281.1	Communications Infrastructure-General		
282	Cultural Resources/106		
282.01	Historical Site (non-native American)		
282.02	Native American		
282.03	Site/TCP/Traditional Cultural Property		
283	Public Health and Safety		
284	Noise		

Appendix G: List of Commenters

This page intentionally left blank

Governments, Agencies, and Organizations

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma
U.S. Senator
U.S. House of Representatives (Wisconsin 2nd Congressional District)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Park Service
Iowa State Historic Preservation Office
Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs
Iowa Department of Natural Resources
City of Dubuque, IA
City of Platteville, WI
Town of Stark, WI Energy Planning Information Committee
Platteville Township, WI
Town of Arena, WI Planning Commission
Town of Belmont, WI
Town of Springdale, WI
Town of Vermont, WI
Village of Mt. Horeb, WI
Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA)
Center for Rural Affairs
Driftless Area Land Conservancy
Environmental Law & Policy Center
Ice Age Trail Alliance
Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club
Iowa Environmental Council
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
The Prairie Enthusiasts
Trout Unlimited
Vermont Citizens Powerline Action Committee
Wisconsin COUNTS (Citizens Opposed to Unnecessary Transmission Lines)
Wisconsin Nature Conservancy

General Public

Matthew Ahearn	Chris Kelley
Joanna Ahearn	Debra Kelly
Amy Ahrens	Todd King
William and Janet Aide	Mary Knight
Tamlyn Akins	Dale Koehler
Amy Alstad	Gerald Koerner
Barbara Anderson	Claudia Koprowski
David Anderson	Binky Krahn
Anonymous	Sierra Krall
Anonymous	Jim and Susan Krause
Anonymous	Mary Kritz
Anonymous	Todd Kummer
Peter Antonie	Joel Kurth
Steve Arneson	Tamar Kusmin
Jim Bach	William Ladewig
Anne Bachner	Lewis Lama
Marilee Backstrand	Emily Larsen
Brenda Baker	Jack Lenehan
Marie Baker	Mike Lenehan
Mary Kay Baum	Sally Leong
Thomas Baumberger	Jon Lewis
Caroline Beckett	Carol Lind
Ronald Behnke	Matt and Joyce Link
Karen Bell	Linda Lisse
Nicholas Bellios	Douglas Lloyd
Jim Berned	Patty Lucas
Marianne Berned	Margo Lyonhart
Victorie Bindl	Nick Maerz
Debbie Binger	Paul Manley
Brian Boland	Dorothy Martin
Jim and Diane Boland	Sally and John Mather
Peter Boland	Roderick Matthews
Chad Bollenbach	Lawrence Mayhew
Stephen Born	John McFee
Barbara Borns	Aaron McGee
Anne Bosch	Nancy McGill
Guy Breternitz	Michael McGowan
Linda Breternitz	Renee McGowan
Debra Brown	Katie McGrath
Jeff Brown	Sheila McGuirk
Joanne Brown	Shawn McSherry
Jim and Nancy Bruins	David Meylor
Naomi Burnay	Susan Michmerhuizen
Robert Butler	Mark Mittelstadt
Katherine Cahill	Jack Momchilovich
Sam Cahill	Debora Morton

Pamela Callahan and John Walte	Dietrich and Renate Muller
Donald Campbell	Dona Muller
James and Jamie Campbell	Patricia Murphy
Kevin Campbell	Ellen Myers
Syd Campbell	June Nagel
Stephen Carpenter	Carol Nelson
Kiley and Eric Cates	Rebecca Nelson
Kim Cates	Stacey Novak
Richard Cates	Maureen Nugent
Keith Caulfield	Justin O'Brien
Joseph Ceniti	Karen O'Brien
Michelle Citron	Joe O'Connell
Mary Clay	Gary Olsen
Kathleen Clougherty	Robert and Julie Olson
Kevin Clougherty	Daniel Orman
Keri Conway	Lisa Orman
David Cook	Carol Overland
Gary Cox	Carol Parrell
Matthew Cox	Darla and John Patterson
Nancy Cox	John Peck
Jeffrey Crossfield	Danielle Pellitteri
James Curtis	Joan Peterson
Kate D	Tom and Julie Phillips
Betsy D'Angelo	Allen Pincus
Mary Jane Daugherty	Tom Porter
A.J. Daughtry Krill	Joseph Prescott
Carolyn Daughtry Krill	Donna Prieo
Lucey David	Jean Public
Molly Day	Amanda Purcell
Michael Dearing	Joseph Radtke
Andrea Debbink	Douglas Randall
Kathryn Dejak	Sherrill Randall
Laurie Derse	Mark Rauls
Duane Deutmeyer	Joel Reinders
Jim Doherty	Dana Renor
Michael Dolan	Karen Reppen
Lea Dolan-Stroncek	Kim Reynolds
John Donaldson	Scott Ringgenberg
John Duffey	Nancy Rodriguez
Bernard Easterday	Olivia Ruckstuhl
Amy Edge	Katrina Rudolph
Duane Eide	Frank Sandner
Debra Eide	Taemie Saucerman
David Elderbrock	Jack Sayre
Sandy Ellarson	George Schafer
Scott Ellarson	John Schoenemann
Louise Erpenbach	George Schultz

Leslie Evans	Mary Schultz
Linda Evans	Kenneth Schuster
William Fannucchi	Peter Schwei
Matthew Ford	Monica Sella
Dave Forseth	Carolyn Shaffer
Albert Friedman	Clarissa Sheldon
Sean Gallagher	Brian Simmert
Jon Garner	Charlotte Smith
Nancy Garner	Tom and Gretchen Spicer
Sharon Gaskill	David Stanfield
Warren Gaskill	Kim Starr
Claudia Gehlhaart	Diane Sterba
Linda Gerke	Gayl Stewart
John Gerl	Elizabeth Strand
Sharon Gerl	Frank Stroncek
Zach Gerl	Gregory Stroncek
Boyd Gibbons	Steve Stroncek
David Giffey	Joan Stuessy
Nancy Giffey	Mark Sturnick
John Gilbert	Denise Sullivan
Muriel Gilbert	Philip and Joan Sullivan
Michael Goodfriend	Juniper Sundance
Joel Goodman	Connie Swanson
Michael Goodman	Dean Swensen
Richard Graney	Jan Swensen
Charles Greco	Paul Swenson
Patricia Greene	Judith Symon Hanson
Barbara Grenlie	Cynthia Taylor
Sharon Gundersen	Charlene Taymor
Aaron Gundlach	Denise Thornton
Douglas Gurak	Darren Tremelling
Kathy Haig	John Troy
John Hallick	Christine Tsubokura
Evelyn Halverson	Carl Tunestam
Traci Halverson	Eric Udelhofen
Vern Halverson	Ruth Uppena
Doug Hansmann	Mike Van Sichlen
Andrew Harrah	Ben Vondra
Rick Harris	Anna Voytovich
Kristi Hart	Nick Vreeland
Larry Hartzke	LaNell Wagner
Caitlin Hatch	Rob Wagner
Eric Haugen	Robert Wagner
Herb Helkwertto	Dolores Walz
John Hess	M. Faith Welling
Jacob Hills	Halee Wepking
John Himmelfarb	Steve Wernikoff

Gary Holberg	Gerald White
Claire Holland	John Wiest
Monte Hottmann	Alan Williams
David Hughes	Don Winch
Emily Isabella	Charles Winterwood
Steve Jacobson	Danny Wirts
Bradd Jenkin	Edward Wohl
Leslie Jensen	Myron Wojtowycz
Rick Jensen	Ann Wolfe
Edward Judge	Steve Woodman
Cathryn Kaiser	John and Marian Wright
Joan Kaiser Glaser	Xenia Wright
Betsy Katten	Martha York
Paul and Nancy Kaufman	Michelle and Bernard Zander
Jane Kavaloski	Lila Zastrow and Dave Hendrickson
Linda Kelen	Ann Zimrin
	David Zimrin

Late comments received

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Senator
Susan Beebe
Rick Hansen
Julie Hummel
Marcia Jablonski
David Stanfield
Ron (no last name provided)

This page intentionally left blank

Appendix H: Comment Summary Table

This page intentionally left blank

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
1	1	260/260	None	None	None	We ask that it be left unfettered by visual and environmental pollution.
1	2	102/102.02	None	None	None	This land, part Zoned Village of Cobb and part of Eden Township, in Iowa County is all that we have. It holds our past (history and memories) and our future. This little piece of the world is dear to us. Please don't spoil it.
2	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	Transmission lines may go through some of the 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.
2	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	It will disrupt our homes, our land, and our life.
2	3	283/283	None	None	None	Concern about 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.
2	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	Results in a decrease in the quality of life for persons near the transmission lines.
2	5	120/120.02	None	None	None	There is no need for this project. The need for 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 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. They are more interested in the revenues from these projects than the need for them. Their existence depends on getting these projects approved - even when there is no need for them.
2	6	280/280.02	283/283	None	None	Places an economic and health burden on persons near the transmission lines.
3	1	102/102.02	None	None	None	I appose [sic] this transmission line going through Iowa County.
4	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	Simple - We the people don't want your garbage on our properties!! You have NO right to invade private property! Put it in YOUR yard if you think its ok.
5	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	The value of our life savings will decrease or may never be available because no one would ever buy it when we have to sell and move to retirement.
5	2	235/235	None	None	None	This land is unique and there are unique geological features including several caves under where the poles will be located.
5	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please reconsider this option for the corridor.
5	4	244/244.04	None	None	None	I believe the corridor runs along our property and though there may not be any endangered species involved, it will impact us and other land owners for life.
6	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I left the Driftless Area for college, lived abroad for two years, and now I've come back, and part of my reason for coming back (besides family of course) was my memories of road bike rides around the ridges and valleys of north Dodgeville.
6	2	260/260	245/245.04	None	None	It's a landscape that's unique in the Midwest. Iowa, Minnesota, and the rest of Wisconsin are glaciated, flat, and if you're a bicyclist (or a biker, or a looky-lou, or a leaf-peeper) boring. The valleys are pretty and they have their trout streams and dairy farms, but the real reward for a cyclist (and I imagine anyone else) is the views from the ridgetops. There's Highland and Pleasant Ridge, and Montfort, and the top of County M, and each has their view north to the Wisconsin River and south over the cropland towards Platteville and Sinsinawa Mound. These views, and the release they provide from the green closeness of the valleys, are the great charm of this part of the state, and no matter the route this proposed powerline takes, they will suffer from it. I don't think I'm alone in loving this place for its landscape.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
6	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Every weekend in the summer, Governor Dodge is packed with tourists from Illinois, and though they frequent the hotels, restaurants, and stores in Dodgeville, I'm certain it's not the burgers at the Red Room that they come for. They come for the landscape, and I fear if we mar it with the industrial infrastructure that anyone who visits Illinois will recognize, they won't come. Why would they?
7	1	283/283	None	None	None	We are very concerned about stray voltage. We have a dairy farm in projected area, And Also have a 12 yr old daughter, who we feel will be harmed by the high voltage.
7	2	250/250.08	None	None	None	We also have an airport landing strip on our farm for ag. use to check crops and feel this may interfere [sic]
8	1	102/102.02	None	None	None	We are opposed to the transmission line.
8	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	There is nothing to be gained for this area with its construction; other negative environmental negative effects.
9	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Our friends live in Vermont Valley Township. In their neighborhood several are using solar + wind as their local alternative power generation. Studies show declining energy use in their area.
9	2	280/280	None	None	None	It also greatly concerns me that in the construction of these transmission towers an increased rate will show up in my electric bill.
9	3	102/102.02	None	None	None	I am emphatically opposed.
10	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	Friends of ours - who I have known my entire life moved to Vermont Valley Township, WI 21 years ago. I have visited them quite frequently + so am quite familiar with their property + the beautiful Driftless Area. So when they informed me of the proposed transmission lines which would run through such a sensitive environmental area - quite frankly I couldn't believe what they were telling me. I stand with them in being totally opposed to the project.
11	1	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	The transmission line would be bad for business at Seven Seeds Farm. This farm has been located in this land for seven generations - it would be wrong to run a line through it. The farm produces high quality organic meat which has been enjoyed by my family for years.
12	1	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project cannot be anywhere near Seven Seeds Farm in Spring Green, WI. It would cause irreparable harm to the farm, which prides itself on being organic, natural, and restorative. Seven Seeds Farm provides healthy, organic food and grass-fed beef to the community, and it also provides tours to school children and adults who want to learn more about organic farming. We need to protect and support businesses like Seven Seeds Farm, not destroy them with high voltage power lines. This cannot be allowed to happen.
13	1	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	I feel very strongly that the high voltage power lines would be devastating to Seven Seeds Farm in Spring Green, WI. Seven Seeds Farm is an organic, seven-generation farm. They believe in restorative and regenerative agriculture, and having high voltage power lines on or near the farm would be detrimental and cause permanent damage to the farm. We need more organic, sustainable farms in our country, and allowing the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line project anywhere near the farm would be terrible for the farm and the community. Please do not allow this to happen.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
14	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	I am opposed to the transmission line that is being proposed at Seven Seeds Farm.
14	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	The line is not necessary for the local community and would only harm the area.
14	3	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	We enjoy the meat and other products from Seven Seeds Farm and it has been in the same family for decades and this transmission line would be a great travesty. Thank you.
15	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	This is something we do not need!!! for the environment, for the people, etc., etc. Put your (our) money where it will help.
16	1	245/245.03	None	None	None	Please no transmission lines near the parks -- Thanks, Anne Gov. Dodge Shot Tower Blue Mounds
17	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We recently purchased our home and land. Had we known of this situation we would not have purchased it.
17	2	244/244.02	None	None	None	In this area you need 10 acres to have hooved animals. If you put a pole on our land we can no longer have them.
17	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We are concerned in the placing of transmission lines along our winding rural route. A more direct route (say the middle of 18/151) should be used to avoid destroying property value in our Driftless Area.
17	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	The integrity of our pristine area should be preserved for the enjoyment of future generations.
18	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I don't see what these constructions will add to Iowa County.
19	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	Cost is too high for the folks to pay in their electric bills while it serves no help to them.
19	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Real estate value will be lost due to the ugliness of the posts + lines.
19	3	260/260	None	None	None	Scenic appeal will be lost.
19	4	280/280.01	None	None	None	which in turn will affect tourists and business.
20	1	244/244	280/ 281.0101	None	None	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. and Roberts Rd. in Arena Township. I rely on this wood lot (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 by the line.
20	2	250/250.01	None	None	None	I also see a conflict with access to a divided parcel of timber.
20	3	234/234.01	None	None	None	The erosion potential for a line of this nature would be huge.
20	4	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	The land value of the area would drop like a rock from such an invasive eyesore.
20	5	120/120.02	280/280.01	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
21	1	260/260	280/280.05	None	None	I have lived all over the United States and I find the Driftless area of southwest Wisconsin to be some of the most beautiful countryside anywhere. Have you ever visited Taliesin near Spring Green? You will not see any high voltage, or hardly any electrical wires as you look over Frank Lloyd's Wright Estate. This part of the state has kept its charm and the natural landscape is superior to anywhere in the USA. Please lets [sic] not spoil this spectacular setting by erecting transmission lines that will not enhance the beauty of this area. Frank Lloyd Wright, our famous son said it best. "When you put up any type of structure on the land, the structure (or tower) must enhance the landscape and look as though it belongs there. Transmission tower will take way [sic] the beauty of the Driftless area.
22	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. Why is this transmission line needed? 2. What does Wisconsin get from it?
22	2	120/120.01	None	None	None	3. Does this make electrical sense? How much power is lost transmitting power over such a long distance?
23	1	233/233.03	None	None	None	1. Human generated climate change is real.
23	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	2. We need to transition to renewable energy sources as completely and quickly as possible. 3. Renewable energy production needs to be done locally. Each local ecosystem has a unique mix of renewable energy resources that can be sustainably developed. This must also include energy conservation even to the point of individual life-style changes to preserve the functioning of the local ecosystem. 4. Mega power generating stations and the mega transmission lines they require must be phased out. We need to be locally responsible for our own renewable energy generation and usage in order to preserve local ecosystems; such generation must be a sustainably functioning part of each local ecosystem. Massive energy importation is disruptive; one cannot increase the energy level of a system without changing the system.
23	3	233/233.03	None	None	None	We cannot solve global climate disruption by shifting the disruption to local levels.
23	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	The non-wealthy and the non-human must be considered. 5. We need to do this NOW. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would be a big step in the wrong direction - one we can no longer afford.
24	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	In attending the meeting of 12/7/16 I am unconvinced that the proposed line is necessary locally or for maintaining the larger grid.
24	2	235/235	None	None	None	My main concern is that the proposed line will run through some of Wisconsin's most pristine geological areas in the Southwest.
24	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	While I understand the economy of a straight line approach to fulfilling the demand of energy transmission, I believe that there are other routes here in Wisconsin or in other states, such as Illinois that already exist.
24	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	My wife and I live just north of Dodgeville, off Hwy 23 and the beauty of the area is what drew us here. While there may be some economic gain for the state of Wisconsin, I don't find that income or the financial boon for the power company justifies cutting through Southwest Wisconsin's beautiful heartland.
24	5	120/120.02	None	None	None	I don't feel the minimum standards for the power line is met. 1. Real need 2. Location 3. Ecology
24	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	P.S. if this does go through the northern route is preferable to the southern - less eyes on!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
25	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. It does not appear that this power line is necessary. My understanding is that the power will not be used anywhere in the Midwest. It also appears that the type of coal created electricity is not going to be necessary as technologies develop using alternative sources to generate power. So, the need for the electricity will be reduced even in the East where the lines will deliver the power to.
25	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	2. However, the cost of the power lines is very high, and the developers are not taking the risk on the investment of building and maintaining them. So rate payers will be paying higher fees to cover the cost. This arrangement is not fare [sic].
25	3	110/110.07	None	None	None	3. Many of the boards involved in the decisions are subject to pressure from homeowners who may be paid a fee for the lines that cross their land. Some Board members may have direct conflicts of interest because the line may run across their or their families land.
25	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	4. The entire are that these lines are being run through are precious ecological and economic resources. The project may cause a loss of tourism and hunting (and even agricultural) income for the entire region.
26	1	283/283	None	None	None	I am opposed to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line expansion project, since high voltage power lines have negative health effects causing an increased risk of cancer and leukemia, as cited in the November 17, 2016 Mt Horeb Mail.
26	2	260/260	None	None	None	Also, they are hideous to look at.
26	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	We should focus on renewable energy instead, which is better for our health and the environment.
26	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	These lines should never be placed near our schools, towns, or any populated area and more specifically, should not be placed near the village of Mt. Horeb.
27	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Who is benefiting from this project? Not the consumer as there is no need for this. Perhaps investors or billionaires?
27	2	283/283	None	None	None	Who will be harmed? All of us eventually.
27	3	280/281.01	None	None	None	The day is coming and sooner than many think, when the natural environment and resources will be valuable beyond price.
27	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	This a greedy and retrograde way of thinking - short term and about immediate profit. Truly in wilderness is the preservation of the world.
28	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Concerning the proposed routing of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line it appears to me that following a corridor along highway 18-151 toward Dubuque would make much sense. This routing would provide for less inland costs, less maintenance costs, fewer land owned issues, and a much more construction friendly land territory. These are certainly important considerations to take into account. Thank you for your attention.
29	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
30	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Following a high-voltage transmission line open house meeting in Dodgeville, WI and after reviewing the literature presented, I did not see proof of necessity nor benefit for gigantic transmission lines to cut through the beautiful Driftless area.
30	2	243/243	241/241.01	None	None	1. the negative environmental impact on both wildlife and plant life flourishing in the area
30	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	2. the aesthetic rape of the unique beauty of the Driftless region which currently attracts new homeowners and tourists supporting our state park (Governor Dodge), Blackhawk Lake, Taliesin, American Players Theater, Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers, Folklore Village, and House on the Rock. 3. the destruction of the character of our unique landscape and its effect on future and existing businesses such as aware winning Uplands cheese, Pleasant Ridge General Store, and Bethel Horizons.
30	4	280/ 281.0101	260/260	284/284	None	4. real estate devaluation resulting from the sight and noise caused by these monstrous lines.
30	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	view the unnecessary transmission lines as a hugely expensive project paid for by the driftless area utility customers with investors receiving a 10.2% guaranteed annual rate of investment. Huge profits on the backs of tax payers with no proof of electrical need. I am appalled!
31	1	232/232.04	None	None	None	How will this affect our wells. We have had 3 collapse in the neighborhood already and you are going right over us again.
32	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	in a time of declining electricity use I find building this line to be a huge waste of infrastructure dollars. This is especially important when we need those dollars for a conversion to renewable power.
32	2	260/260	None	None	None	My final objection to this project is on aesthetic grounds the reason I live in the Driftless region.
33	1	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	Why don't the routes follow the 4 lane highway (18-151) from Madison/Middleton to Dodgeville, then follow Hwy 18 to Montfort?
33	2	235/235	None	None	None	The Driftless area of Wisconsin is unique geographically, devoid of glacial scarring, resulting in areas that should not be disturbed for supposed improvement of delivering electricity.
33	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	Is there really a need for more electrical lines? If this is merely upgrading the capacity and delivery system, why not use existing routes? How will this project benefit Wisconsin in dollars and availability of electricity?
34	1	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	Why couldn't the lines go up 18/151 the path of least resistance? No houses and no personal wooded acreage would be affected
35	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	The proposed pipeline is unnecessary, expensive and will be destructive to the environment. wind energy is the future and, in fact, there are numerous "windmills" in the neighborhood, e.g. Montfort. Energy consumption is flat and declining due to alternatives to electric power lines. It has not been demonstrated that the proposed beneficiaries of this power line need it. The only real beneficiaries will be the investors in the power company.
35	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	It will raise energy rates for those of us who will never benefit.
35	3	260/260	None	None	None	Dodgeville residents and our neighbors do not want our beautiful countryside look like Madison's West Beltline!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
36	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Wouldn't it be cheaper and more efficient to install solar farm or wind farm instead of this project? I would personally like to see solar or wind farms instead of this project.
36	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	How would this project affect wildlife? ie eagles, wolves, deer, endangered species, turkey vultures
36	3	234/234.01	None	None	None	Erosion - would this increase erosion on our hillsides
36	4	232/232.01	None	None	None	and would this affect our trout streams? and our wells?
37	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. energy use has flattened or decreased recently. Are we sure this project, estimated to cost nearly 1 Billion dollars is really needed? Can the energy carried by these lines be generated nearer to the proposed end users which are concentrated on the east coast of the US?
37	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	The rate payers of SW Wisconsin will pay for this project through their energy bill both now and for YEARS to come. Not only the construction costs, but ?????, repair and maintenance costs.
37	3	232/232.07	243/243.01	None	None	2. There will be great negative effects on prairie lands, wetlands and wildlife.
37	4	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	None	3. There may well be negative consequences for farmers, their crops, and livestock.
37	5	260/260	None	None	None	4. These towers are enormous and very ugly to look at.
37	6	283/283	None	None	None	5. There may be significant health consequences to humans, wildlife, and livestock.
37	7	280/281.02	None	None	None	6. The main beneficiaries of this project will be ATC and east coast energy consumers.
38	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	I am concerned overall with whether the project is necessary.
38	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	I think the needs of the public would be better served with investment in conservation, efficiency improvement of grid, and alternative power source like solar.
38	3	241/241.01	244/244.01	None	None	If the project goes ahead the Northern Route thru Arena Twp. would destroy large area of forest, and other farmland.
38	4	260/260	None	None	None	The loss of the rural aesthetic [sic] would be devastating.
38	5	243/243.03	241/241	244/244	None	The disruption of wildlife corridors, vegetation would change the land use.
38	6	284/284	None	None	None	It would result in increase in noise from construction and later maintenance equipment.
38	7	232/232.01	None	None	None	The maintenance of clearcut would add herbicide residue to surface water.
38	8	241/241	None	None	None	As a resident of Arena Twp I have estimated they would end up clear cutting 120 acres of forest in Arena Twp for a 150' right of way.
38	9	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	I feel the need for the project is dubious it would benefit ATC and utilities profit while costing rate payers.
38	10	120/121.03	None	None	None	The process has not looked into competing alternatives such as increased energy efficiency, efficiency improvement in the grid.
39	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	The rate payers - us - will pay for the construction of the Transmission line (we don't know yet How much our electricity rate will rise - could be a lot)

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
39	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	BUT WE Won't/Don't NEED this electricity. I am a solar producer on my farm and everyone is looking for more efficient appliances - WE DONT NEED This. SOLAR is cost efficient now WE Don't need it and it isn't FOR us anyway. - Moving electricity with voltage drops IS WASTEFUL and its old inefficient Technology. WHY ARE YOU INVESTING in the Past?
39	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	I Don't know who all will be making money from this but I'm sure there must be big money changing hands.
40	1	102/102.02	None	None	None	I do not believe that federal money should be used to support Dairyland Power Cooperative's portion of the project.
41	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	Please keep the well-being of farm families and their businesses in mind.
41	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Is this really needed?
42	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I think it is a terrible idea to put a horrible scar across the driftless area of Wisconsin. We have a treasure here that should be preserved for the future generations along with the many tourists it brings in that enjoy it now. Some things should never be destroyed for progress.
42	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	If we have to have this is should at least go along the highway corridor where there has already been a necessary scar on our land.
43	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	It's a waste to go thru good beautiful land. follow the Hwy
43	2	243/243.01	244/244.01	232/232.07	None	and leave the land and wildlife, farmers and wetlands.
43	3	280/280.05	None	None	None	I don't like these big monster lines! There has to be a better way. Please consider we need to keep our land. Thank you for your information
44	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	EIS should look at economics of project, whether with reduced rate of return on investment it makes sense. MVP projects were "approved" at a 12.38% ROI, which was challenged and 12.38% was rejected by court. In negotiation, will be ~ 9% or less, and project may no longer make sense as revenue stream, it'll certainly be less lucrative.
44	2	120/120.02	120/120.01	None	None	EIS should examine - this project based on market desire for transfer capacity, but grid, existing, is underutilized. *Technical issue of overcapacity should be reviewed in EIS. Grid is now significantly overbuilt. EIS should also look at impact of project and balance with excess capacity.
44	3	111/111	None	None	None	Timing of RUS review should be addressed in EIS. EIS will likely be complete, or at least DEIS will be out, before application filed with WI PSC. UNUSUAL! Corridors will be narrowed down before public process on route selection begins. Affected landowners will not have had adequate opportunity to address selection of routes.
44	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	*RUS is essentially narrowing route alternatives and options - but this is a FINANCING exercise. EIS should address procedure and appropriateness of narrowing route options in a non-routing proceeding.
44	5	120/120.01	None	None	None	*RUS financing process should not go forward until after ATC commits to a timeline - this is in "pause" mode, may not go forward.
44	6	111/111.01	None	None	None	*there was a round of RUS meetings in October. EIS should explain why an additional couple of meetings NOW!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
45	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I don't know why you would ever consider and am personally opposed to the Northern route. Especially considering there are already power lines on the southern route in the Mt. Horeb area to Hwy 14.
45	2	243/243.01	120/121.03	None	None	You would be disturbing much more natural area and potentially wildlife during construction along the Northern route.
46	1	507/507	None	None	None	I would appreciate specific answers to these questions, if possible
46	2	120/120.01	120/121.03	None	None	1. Purpose of transmission lines is to transfer power between old generation sites (coal plants) and new generation sites (solar + wind). But this is only needed at night or windless days. What is cost difference (and environmental) between this plan and adding a small (biodiesel?) local generating plants where needed? Small plants generate more long-term jobs as well. Which plan generates more green-house gas, both in construction phase and long-term.
46	3	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	2. Why rush? Why not replace existing poles with larger (and new lines) slowly, over the years, as the old ones show wear and tear. Concentrate on more efficient use of existing power, especially where outtages [sic] are more frequent. Create more incentives for efficiency increases and alternative generation (solar, wind, etc.).
46	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	3. It seems a real key to solving our problems is electrical storage. We will find better batteries down the road, so why not use less-than-perfect storage now where needed? Why not invest in innovative energy storage like heat storage in ice banks? We did this back in the sixties and seventies! 4. What other solutions have been proposed, analyzed, and shown to be clearly worse than the proposed construction? Let's take another look a [sic] each of them because conditions are changing!
47	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Today, the demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. RUS should use current demand data and look at new electricity generating sources that are being built and planned.
47	2	120/121.03	122/122.02	None	None	It's extremely important that the USDA/RUSS [sic] include a comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives, including more spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local renewable energy.
47	3	280/280.05	None	None	None	For many years I've been involved in Sierra Club, Sustain Iowa County, and Citizens Climate Lobby. We and the majority of our neighbors moved here because of the natural beauty, peace, and quiet of the area. We drive a Prius, and grow and preserve much of our own food. Our home is extremely well insulated. In winter we heat and cook with wood, and enjoy passive solar heat from many south windows and skylights. If there were more sustainable energy incentives, we would gladly install solar panels for electricity
47	4	245/245.03	243/243.01	241/241.02	None	My husband and I live one mile from a proposed transmission route, Highway ZZ along the north edge of Governor Dodge State Park, which is a sanctuary for wildlife and threatened plant species.
47	5	245/245.04	None	None	None	Weaver Road where we live, is regularly enjoyed by bicyclists, motorcyclists, and antique car groups.
48	1	102/102.02	None	None	None	Save expense and don't install.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
49	1	241/241.01	232/232.07	None	None	Sensitive ecological area would be ruined. A. Wide variety of prairies. On my property we have dry mesic prairie, wet sedge meadows, shady slopes with spring ephemerals and plants, oak savannas, numerous water springs, rare ferns, flowers, grasses.
49	2	243/243.04	None	None	None	B. Reptiles and Amphibians - on our property we have several endangered species - Blanchard's Cricket frogs, ornate box turtles.
49	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	2. Tourist economy - many bike tours, art tours (Fall Art Tour) occur in the Driftless area. These economies DEPEND on a physically beautiful environment.
49	4	260/260	None	None	None	Giant, ugly towers do not belong in this area which people visit because of its beauty.
49	5	283/283	None	None	None	3. People would have to vacate land under these towers. I have visited a friend in Long Beach, CA and she has a horse that is boarded at a stable that is built under giant electrical towers like the ones proposed here. She explained to me that CA law prohibits people from having horses under these towers, but horses can live under them. So for several days we rode horses around this stable area with crackling, sizzling electrical wires overhead. It was a very unnerving experience that had me wondering what adverse health effects I was subjecting my body to be spending time in an area not approved for human habitation. No one in SW Wisconsin wants this going across their property!
49	6	120/120.02	None	None	None	4. From all sources I have read, this line is not needed. That above all should stop this project.
50	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We do not want the Transmission lines to be built in the Driftless area - It is important to protect the environment from destruction that the initial build and future maintenance will cause.
50	2	283/283	None	None	None	There needs to be a Health impact study for humans and animals
50	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	The "NEED" for these power transmission lines has NOT been established in our area - I don't want to pay to build lines taking power to people in the East. *I would appreciate an independent analysis of the NEED for these lines
50	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	I would also like the results of an independent study to disclose the impact on rates for local people who will pay for construction, maintenance and moving power we won't use.
51	1	243/243.03	None	None	None	fragmentation brings biodiversity down
51	2	244/244	232/232	None	None	serious impact on protected lands and waters
51	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	the line is not needed or wanted by WI citizens - electric usage is flat or declining - how unjust - we would just be a transmission highway -
51	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	increased rate
51	5	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	decrease in land value
51	6	280/280.02	None	None	None	negative impact on tourism
52	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	I do not believe the project has been subjected to a thorough cost benefit analysis.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
52	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	The project has been predicated on the projection that the demand for electricity will continue to grow, and that these transmission lines are the only solution to meet future needs. This assumption overlooks the fact that demand for electricity overall is dropping, or has remained steady, because of local green power initiatives and energy saving technologies. Monies would be better spent promoting these alternatives rather than investing in a very costly, and perhaps redundant infrastructure project that has the potential to disrupt farms and families, and degrade a fragile environment.
53	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	Family Farm Defenders is strongly opposed to the ATC project, mostly due to its adverse impact on family farmers including the Amish which are members of our organization.
54	1	280/280.02	280/281.01	None	None	I AM CONFIDENT THAT YOU WILL DISCOVER THAT THE INSTALLATION OF THIS LINE WILL SIGNIFICANTLY DEGRADE OUR NATURAL HABITAT AND LOWER OUR INCOME.
54	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	THE BASIC INSTALLATION OF 125 MILES OF TRANSMISSION LINES THROUGH THIS POPULAR TOURIST AREA WILL SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT THE ECONOMY OF OUR CITIZENS WHO DEPEND ON TOURISM FOR THEIR INCOME. VISITORS COME HERE FOR NATURAL BEAUTY, AND ATC'S LINES WILL DEFACE THAT VALUABLE ASSET OF OUR AREA. ALMOST ALL OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES BENEFIT FROM THE TOURIST DOLLAR. LAST YEAR TOURISTS CONTRIBUTED \$19.3 BILLION TO WISCONSIN'S ECONOMY. GOING FORWARD, NO "ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT" PAYMENT FROM ATC CAN PAY FOR WHAT WE GET FROM VISITORS TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE.
54	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	ATC HAS NOT DEMONSTRATED ANY REAL NEED FOR THE LINE, NOR HAS IT SHOWN THAT A CLEAN ENERGY ALTERNATIVE WOULD NOT BE A LESS COSTLY ALTERNATIVE.
54	4	241/241	None	None	None	PLEASE CONSIDER OUR PRARIES, OUR OAK SAVANAS,
54	5	235/235	None	None	None	OUR ROCK OUTCROPPINGS
54	6	282/282.02	None	None	None	AND INDIAN MOUNDS
54	7	243/243.02	None	None	None	AS WELL AS BIRDS INCLUDING HENSLOW'S SPARROW, THE UPLAND SANDPIPER, SHARP TAILED GROUSE, BOBOLINK, BLACKBIRD, AND DICKEISSEL.
54	8	243/243.01	None	None	None	THEN CHECK FOR FOX, COYOTE, WOLF, BOBCAT, BEAR, AND WHITE TAILED DEER.
55	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	I am a business person but also a consumer of electricity. I fully understand how business works and profits must be attained by the business. Your plans to do this are the easy way out for any company to make profit. These plans do not benefit the consumer. I already know that Alliant does not own the lines, but ITC does and ITC gets an annual increase every year faithfully from the Iowa utilizes board and we as the consumer have no recourse about the annual increases for ITC.
55	2	110/110.07	None	None	None	I also think that people who used to be employed by utility companies should NEVER serve on the Iowa utilities board. This is a conflict of interest and should be stopped immediately.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
55	3	120/120.01	280/281.02	None	None	These new transmission lines will carry electricity across the wires from long distances. I have heard as far away from Beloit WI, and Marshalltown Iowa. Folks the real economics of this, the further away the power is transmitted the more cost to the consumer. Example I live in Dubuque Iowa and for the power to be transmitted, means the electricity must travel further, which means a higher cost from ITC for me to get electricity.
55	4	234/234.01	None	None	None	Also there is an environmental impact of destroying the land around these new towers
55	5	232/232.01	None	None	None	not to mention the fact of possibly destroying the water aquifers that may lie nearby.
55	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Besides that who in their right mind wants to build a house near these towers and lines. Not me!
55	7	280/280.01	None	None	None	First of all keep the Dubuque Alliant power plant open. No I do not work there. Losing the power plant will cause job loss, even though Alliant says no jobs will be loss. Jobs will be lost. I guarantee that.
55	8	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	Have Alliant partner with City of Dubuque, EPA, TCI, and any other partners to keep the power plant open. Now with the partners I mentioned, get grants or loans and rebuild or modernize the plant. It should have been done years ago. Now if that is done like it should be, here will be the outcome. Power from the Dubuque Power plant can be transmitted to Dubuque residents at a fair electricity rate. People will be hired for fulltime, good paying jobs at this plant, causing those new employees to buy products, buy houses and other items in Dubuque. Along with this, it will cause a new partnership for solar power to be used in Dubuque to our power plant. The power plant can also supply electricity and can be transmitted to other towns close buy but they will not be paying such a high cost as you have planned.
55	9	280/280.05	None	None	None	This will eventually cause TCI and Alliant to layoff-fire employees. I do not think you want this outcome. Folks I look at all views in a full circle. I do not rely on one issue. I am not against business, but small business is the way to grow and keep everyone happy. Remember every action has a reaction. Stand up and do the right things will you. A concerned citizen of Dubuque.
56	1	110/ 110.0408	None	None	None	The Town of Springdale Land Use Plan establishes a set of requirements and goals for development. Page 5 of the Land Use Plan states among other goals to "preserve the agricultural land, open spaces, and other natural resources of a rural town". Springdale Township has many natural resources, some of which are Federally protected.
56	2	232/232.01	None	None	None	Springdale Township has acres of protected wetlands. Just up the road from me is the headwaters to the Sugar River.
56	3	243/243.02	None	None	None	We have open spaces with nesting Bald Eagles the next valley over. There are several pairs of nesting Sandhill cranes. We have Red Tailed Hawks and other large predatory birds as well as large numbers of songbirds migrating through Springdale Township.
56	4	243/243.04	None	None	None	We have Federally protected Blandings Turtle in Springdale Township and Henslow's Sparrows, which are a Species Of Concern Federally and a threatened species according to the State.
56	5	241/241.02	None	None	None	We also have two plant species that are of Special Concern status.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
56	6	243/243.01	None	None	None	Native pollinators like bees and hummingbirds both of which live in Springdale Township need a certain amount of undeveloped land. I believe that building a high voltage transmission line through farms and agricultural fields will bring more development.
56	7	260/260	None	None	None	The beauty of the hills and valleys is spectacular and could never be replaced.
56	8	244/244.01	None	None	None	We are home to some of the most fertile farmland in the country and it needs protecting.
56	9	110/ 110.0408	None	None	None	The Town of Springdale Land Use Plan does not include having transmission lines and towers traversing the land in my opinion.
56	10	232/232.01	280/280.02	None	None	Extremely close to the proposed line is Black Earth Creek, once rated one of the ten best trout streams in America. The presence of very large transmission lines crisscrossing the landscape would seriously detract from the health and beauty of our trout streams. Tens of millions of dollars come into the local economies annually directly from the trout fisheries. This income source would be adversely effected by the project.
56	11	235/235	None	None	None	The county land inside the proposed corridor of the transmission line sits in the Driftless Area, one of the Nation's most unique Geologic treasures, found only in Wisconsin, parts of Iowa and Minnesota. The Driftless Area land is called the Paleozoic Plateau. It is characterized by caves, cave systems, disappearing streams, sinkholes and springs. Disappearing streams occur where surface water sinks down into the earth through fractured bedrock or a sinkhole, either joining an aquifer or becoming an underground stream. Disappearing streams can reemerge as large cold springs.
56	12	243/243.01	None	None	None	This is superb trout habitat.
56	13	232/232.01	None	None	None	There are springs all throughout the area. Ground water throughout Dane county helps supply the drinking water for the City of Madison as well keeping well water clean for the rural residents.
56	14	244/244	None	None	None	I believe a certain amount of land must remain undeveloped to preserve these assets in Dane County Wisconsin and all the other counties affected throughout the corridor.
56	15	245/245.03	None	None	None	There are State Parks in close proximity of the corridors and lands that are designated State Natural Areas.
56	16	120/121.03	None	None	None	I do not believe the current two proposed routes would fulfill the obligation to use existing corridors or roadways.
57	1	244/244	None	None	None	The property backs up to beautiful ridges and has natural fresh water springs. The Springdale Land Use plan has some pretty distinct rules regarding land use and overall preservation of the rural atmosphere, beautiful landscape and business types that are allowed on the land.
57	2	110/ 110.0408	None	None	None	As with most zoning legalities, all land use in Springdale must be approved by the local township. Springdale Township has very few businesses, most of them agriculturally related.
57	3	250/250.09	None	None	None	The roads in Springdale are well maintained and are used for the rural residents, and for travel purposes, but are not prepared for the amount of traffic that would take place if the Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line Project went through the land.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
57	4	232/232.03	None	None	None	The wetlands are home to animals, plant species and also are vital to the health of the land in Springdale.
57	5	232/232.04	232/232.01	None	None	The wetlands as well as the streams and creeks in the area are also essential to our water quality in Dane County. The effects of this project could significantly affect the water table, which would be more than a local problem. The City of Madison utilizes the ground water in this part of the State.
57	6	244/244	None	None	None	The roadways, the farm land, and lands surrounding wetlands to ensure their health all need protecting from this project. Please consider the environmental as well as zoning ramifications of this project.
57	7	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am writing to you in regards to the Cardinal Hickory Transmission Line Project. I am a former resident of Springdale Township in Dane County, Wisconsin. My mother owns land in the Town of Springdale, and I used to live there.
58	1	244/244	None	None	None	To erect a high-voltage line in ATC's proposed corridor would be to desecrate a very unique stretch of land of stunning beauty. The driftless area of Southwest Wisconsin is really a quite small region of closely-spaced, densely-wooded steep hills and narrow valleys. The amount of land suitable for agricultural use is limited, so the wild ecosystem is largely untouched, and there is a rich variety of wildlife and native plants. To those of us who live or visit here, it is extremely special for its peace and beauty and lack of major human intrusion.
58	2	243/243.02	None	None	None	It is a testament to the delicate balance of the ecosystem that a pair of bald eagles has chosen to nest year-round along Trout Creek, north of Barneveld, for the past decade or so. Bald eagles need thousands of acres of hunting ground, and it is extremely important that their nest area remain undisturbed, especially during the breeding and nesting season. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that December through June are times of sensitivity for bald eagles in the Upper Midwest. It is well-known that bald eagles spend mid-winters along the Wisconsin River during mating season, but it is much more rare for them to nest here year-round, especially along such a small creek. We feel it is an honor to have them here, and it is always a thrill to see them perched in the trees as we drive by. Admittedly, the bald eagles' nest is not located directly in the path of the power line, but the birds have been seen hunting at least three miles away, and County Road T, which runs right north of the nest, will be one of the main roadways used to transport equipment and materials. It would be a shame if these amazing creatures would decide they were no longer safe where they are, and abandon their nest.
58	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	Many residents of the driftless area go to lengths to enhance and protect the deer habitat as well, such as planting heirloom prairie grasses, and maintaining the health of the woodlands. Scarring the land with clear-cut right-of-ways would scoff at their efforts.
58	4	250/250.05	None	None	None	Another concern is the effect on our infrastructure. The roads in this area are in terrible shape. They are heaved- up and crowned, cracked and full of potholes. Are the transmission companies going to have them rebuilt to withstand the weight of their machinery? Because the farmers have a hard time with them as they are now.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
58	5	120/120.01	None	None	None	It just seems that, it does not take a genius to take a good look at the area, and at the fact that no one has ever built an east-west passageway through it, to realize that it would be unusually difficult, disruptive, expensive, and foolish to do so.
59	1	260/260	None	None	None	While being a blight on the landscape
59	2	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	My hope is that there is more than lip service being paid to the Environmental Impact Survey and to alternative solutions which could have eliminated the need for the project or at least scaled it back to a less damaging size.
59	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	These large transmission projects also serve as a means to get the utilities' hands deeper into the pockets of rate payers across the state. Imagine investing all these millions in local solutions which would strengthen the grid from the distribution side and keep energy dollars in the state-
59	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	I hope that the PSC denies the Cardinal Hickory Creek line if for no other reason than to preserve the timeless beauty and biodiversity of an area that even the last ice age did not touch. Considering the rapid changes in the way energy is produced and consumed today, the very idea of taking out a 30 year mortgage to shore up 100 year old technology is like building the bigger dinosaur, even as the meteor of their demise is on the horizon.
59	5	120/120.01	None	None	None	Moving wind energy hundreds or thousands of miles only discourages local energy development and opens the grid to potential sabotage or bankruptcy.
59	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	It appears that industry has taken control of the regulatory process leaving rate payers to finance a 125 mile transmission line that is both unnecessary and destructive to Wisconsin environment and to our tourism economy. Please just do a cost benefit analysis and proceed accordingly.
60	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	My property lies on the "northern corridor" for the proposed transmission lines, which would be built on the east side of my house.
60	2	241/241.01	None	None	None	Here is a photo of a pine relict that grows on the west side of my house. Nearby at Governor Dodge State Park, which is also on the northern corridor, there are more relicts. They are also found on the "southern corridor," the most notable and largest one in my area being the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area. Pine relicts go back 12,000 years to the time of the last glacier. Remnants exist today only on "islands" of steep slopes and rocky cliffs in the Driftless Area of Southwestern Wisconsin. The plants at ground level are an unusual mixture of both northern species - from their origins in a colder and wetter climate, - and southern species. The existence of rare pine relicts is just one of many reasons why transmission lines should not be constructed anywhere in the Driftless Area. There is no energy need that justifies ruining a unique landscape.
61	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	We invested our savings, and our lives, to buy a few acres of wooded south facing hillside in the Township of Arena in 1982. The house we built and have lived in since 1983 makes use of active and passive solar energy, geo-thermal heating and cooling, and super insulation. But most importantly, it provides access to the unique beauty of the rural Driftless Area for us, and for two younger generations of our family.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
61	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am a visual artist, photographer and journalist. My work locally includes editing the Home News weekly in Spring Green (2005-2012), and painting large permanently-installed murals based on Southwestern Wisconsin history and culture at Bethel Horizons Retreat and Nature Center (Iowa County) and the Black Earth Bank (Dane County). As a resident of rural Iowa County, and a longtime participant in local events, I am convinced for many reasons that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) high voltage transmission line would despoil areas reverently treasured by current residents and visitors alike
61	3	282/282.02	None	None	None	and held sacred by Native inhabitants of earlier centuries. I have recently become aware of two possible Native American effigy mound locations in rural Arena. These will be officially examined for verification.
61	4	282/282.01	None	None	None	and Taliesin, a national historic location and former home of Frank Lloyd Wright. These sites were chosen by their founders because of the pristine and unique nature of the landscape.
61	5	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	Likewise thousands of bicyclists, canoers, kayakers, hikers, nature lovers, tourists in general, visit the Driftless Area. Construction of CHC would discourage visitors who are important cultural and economic assets.
61	6	243/243.04	None	None	None	Attached to this letter is an incomplete listing of endangered species in Arena Township alone. As residents, we are treated daily to unequaled sights and sounds in nature. For example, sandhill cranes space their nesting sites across Iowa County beginning in early spring, and congregate by the thousands in fields along northern Arena Township before migrating out-of-state in the fall. The annual crane count is conducted by the International Crane Foundation, of Baraboo.
61	7	243/243.02	None	None	None	High voltage towers are menacing for large migrating birds.
61	8	243/243.01	None	None	None	We are especially conscious of the loss of wild honey-bee populations in our area and fear that further encroachment would do more damage. We observe numerous insects in general, butterflies, large moths, reptiles, snakes...so many species in a natural setting that we love.
61	9	243/243.01	None	None	None	I've observed a rare pine marten and snow-white ermines near our house. Small animals, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, gophers, foxes, are abundant.
61	10	243/243.02	None	None	None	There are bird species so numerous they overcome listing, raptors, eagles, hawks.
61	11	245/245.05	None	None	None	Deer are thrilling to observe outside our house, and extremely sought after by bow and gun hunters.
61	12	244/244	None	None	None	We know that land values and development choices currently being made will suffer if CHC is built. Some rural developers and landowners have already reduced their efforts since the transmission line was proposed.
61	13	283/283	None	None	None	I view Iowa County and the Driftless Area holistically. That means my concerns include everything: the environment, culture, businesses, farms, economy, and certainly health concerns. The health of farms, livestock, and crops, to say nothing about all other residents, visitors, fauna and flora, would doubtlessly be directly affected by electromagnetic fields.
61	14	280/280.05	None	None	None	An added impact would be the stress and emotional damage caused by the disruption of our hills and valleys with a high voltage transmission line, with immense footings and webs of towers and cable.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
61	15	280/281.02	None	None	None	Please consider the costs and act accordingly. I urge SWCA Environmental Consultants to consider all the important aspects implied and required of an Environmental Impact Statement as you consider our concerns and input regarding the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek project. I further ask that the EIS you prepare will include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives using the same budget that all electric customers would assume over 40 years to pay for the construction, financing, operation, maintenance, and depreciation of the high voltage transmission option.
61	16	243/243.04	None	None	None	Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern: The ATC/CHC proposed corridors through Iowa and Dane counties traverse many high-quality habitats for threatened, endangered and Federal Species of Concern (SOC). The area's characteristic Southern Sedge Meadows, Oak Openings and Barrens, Pine Relicts, Dry Prairies, Mesic and D1y-mesic Forests, fast, cold Streams, Dry and Moist Cliffs and Forested Seeps shelter and nurture diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants. A quick review of Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory for the township/ranges under active CHC corridors reveals the following species would be at risk from the project: Birds Henslow Sparrow (found in 12 of the 16 township/ranges under CHC corridors in Iowa and Dane Counties) Loggerhead Shrike (found in 2 of the 16 township/ranges in both counties) Threatened species found here are: Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler and upland Sandpiper. A Western Meadowlark population has been identified only in Brigham Township, Dane County. Bees The rare Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee has been identified in 8 of the 11 township/ranges (all in Iowa County) traversed by the CHC line. Butterflies Regal Fritillary populations are located in 2 township/ranges in Iowa County and 2 in Dane County. Frogs and Turtles Blanchard's Cricket Frog populations have been identified in 8 of the 11 Iowa County township/ranges traversed by CHC corridors. Pickerel Frog populations have been recorded in 8 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Blanding's Turtle populations have been found in 6 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Ornate Box Turtle populations have been recorded in 6 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Fish and Snakes The Lake Sturgeon has been identified in one township/range under the CHC line in Iowa County. Lake Chubsucker and the threatened Pugnose Shiner have both been identified in one township/range located in Middleton township, Dane. County.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
62	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We have lived in the home my husband built in the Township of Arena since 1983. During this time we have invested savings and earned income in superinsulation, passive solar power and geo-thermal heating and cooling. Our choices reflect a lifelong commitment to alternative energy that serves to protect both our immediate environment and our fragile planet. Our life in Wisconsin's unique Driftless Area provides access to environmental assets of beauty, clean water (we have a "heritage well"), rare plants, endangered habitats, animals and unique cultural assets such as Frank Lloyd Wrights' Taliesin and American Players Theater, a nationally respected classical theater venue. I have served as an art educator in local public schools, founder and director of Rural Musicians Forum, which provides a summer concert series and music scholarships for graduating high school students, and summer tour guide for hundreds of visitors to Taliesin and the Frank Lloyd Wright School of Architecture. My visual art is displayed in local galleries and has been purchased by University Hospitals and Clinics, countless individuals, and includes commissions in public buildings. The subject matter of most of my work is related to and inspired by the landscape and ecosystems that surround us.
62	2	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	As a resident of Iowa County and longtime active participant in my community, I am convinced that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) high voltage transmission line would have a severe impact not only on an already rare and unique environment, but also upon our economy. Thousands of tourists visit the Driftless Area to hike, canoe, kayak, visit Taliesin and American Players Theater, enjoy our parks and recreation areas.
62	3	243/243.04	None	None	None	Attached to this letter is an incomplete listing of endangered species in Arena Township alone.
62	4	243/243	244/244.01	None	None	We are aware of the disappearance of our once plentiful monarch butterflies and of depletion in wild honey bee swarms needed to pollinate agricultural enterprises and our own organic vegetable and flower gardens.
62	5	243/243.02	None	None	None	Nearby, nesting sandhill cranes, migrating birds, raptors would be threatened by high voltage towers.
62	6	283/283	None	None	None	There have been no adequate studies of the impact of high voltage electromagnetic fields or stray voltage upon livestock and human beings. However, we have heard stories from farmers in Middleton, near the Badger Coulee line, whose GPS on tractors no longer work.
62	7	120/120.02	None	None	None	At recent "scoping" sessions none of my questions were answered in depth. A common response was, "That's not my area of expertise." We heard the argument that high voltage transmission lines are "like highways. You pay for a highway that goes all the way to Boston because we all use the highways." In the case of roads, this may be applicable, but we, the people of Wisconsin, are not going to be using transmitted energy. All studies show a decline in our energy use and many of us are committed to developing alternative energies such as solar power, photo-voltaic, etc., that have worked well in Europe and are unattractive to American privately owned power companies. Their importation is prohibited by law.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
62	8	122/122	None	None	None	It is unclear to me whether SWCA Environmental Consultants are an entity completely separate from interests of the transmission companies. Impartial environmental studies that are safeguards and embody protective regulations are the only realistic balance in a scenario stacked in favor of the clear profit motives of private corporations proposing transmission of energy that will cost millions of dollars added to our utility bills for decades to come.
62	9	280/281.02	None	None	None	We ask for, at very least, a cost benefit analysis of the proposed high voltage transmission lines.
62	10	122/122	None	None	None	We ask for environmental impact studies and information provided by educated, impartial scientists who can provide honest data.
62	11	243/243.04	None	None	None	Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern. The ATC/CHC proposed corridors through Iowa and Dane counties traverse many high-quality habitats for threatened, endangered and Federal Species of Concern (SOC). The area's characteristic Southern Sedge Meadows, Oak Openings and Barrens, Pine Relicts, Dry Prairies, Mesic and Dry-mesic Forests, fast, cold Streams, Dry and Moist Cliffs and Forested Seeps shelter and nurture diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants. A quick review of Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory for the township/ranges under active CHC corridors reveals the following species would be at risk from the project: Birds Henslow Sparrow (found in 12 of the 16 township/ranges under CHC corridors in Iowa and Dane Counties) Loggerhead Shrike (found in 2 of the 16 township/ranges in both counties) Threatened species found here are: Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler and upland Sandpiper. A Western Meadowlark population has been identified only in Brigham Township, Dane County. Bees The rare Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee has been identified in 8 of the 11 township/ranges (all in Iowa County) traversed by the CHC line. Butterflies Regal Fritillary populations are located in 2 township/ranges in Iowa County and 2 in Dane County. Frogs and Turtles Blanchard's Cricket Frog populations have been identified in 8 of the 11 Iowa County township/ranges traversed by CHC corridors. Pickerel Frog populations have been recorded in 8 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Blanding's Turtle populations have been found in 6 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Ornate Box Turtle populations have been recorded in 6 of the 16 township/ranges (in both counties). Fish and Snakes
63	1	120/120	None	None	None	Please be sure that the process used to develop the Environmental Impact Statement is VERY robust.
63	2	235/235	None	None	None	First and foremost, the proposed track will take it through the heart of the Driftless Area. 85% of which is in SW Wisconsin. As you know, this is an area unique in the US in that the glaciers did not cover it or retreat over it. As a result the geography, geology and ecosystems are unique.
63	3	260/260	None	None	None	17-story towers and power lines over 125 miles will scar the area irreparably.
63	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism, recreation, property values and the attractive draw to the culture of the outdoors, all of which are foundational to the economic health of cities and towns in the Driftless Area, all stand to lose in terms of economics and vigor. These losses will not be recoverable.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
63	5	243/243.02	None	None	None	Additionally the flyways through the open areas and over the river will be less safe for the large populations of migratory birds.
63	6	243/243.01	None	None	None	And fish and wildlife populations will be negatively impacted as well.
63	7	120/120.02	None	None	None	And finally, this degradation and deterioration of unique lands will be accomplished for unnecessary reasons. The extra power is not needed: electric usage has been flat or decreasing throughout the upper Midwest due to improved efficiencies and conservation. And needs can be met with a combined, coordinated program of continued conservation and clean energy generation. Renewable resources are being increased as we speak and projected without significant negative impact on the lands and area.
64	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My name is Dorothy Martin. I grew up in Illinois at the edge of the southern tip of the Driftless Area. My husband (deceased) was a veteran. His military career took me to all parts of the world and I ended up in California. My heart belongs in the Midwest. My sister lives in rural Southwest Wisconsin. I have been searching for a home in this beautiful native countryside, the Driftless Area. Recently I have heard about the ATC Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line project.
64	2	260/260	None	None	None	One of the suggested routes of this transmission line runs through the property of the family home of my sister. This horrific monstrosity would destroy the aesthetics of this natural landscape of pristine prairies, woodlands, and rugged bluffs, never disturbed by glacial activity.
64	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	Habitats for thousands of wild animals would be obliterated.
64	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I feel it is an abomination to scathe the natural beauty of Wisconsin. I have delayed my home search until I hear exactly where this line will ravage the land as any real estate would be devalued immediately.
64	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please do your best to alter your plans of crossing the Driftless Area and develop a source of power nearest the areas that need it.
65	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	As concerned citizens of Platteville Township, we are compiling a listing of several environmental reasons why we oppose the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line coming through our township. We take great pride in our historical beautiful countryside. We are a part of the DRIFTLESS AREA LAND CONSERVANCY. The Driftless Area is recognized internationally and by the Departments of Natural Resources in four states as a region of critical conservation opportunity and concern.
65	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	The Driftless Area contains multiple rare habitats and is the largest contiguous area of fish and wildlife in the Upper Mississippi River basin area.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	<p>1. Lack of "need". The current supply of electricity exceeds demand and does not meet the need standard under Wisconsin law. 2. The proposed line is not likely to be needed in the foreseeable future. There is no evidence that this transformational energy trend across both residential and business sectors will reverse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End-users - refrigerators, AC units, HVAC systems and the like continue to become more energy efficient. • Further energy developments of solar and hydro thermal. • Lighting - LED lighting is a game-changing technology that's 90 - 95% more efficient than incandescent lighting. • American Transmission Company has not shown documentation that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line is needed now or for the reasonable foreseeable future in Platteville Township.
65	4	232/232.01	None	None	None	Degradation of clean streams and ground water.
65	5	243/243.01	None	None	None	Degradation of wildlife habitat.
65	6	260/260	None	None	None	Degradation of unique and beautiful landscapes.
65	7	244/244	None	None	None	Impairment of conservation projects and easements.
65	8	235/235	None	None	None	1. "Geology of Upper Mississippi Valley - Zinc/Lead District", by Allen V. Heyl Jr., 1959 copyright. (Due to the size of the lead mining map obtained from this book, which shows the broadness of the Southwest Wisconsin lead mining region, an attachment has been added to this report. Please see it labeled as "Attachment".)
65	9	244/244.03	None	None	None	2. Bell Investment Trust BJB - Section 18.
65	10	244/244.05	243/243.04	None	None	3. Mine Shaft - Dave Brylski - Comes out on Dale Hood Farm - Section 18 and 19. 4. Fred Domann land, Section 19, has a bat hibernacula, which is actually a tunnel of an old lead mine. This hibernacula is currently housing the Indiana Bat, which has been tested free of white-nose disease by the Department of Natural Resources. 5. Richard Sellmeyer farm has old mine diggings, Section 21. 6. Three mines are located on the Hammes farm, Section 32. There are three old mine shafts. One of these shafts is a bat hibernacula. The DNR is aware of the hibernacula, and has checked the bats to be free of white-nose disease. DNR Warden Jennifer A. Redell was the investigating contact.
65	11	282/282.01	None	None	None	7. A very historical 1800's stone house is on the Klinge Farm, Section 21, which is still inhabited today. There is a "badger hut", which is a miner's temporary home, on this property. Artifacts have been found at this location.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	12	244/244.05	None	None	None	<p>8. The following farms have had diggings and testing for lead and zinc ore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Klinge Family LLC - Section 21 • Judi Sellmeyer Farm - Section 21 • Owen Bennett Farm - Section 21 • Virginia Dimick Farm - Section 20 • Michael & Joy Oliverio Farm - Section 20 • Merv Wehnke Farm - Section 20 • Stan Quincy Farm - Section 20 • Phyllis and Stan Quincy Farm - Section 29 • James Hammes Farm - Section 32 • David and Margaret Klar Farm - Section 33 • James Klinger Farm (Klinger Trust) Section 33 • Patrick and Julia Clare - Section 33 <p>• Several more farms in Platteville Township have the same soil types that are conducive to lead mining.</p>
65	13	243/243.04	None	None	None	<p>The Indiana Bat has been located and tested by the Department of Natural Resources in Platteville Township. Heather and Paul White are the DNR people who gave us this fact. A very large hibernaculum has also been located in the Cassville, Wisconsin area. The Swiss Valley area in Dubuque County, Iowa also has the Indiana Bat.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Long-Eared Myotis Bat has been sighted in the Platteville area, and it is on the endangered species list. • Bob-O-Link birds are coming back to set aside lands. (Very endangered.) • Platteville Township offers protection for prairie remnants and area sensitive species, such as grassland birds, to include pheasant, quail, grouse, mourning doves and turkeys.
65	14	243/243.02	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platteville Township offers prime locations for nesting birds. These birds include Baltimore Orioles, Grosbeaks, Red-headed Woodpeckers, Hairy Woodpeckers, Downy Woodpeckers, Cooper's Hawks, Indigo Buntings, Bluebirds, and many other species.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	15	243/243.04	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bald Eagles reside year-round in different locations where food and water are available. There are Bald Eagles that nest in Section 18, Section 19 and Section 20. This is likely due to the habitat of the Platte River. Studies show that the bald eagle population is in decline. • The Eagle Valley Nature Preserve In the Cassville area has been a mecca for the Bald Eagle. The open water by the power plants was an attraction for eagles. The Eagle Valley Nature Preserve was founded in the early 1970's near Cassville to protect the nesting area of eagles. • The Cardinal-Hickory Creek project would severely impact this area. The preferred Cardinal-Hickory Creek route would be to build a new 34Skv transmission line across the Mississippi River near the now closed Nelson Dewey Power Plant. This would be a new corridor on both sides of the river and would go through at least one wildlife refuge. The alternate route would be double circuiting the 345 kv Cardinal-Hickory Creek line with the existing 161kv line that crosses at the (closed) Stoneman Power Plant. This would add 8 new wires across the migratory flyway, and would also pass over an elementary school. Terry Ingram, perhaps the most knowledgeable living bald eagle authority, is at odds with the wide-spread perception that the bald eagle population is robust. His data on reproduction is quite disturbing and does not substantiate the Fish and Wildlife figures. • Dr. Dan Frenzel of the University of Minnesota has done research on bald eagles and suggests that human activity within a quarter of a mile of an eagle's nest during the first 6 to 8 weeks of the nesting period is quite harmful. • Bald eagles were removed from the federal list of threatened and endangered species on August 9, 2007, and are no longer protected under the Endangered Species Act. However, bald eagles remain protected under the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. • The Bald and Golden Eagle Act prohibits anyone from taking, possessing, or transporting a bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus [sic] leucocephalus</i>) or golden eagle (<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>), or the parts, nests, or eggs of such birds without prior authorization. This includes inactive nests as well as active nests. Take means to pursue, shoot, shoot at, poison, wound, kill, capture, trap, collect, destroy, molest, or disturb. Activities that directly or indirectly lead to take are prohibited without a permit.
65	16	243/243.02	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is a part of the central United States waterfowl migration flyway that's recognized as a "Ramsar Convention Globally Important Bird Area". Multiple studies have demonstrated the significant danger that transmission lines present to migrating waterfowl.
65	17	243/243.01	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platteville Township has southern sedge meadows, oak openings and barrens, pine relicts, dry prairies, mesic and dry-mesic forests and Karst topography. These areas shelter and nurture diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles, and plants.
65	18	243/243.04	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blanchard Cricket Frogs are on the endangered species list. These endangered frogs have been found in the wetlands, streams and near rivers in Platteville Township.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	19	245/245.05	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platteville Township offers prime hunting opportunities with bow and gun for the white-tail deer. The rare white-tail albino deer have been documented and photographed in Platteville Township. • Platteville Township offers prime hunting for small game, such as: Rabbit, squirrel, raccoon, coyotes, fox and mourning doves. • Platteville Township offers trapping for raccoon, muskrat, mink, fox and beaver.
65	20	282/282.01	None	None	None	<p>• Platte Mound (Big M) is extremely historic, not only to the City of Platteville and Platteville Township, but to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville, as well. The following information was taken from the "History of Grant County" Holford 1900 edition: "In the summer of 1827 Mr. Rountree made an exploration of the country which he has thus described in a talk to the Old Settlers' Club in 1876: A friend and himself who were located on the headwaters of the Fever River, took a prospecting tour to the northwest. As they saw the Platteville Mounds in the early morning they thought they were one of the most beautiful sights in nature. They climbed to the top of the mounds and viewed the country over. It was a wide and lovely prospect, but an unbroken wilderness. It was the 4th of July- the 51st birthday of our national independence. They inscribed their names upon the rocks of the mound and also inscribed the statement that they were celebrating the Fourth there. They did not stay there long, for it was a hot day and they wanted water, so they set out to the north. There was no road - nothing but an Indian trail. They had with them their blankets and provisions and were prepared to prospect for mineral. "Another account of this story is taken from the "Wisconsin Magazine of History, Volume 28, 1944-1945. History of Old Platteville 1827 - 1835", by James A. Wilgus. "After traveling some distance on foot with Alexander Gray, who was one of my traveling companions from Montgomery County, Illinois, and occasionally digging what was then called a sucker-hole in search for lead ore over the Country about New Diggings, Gratiot's Grove, Shullsburg, and Elk Grove without finding any mineral for the balance of the month of May and all of June and the first three days of July, on the morning of the 4th of July, 1827, we concluded to visit the Mounds (called the Platte Mounds), and as it was a beautiful, clear, bright day, we could have a fine view of the surrounding country and spent our nation's 51st birthday on the most commanding position that we had ever seen....From there we travelled north along that beautiful prairie country to where Wingville was afterwards settled and located." The following information was taken from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville website in commemoration of its 150th anniversary, which was held this year: The "Big M", also known as the Platte Mound, is an iconic symbol of mining tradition and the history of the University of Wisconsin Platteville marked its 75th anniversary this year. The world's largest "M" is located on the Platte Mound, which is four miles northest [sic] of the city of Platteville, and has served to help identify the university throughout the years. At a December 1924 meeting of the Engineering Club, members voted to place an "M" on the mound. A committee of five students was formed to investigate the project. The investigation did not take place and there was no mention of an "M" until 1936. As history tells it, Wisconsin Mining School students Raymond "Pat" Medley '37 and Alvin Knoerr '37 stomped a large "M" in heavy snow on the Platte Mound in 1936. "It took several trips in parallel to widen out the path so</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>that it would show up at a distance," explained [sic] Knoerr in Thomas B. Lundeen's book, "Jubilee! A History of the College of Engineering, The University of Wisconsin-Platteville, 1908- 1983." "Shortly before sundown we walked back to Platteville and were happy to note that the "M" could be discerned at a distance, said Knoerr in the book. The weather was particularly cold and the image of the "M" was frozen in the hillside. "This freeze contributed to the life of the snow "M" and to its visibility, because a noticeable amount of dust or other material accumulated in the frozen pathway to make it more visible", recalled Knoerr. The following spring, a classmate of Knoerr suggested they construct a stone "M". Another student suggested they make it the largest "M" in the country, even larger than the Colorado School of Mines "M", which was 200 feet high. "When Pat and I had worked at Climax in Colorado during the previous summer as student miners, we resented the way some of the Colorado students would look down on Platteville miners as being inferior," said Knoerr. "Maybe that had something to do with the decision to outclass Colorado as "M" builders. The school obtained permission from landowner William Snow to construct the "M", which is 241 feet high and 214 feet wide. Shortly after beginning the project, H. B. Morrow, director of the Wisconsin Mining School, approved a field day for students to help construct the "M". Students used picks, crowbars and wheelbarrows to move an estimated 400 tons of limestone to form the "M". The "M" was completed in the fall of 1937. Throughout the years, the "M" has been cemented, limed and whitewashed. The outline of the "M" is fit once each year in the fall and for special occasions, using coffee cans containing kerosene. Wicks made from sound-deadening board are lit inside more than 200 cans. The "M" was first lit on October 16, 1937 as a part of Homecoming festivities. The torch traveled 4.6 miles, in an Olympic-style relay between students from the university to the "M". After being lit, the "M" is visible from parts of Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin. The original "M" design was based on the monogram of the Wisconsin Mining School in 1936. The "M" garnered national fame in the May 23, 1949 edition of Life magazine. The multi-page spread highlighted the lighting of the "M" and compared it to others throughout the country. MTV featured the "M" in November 1987 as 650 students gathered to complete the music televisions logo on the mound. The "M" was also instrumental in influencing the selection of Platteville as the site for Disney's Mickey's Hometown Parade on July 4, 1998. The Disney committee selected Platteville as one of their small towns to host the Disney parade and celebration on July 4, 1998. To boost their chances at being selected, members of the Platteville Jaycees recruited approximately 250 people who dressed in black and made Mickey's ears on the "M". Following Snow's death, the 90 acres became the property of L. R. Clausen. He later donated the property to the Wisconsin State College and Institute of Technology. The Platteville Mining School became the Wisconsin Institute of Technology in 1939 and later merged with the School with the Platteville State Teachers College in 1959 to become the Wisconsin State College and Institute of Technology at Platteville. In 1971, the name changed to the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. The land remains under the ownership of the Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System, and the property was later named Clausen Park. Clausen Park is</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>located at the base of the Platte Mound, "M". It is heavily used by hikers, bikers, runners and people who want to picnic. The Platteville Mound is one mile long and approximately one-half mile wide, 150 feet high and 450 feet above the city at the summit of the hill. The "M" was built on the south side of the hill at a 45-degree gradient. The "M" is maintained by VECTOR, a student organization on campus consisting of representatives of organizations within the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Sciences. Maintenance includes whitewashing the "M" with lye at least once a year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Blockhouse/Robinson Cemetery o Adney Cemetery o Indian Park Cemetery o Greenwood Cemetery o Hillside Cemetery • It should be noted Revolutionary War Veteran Samuel Mitchell, and the founder of the City of Platteville and Platteville Township, John Rountree, are buried at Hillside Cemetery. Many other members of the Rountree and Mitchell families are also buried at Hillside Cemetery. Calvary/St. Mary's Cemetery. A small private cemetery is located along Highway 81 across the road from where Tom Genthe lives (Section 5). • Mitchell-Rountree Stone Cottage - The Grant County Historical Society operates the Mitchell-Rountree Stone Cottage. Built in 1837 by Reverend Samuel Mitchell, father-in-law of John Rountree, the cottage stands today as it did for over 150 years ago, with original furnishings and restored interior and exterior. The Stone Cottage is known as "an architectural gem like no other in Wisconsin." The two foot thick walls of dolomite Galena limestone are examples of some of the most perfect stone construction to be found in the United States. • Rountree House - This is the home of Platteville's founder, John Rountree. • Platteville Academy - This is where the University of Wisconsin Platteville began, and it is still in existence today. • Ullrich Hall - located on the UW-Platteville Campus. It was built in 1916, and is the oldest building on the university campus. Ullrich Hall has been placed on the State Historical Register. • Rountree Hall- This building was built in 1866. It was the State of Wisconsin's first Normal School. The structure is an apartment building today. • Stone Cheese Factory - Built in 1920. This building is registered with the State of Wisconsin Historical Society under historical #55767. • Platteville's Downtown and Second Street Historic Districts - Most of these buildings are historic. • J. L. Pickard House (formerly the Trl-Cor Insurance building. Built in 1850. Historical #46062.) • Clifford Schuldt Farmhouse (Built in 1855. Historical #55778.) • David canny Home - Originally the Jacob Hoosier Homestead. Was built In the 1830's. • Platteville Mining Museum - This building was originally built as a schoolhouse, and was the former Rock School. Construction took from 1857-1863. The Bevan's lead Mine opened at this location in 1845. A portion of this lead mine is open for the public to view today. • Rollo Jamison Museum - The Rollo Jamison Museum began in Beetown, Wisconsin as a private collection of Rollo Jamison. Jamison collected artifacts of Southwest Wisconsin history for over 70 years. No longer able to care for his

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>collection due to his age, Jamison offered it to the City. In 1980, Platteville's City Council accepted the collection. The Rollo Jamison Museum is located in Platteville's first high school built in 1905. The collections were studied, interpretive exhibits developed, educational programs instituted and the Rollo Jamison Museum opened to the public in 1981. Since then additional artifacts have been donated by area citizens eager to see that local history is preserved and that this story is available to area school children, residents, and visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manx Museum - This museum is dedicated to showcasing the immigrants from the Isle of Man and their descendants to North America. The Isle of Man is located in the Irish Sea between England, Ireland and Scotland. This museum is a place where people of all ages and backgrounds can explore the history of the Manx culture for their learning enjoyment and also gain a heightened understanding and appreciation of the Manx culture. • Trinity Episcopal Church • First Congregational Church • First English Lutheran Church • Church of Christ • Free Methodist Church • New Hope Assembly of God Church • Platteville United Methodist Church • Rolling Hills Church • St. Augustine University Parish • St. Mary's Catholic Church • St. Mary's Catholic School • Westview Methodist Church • Whig United Methodist Church • Church of the Latter Day Saints
65	21	244/244.01	282/282.01	None	None	<p>CENTURY FARMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aiken-Graney Family Farm/Richard and Laurie Graney - Section 2, 7231 State Road 80 - On paper, this family homestead can be documented to 1837. However, paper records only go back that far. Family lore has it that after being mustered out of the Blackhawk War relatives were walking back to Illinois from Spring Green when they spotted this piece of land and decided to make it their family homestead. Therefore, this family farm is likely well over 176 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1839.) • Judi Sellmeyer Farm - Section 21, 6031 Highway 80 South - 150 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1866.) • Fred and Arlene Bonin Farm - Sections 29 and 32, 5287 Major lane - 161 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1855.) • Fred Klinge Family/carol Edge and Fern Whitcer - Section 21, 5921 Old Highway 151-122 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1894) • Jim and Judy Lory Farm - Section 20, 5865 Southwest Road - 166 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1850.) • Dale Sander/Sander Family Farm - Section 22 - 5958 Highway 151 South, 161 years old. • Orlan and Carol Sander Farm - Section 22 - 906 College Farm Road, 162 years old. (Continuous family ownership since 1854.)

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	22	244/244.02	None	None	None	<p>Dairies Tom Weigel 400 Cows Section 26 Mike Weigel 100 Cows Section 29 Charlie Vesbach 100 Cows Section 25 Ryan Meisen 50 Cows Section 27 Dave Huehne 50 Cows Section 7 Duane Schuler 50 Cows Section 4 Matt Miller 100 Cows Section 27 Owen Bennett 200 Cows Section 20 Wayne and Jackie Dieter 150 Cows Section 12 Robert Voigts 100 Cows Section 13 Goat Farms</p> <p>There are four goat farms in Platteville Township that are Amish owned. The Farm Service Agency in Grant County (Lancaster) will not disclose owners of these farms for privacy reasons. Many more of these goat farms are starting up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheep and Llamas Destiny Acres, LLC Wayne & Jackie Dieter 40 Sheep 8 Llamas Section 20 Section 12 • Horses Fourteen farms in Platteville Township currently have equine. There are two stables that board horses, and their numbers change with different situations. Approximately 80 horses are currently owned, and approximately 20 horses are boarded. • Beef o Cletus and Janet Vondra - Section 36 o Roger and Elaine Wehnke - Section 35 o Paras and Lori Reddy - Section 34 o Arnold Anderson - Section 34 David and Margaret Klar - Section 33 o Leroy and Connie Cardy- Section 31 o Shinn Revocable Trust - Section 30 Richard and Patricia Lange - Section 30 o Stan and Phyllis Quncy- Section 29 o Arie Dieter - Section 28 o Clare Land Company LCC - Section 28 Richard and Patricia Lange - Section 27 o Scott Farm Enterprises Inc. - Section 19 Michael and Joy Oliverio - Section 20 o Dale and Carol Hood - Section 18 o BJB Cattle Company LLC-Section 17 James and Suzanne Weigel - Section 7 o Jeff and Ann Jenkins - Section 6 o calvin Jr. and Barbara Gatch - Section 8 o Roger and Jane Pink - Section 5 o Dorothy Fowler - Section 9 David Margan - Section 3 James and Patricia Schaefer - Section 2 o Wayne and Jackie Dieter - Section 12 Cattle numbers could not be broken down to Platteville Township only, as the census shows Grant County cattle numbers.
65	23	244/244	None	None	None	<p>LAND USE Description % Area Urban/Developed 13.5% Agriculture 39.4% Grassland 37.4% Forest 9.1% Wetland 0.1% Barren 0.2%</p>
65	24	244/244.01	None	None	None	<p>Farmland Preservation According to Lynda Schweikert, Administrator at the Grant County Conservation, Sanitation, & Zoning Department, 150 Alona Lane, Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813, 608-723-6377, extension 3, there are 4,294 acres in Platteville Township that encompasses 22 participants. Names and locations of these participants could not be disclosed, due to a privacy act.</p>
65	25	250/250	None	None	None	<p>TRANSPORTATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The east and south sides of Platteville Township are close to four-lane U. S. Highway 151. • The Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would cross over Highway 80 on the south side of Platteville Township. • The Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would cross over Highway 81 on the north side of Platteville Township

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	26	250/250.08	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Platteville Municipal Airport is on the south end of Platteville Township. • There are helicopter pads at the Southwest Health Center and Grantland Regional Hospital, which are used for emergencies on a daily basis, and sometimes more often. • The Platteville Municipal Airport has 56 flights flying out of the airport daily, and it can house up to 32 planes. The University of Wisconsin-Platteville has an aviation course where the instructor and student use the municipal airport for lessons.
65	27	250/250	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platteville Township has the privilege of having the following major roads passing through it: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o U. S. Highway 151(four-lane) o State Highway 80 (north and south) o State Highway 81 (south and northwest) o County D (north and south) o West County B (connects to State Highway 61) o East County B (goes out past the Platte and Belmont Mounds and connects to the Village of Belmont.
65	28	283/283	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mennonite and Amish have complained about health issues that are connected to high voltage transmission lines
65	29	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studies show that property values near high voltage transmission lines decrease 20 to 30 percent in value.
65	30	283/283	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both Amish and Mennonites cross roads with non-rubber wheels. These vehicles often have steel wheels. What happens with stray voltage when they are traveling and/or are using this type of machinery? Safety is a major concern to these people
65	31	244/244.01	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Amish and Mennonite communities are developing egg and chicken hatcheries, as well as raising organic produce.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	32	283/283	None	None	None	<p>Extremely high voltages lines cause electrostatic effects, whereas short circuit currents and line loading currents are responsible for electromagnetic effects. The effect of these electrostatic fields is seen prominent with living things like humans, plants, animals, along with vehicles, fences and buried pipes under and close to these lines.</p> <p>ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS ON HUMAN BEINGS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The human body is composed of some biological materials like blood, bone, brain, lungs, muscle, skin, etc. The permeability of the human body is equal to permeability of air but within a human body has different electromagnetic values at a certain frequency for different material. • The human body contains free electric charges (largely in iron-rich fluids such as blood and lymph) that move in response to forces exerted by charges on and currents flowing in nearby power lines. The processes that produce these body currents are called electric and magnetic induction. • According to research and publications put out by the World Health Organization, electromagnetic fields, such as those from power lines can cause: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short Term Health Problems • Headaches • Fatigue • Anxiety • Insomnia • Prickling and/or burning skin • Rashes • Muscle pain • Hearing disabilities • Long Term Health Problems • Risk of damaging DNA • Risk of cancer • Risk of leukemia • Risk of miscarriage <p>ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS ON ANIMALS</p> <p>The University of Wisconsin-Madison has completed many studies on the effects of milk production, pregnancies, abortion rates, and breeding problems, due to the closeness of current transmission lines and stray voltage. Goat and sheep herds are greatly affected in their conception rates.</p> <p>ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS ON VEHICLES</p> <p>When a vehicle is parked under high voltage transmission lines, an electrostatic field is developed in the vehicle. If a person, who is grounded touches it, a discharge current flows through the human being. Our concerns now turn to the Southwest Health Center, Fox Ridge Estates, which is a multiple housing complex, and the University of Wisconsin-Platteville. These facilities have many parking areas for residents, visitors and employees; and all are relatively nearby to Platteville Township.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	33	245/245.04	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kayaking and canoeing are enjoyed on the rivers in Platteville Township. • Platteville Township has approved DNR biking/walking trails. These trails are well lit and paved. • Snowmobile clubs mark and maintain trails through authorized land owner properties with DNR funding. • A non-motorized DNR biking/hiking trail is located between County O, just off of U. S. Highway 151, and County D. • The Rountree Branch Trail is non-motorized. It begins at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville and It goes out the east side of Platteville behind Menard's. • A DNR trail is currently under construction. This trail goes from Menard's to the Village of Belmont. • The State of Wisconsin has approved a UTV trail that goes through the City of Platteville on Main Street and will connect with County B. County B runs east and west in Platteville Township. • Platteville Township accommodates numerous hunters and fisherman. • A camping facility is located on County B East. • The Platte Mound, "M", is a huge attraction for tourists.
65	34	245/245.04	None	None	None	<p>Parks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City Park • Swiss Valley Dog Park • Harrison Park • Highland Park • Indian Park • Jenor Towers Park • Knollwood Park • Legion Field Park • Moundview Park • Platteville Aquatic Center • Sherman Park • Skate Park • Westview Park • Katie's Garden • Clausen Park
65	35	282/282.01	None	None	None	<p>World's Largest "M"</p> <p>The world's largest "M" is constructed of limestone and weighs 400 tons. Constructed in 1937, the giant "M" measures 214 feet by 241 feet. The letter represents the first mining school in the United States. Visitors can climb the M using various existing paths and trails. The M is maintained by a University of Wisconsin-Platteville fraternity. The M is visible from 40 miles away in all directions. There is an area near Blue Mounds where you can view the Platte Mound, Belmont Mound and Blue Mounds all at the same time. Visitors recognize the historic geographical importance, not only to the residents of Southwest Wisconsin but to our State.</p>
65	36	241/241.03	None	None	None	<p>Platteville Township is very concerned about how the land will be maintained under and near the transmission lines. Will herbicides be used for control of vegetation problems? What affects will these herbicides have on ground water, exotic plants, and natural habitats for birds and small animals?</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	37	241/241.01	None	None	None	Platteville Township's hardwood forests consist primarily of red oak, white oak, hickory, sugar maple, cherry and walnut. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Platteville Township's low areas consist of elm, cottonwood, birch, ash, silver maple and willow. • Platteville Township has savanna areas, which consist of bur oak, blue stem grasses and other prairie grasses.
65	38	232/232.03	None	None	None	Platteville Township has wetlands that are located near rivers, streams, tributaries and springs. These wetlands provide habitat for a variety of mammals, birds and amphibians.
65	39	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	The proposed transmission lines and corridors pass through environmentally sensitive areas, those specifically designated to be avoided under Wisconsin law. The proposed transmission lines and corridors pass through environmentally sensitive areas, those specifically designated to be avoided under Wisconsin law.
65	40	232/232.01	None	None	None	Platteville Township is concerned about ground water contamination. We would like to see any studies that have been documented proving that ground waters will be safe for consumption by individuals, farmers, businesses, and animals now and in the future.
65	41	120/120.01	None	None	None	The diggings and testing for lead in various locations in Platteville Township have proven that it is not conducive for towers of this size and magnitude
65	42	246/246	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geologist maps of common Paleozoic fossils show Platteville Township is in a prime location to find fossil bearing sedimentary rock. This sedimentary rock covers much of Wisconsin, particularly the far southern part of the state. • The most abundant and easily collected fossils come from roadcuts, natural bluffs and quarries. The four-lane construction of U. S. Highway 151 proved this information and progress was delayed. • The most well preserved fossils came from the Platteville formation of the Sinnipee Group. These fossils include barchiopods, bivalves (clams), gastropods (snails), trilobites, hyolitids, cephalopods, ostracods, crinoid columnals and corals.
65	43	282/282.02	None	None	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current construction tests such as perk testing and permits for building new residential, farms, businesses and roadways have brought up Indian artifacts in Platteville Township
65	44	280/280.04	None	None	None	Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions To Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, states that "each federal agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies and activities on minority populations and low-income populations." The analysis pursuant to this executive order follows guidelines from the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Environmental Justice Guidance under the National Environmental Policy Act (CEQ 1997).

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
65	45	280/280.05	None	None	None	As we look forward, it's clear that protecting the natural world is one of the most important gifts that we can pass on to our families, friends and the generations that follow. Platteville Township is a gateway to anyone entering our state from Iowa or Illinois. Our historical traditions have labeled our community as one of the oldest mining towns in Wisconsin.
65	46	280/281.02	None	None	None	We would like an unbiased cost-benefit analysis conducted by a group selected by the Wisconsin Public Service Commission. We would like to know if the analysis asks for the inclusion of the effects of efficiency measured combined with renewable (non-carbon) energy generation. Previously, in other power line projects, such requests for comparative studies have been unanswered.
65	47	281/281.1	None	None	None	Audible Corona Radio and Television Interference Corona is the electrical breakdown of the air near high voltage conductors into charged particles. Corona consists of audible noise and radio and television interference from electromagnetic interference, both of which are described below. Corona on transmission line conductors can generate noise at the frequencies at which radio and television signals are transmitted. This noise can interfere with receiving signals and is called radio and television interference (RI/TVI). Radio reception in the AM (amplitude modulated) broadcast band (535 to 1605 kilohertz) is most often affected with what is commonly referred to as static. Frequency modulated reception, or FM (frequency modulated) radio reception is rarely affected. Only radio receivers very near to transmission lines have the potential to be affected by radio interference. Corona can affect the reception of the video (picture) portion of a television signal. Television interference at the edge of the ROW due to corona primarily occurs during rain or snow.
66	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	Use existing transmission line crossing over Mississippi to avoid migratory bird collision
66	2	245/245.03	None	None	None	Project appears to avoid public natural areas such as Bankston park to Governor Dewey State Park
67	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I have the good fortune to live in the beautiful, ecologically important Driftless Area (a MOST unique eco-region!) here in Arena Township. Our family has lived, worked and farmed here since 1937 and we appreciate our beautiful rolling hills, the farmlands, forests, waterways and the wildlife we see here every day.
67	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	For many reasons our area's economy now depends on both farming
67	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	and, now even more heavily on tourism
67	4	232/232.01	None	None	None	For both to continue to flourish we need: *Farmland with usable, clean water, *Clean streams, rivers, lakes and wetlands
67	5	243/243.01	None	None	None	Plentiful wildlife habitat
67	6	241/241.01	None	None	None	Healthy forested areas
67	7	260/260	245/245.04	None	None	Protection of the aesthetic and recreation values throughout the area
67	8	280/280.05	None	None	None	How can you possibly be considering building huge transmission towers for miles right through the heart of this area? Just imagine how you would be devastating the midwest's most unique eco-region and our special scenic landscape!
67	9	120/120.02	None	None	None	Personally. I do not feel that a new power line is warranted at this time as demand for electricity in most of the midwest is either flat or declining.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
67	10	120/121.03	None	None	None	How about considering instead using some non-transmission alternatives like solar and wind generation which could be built and serviced in our local communities?
67	11	280/281.02	None	None	None	I also fear that if the towers are built we will face increased energy rates, reduced land values, higher taxes and loss of local control of our energy sources. Big business is in this to make money NOT to provide a service for our area!
68	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Accepting the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line only rewards the corporate stockholders, and coal burning, carbon spewing generating plants while we, the people, all wait for the resulting climate changing effects for the whole world. Money and profits for a very few should NOT be able to mar the environmental, economic, social and climatic problems for everyone else!
68	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	This new, proposed transmission line will slow the growth of sustainable energy resources for years to come as electric companies will lower the cost per kilowatt hour but continually raise monthly fees. Instead, Dairyland Power should use their federal loan to provide broadband internet for all of S. W. Wisconsin. Then they would be doing something actually beneficial for everyone!
69	1	245/245.04	None	None	None	MHASD owns 25 acres along the proposed highway 18-151 corridor. There are plans to build recreation field/football fields on that land. How much acreage will be necessary as a right away [sic] into that field? Some children will be utilizing that area, what are the precautions taken to determine the routes?
69	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	At the sub-station why not follow the higher volt line to Lancaster versus going down to Platteville following the highway? Seems to be a more straight line on an already existing line?
69	3	283/283	None	None	None	You need to provide a lot more information to the school regarding the electrical concerns to people health to calm some fears!
69	4	120/120.01	None	None	None	Are you tied into the current wind mills power station in Montfort?
70	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Why not follow existing Northern power line routes. From Black Hawk Lake continue line to Spring Green then follow 69kv line east to Mazomanie and then follow Rte 14 to Cardinal substation.
70	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Do we need high power lines when local solar options exist and are feasible?
71	1	235/235	None	None	None	I urge the RUS Scoping Team to educate themselves about the Driftless Area. It is the only part of North America that escaped glaciation, which makes it unique - both geologically and environmentally.
71	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	I know of NO public benefit to be derived from these transmission lines that would justify putting the Driftless Area at risk. It deserves to be protected, not exploited by big business.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
72	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am with a group named Driftless Defenders. In May myself and four friends in Dodgeville Township set up a meeting to talk about the transmission lines with our neighbors. Expecting perhaps thirty people to come from Pleasant Ridge we were astounded when over 70 people showed up, from all over Dodgeville plus three surrounding towns. Realizing how widespread the opposition was to these lines, we formed Driftless Defenders. Our membership has grown to around 100 people. We have been spreading the word and informing the public about the transmission lines by attending parades talking one-on-one with people at various events, distributing our literature, and maintaining a FaceBook page. Attached is our literature which includes our reasons for opposing these lines. I urge you to consider the many many ways these lines will negatively affect our landscape, ecosystem, businesses, and quality of life. I know of no greater public good that would be derived from these lines that would justify ruining the Driftless Area.
73	1	260/260	None	None	None	I am 69 years old and have lived between Spring Green and Dodgeville on Hwy Z. It is and has always been a beautiful area. I am opposed to large power lines spoiling the scenery.
73	2	244/244.02	283/283	None	None	Our place is a 7 generation farm and in the driftless area, we have a large herd of cattle grazing our pastures and do not want EMFs near our cattle or ourselves.
74	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. There simply has been no demonstrated need for this additional power supply line to be built. There is well-documented information that supply exceeds demand in our area for well over the past decade. Sales of electrical power have declined or remained flat. This is true in regions other than ours as well.
74	2	280/281.02	110/110.0407	None	None	2. The immense projected cost to build this line is estimated at nearly a billion dollars, and this is a conservative guess. There are much better alternatives, and more cost effective ways to provide power, than building this high-voltage transmission line in Wisconsin. Wisconsin law requires that energy demands be first met with the most cost effective options, including energy efficiencies, and conservation. This line does not meet those criteria. The costs of building this line will be passed on to the consumer, myself, and I am opposed to this across the board, for something that is completely unneeded.
74	3	235/235	243/243.01	None	None	Environmental Damage. This is my number one concern. We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the state, with unique geology, plant and animal life. I choose to move here 30 years ago from Milwaukee for this very reason. I believe this project would scar and destroy untold miles of habitat, beauty, peace and rare areas of unspoiled land and geography.
74	4	280/280.02	245/245.04	232/232.03	None	I believe untold damage to tourism would be a result of this massive and hideous power transmission line. It proposes to cut through park land, wetland, and areas where tourism is a number one economic generating force.
74	5	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	4. It is my understanding that the proposed routes are in conflict with Wisconsin Siting Standards. State law clearly intends that transmission lines avoid unnecessary impact to our environment. There are no proposed routes that accommodate this law of our State. The law exists for reasons of protection. This line is a violation, in every possible way.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
74	6	280/280.02	280/281.0101	None	None	5. Negative economic impact on all people living within its presence. Not only the high impact on property values, but the above noted impact on tourism, business, health concerns and beyond.
75	1	111/111	None	None	None	I am also aware that we were given less than 10 days formal notice to prepare for these meetings to get additional information for input on environmental impact.
75	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	There simply has been no demonstrated need for this additional power supply line to be built. There is well documented information that supply exceeds demand in our area for well over the past decade. Sales of electrical power have declined or remained flat. This is true in regions other than ours as well.
75	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	The immense projected cost to build this line is estimated at nearly a billion dollars, and this is a conservative guess. There are much better alternatives, and more cost effective ways to provide power, than building this high-voltage transmission line in Wisconsin.
75	4	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	Wisconsin law requires that energy demands be first met with the most cost effective options, including energy efficiencies, and conservation. This line does not meet those criteria.
75	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	The costs of building this line will be passed on to the consumer, myself, and I am opposed to this across the board, for something that is completely unneeded.
75	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	3. Environmental Damage. This is my number one concern. We live in one of the most beautiful parts of the state, with unique geology, plant and animal life. I choose to move here 30 years ago from Milwaukee for this very reason.
75	7	260/260	None	None	None	I believe this project would scar and destroy untold miles of habitat, beauty, peace and rare areas of unspoiled land and geography.
75	8	280/280.02	None	None	None	I believe untold damage to tourism would be a result of this massive and hideous power transmission line. IT proposes to cut through park land, wetland, and areas where tourism is a number one economic generating force.
75	9	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	It is my understanding that the proposed routes are in conflict with Wisconsin Sitting Standards. State law clearly intends that transmission lines avoid unnecessary impact to our environment. There are no proposed routes that accommodate this law of our State. The law exists for reasons of protection. This line is a violation, in every possible way.
75	10	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	Negative economic impact on all people living within its presence. Not only the high impact on property values, but the above noted impact on tourism, business,
75	11	283/283	None	None	None	Health concerns and beyond.
76	1	280/280.05	282/282	None	None	For over forty years, my family has been blessed to be the faithful stewards of my home and 280 acres in the Driftless hills of Southwestern Wisconsin near Beetown Wisconsin. Before us, this piece of land holds the memories and the imprints of pioneering Wisconsin farmers, lead miners, and prehistoric mound building Native Americans. It is part of the limestone bluff-lined meandering path of the Grant River and one of its tributaries.
76	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	Through conservation efforts and much loving family labor, this land has seen the return of nesting eagles, turkeys and woodlands filled with many uncommon spring ephemerals.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
76	3	282/282.02	None	None	None	We have honored the spirits and artifacts of the Native people that rest in this place.
76	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	The loss of life long equity in the property due to devaluation of the resale value of my home and property as these high voltage poles and lines and the easement will be within 30 yards of my home.
76	5	260/260	284/284	None	None	They will be both visible and audible from the house. The terrain and forest surrounding my home will be changed and lost due to the width of the easement.
76	6	244/244.01	None	None	None	The yearly loss of corn field rental income due to the loss of portions of the field to the easement needed for the lines.
76	7	250/250	None	None	None	Wear and tear on the existing driveway due to heavy equipment using it as an access road or, degradation and loss of existing forest land, if new access roads are needed. Widening of the current access road,
76	8	282/282.02	None	None	None	or the construction of a new road would traverse Native American burial areas.
76	9	244/244.01	None	None	None	The loss of income for the commercial beekeeper who keeps 40-50 hives on the property. This loss would be due to both the loss of the ideal siting of the hives due to the needed width of the easement and the potential loss of bees due to the herbicide use needed to maintain the easements.
76	10	243/243.02	None	None	None	The height of the poles and the lines will be in the direct flight path of our nesting eagles as they soar from nest to their food source in the Grant River. This will be a deadly negotiation for adults and, especially, for the young eagles. These birds have successfully nested in this spot for the past ten years.
76	11	232/232.04	243/243	None	None	The run off of herbicide from the easement into the Grant River potentially poisoning fish, the eagles, and other plant and animal life dependent on the river. This entire property and the proposed easement slope directly to the river or its' tributary. -Potential herbicide contamination of the water supply to my home due to the proximity of the well to the easement.
76	12	241/241.02	None	None	None	-Threat of extinction in the easement of several rare native spring ephemerals, such as lady slipper orchids, by either line construction, or herbicide use in maintenance.
76	13	282/282.02	None	None	None	There is increasing evidence that this property was once the inhabitation of a community of mound building native peoples. There are over 20 Indian mounds within 50 yards of the proposed easement and line route. The presence of charcoal fire pits are evident within 20 yards of the proposed easement. Artifacts are found throughout the entire 280 acres. My family has maintained great respect for these ancient peoples and have protected this undocumented sacred spot from disturbance and destruction. The undocumented mounds and settlements of these prehistoric Native peoples are scattered all along the proposed northern route from Cassville to Lancaster.
76	14	244/244.01	282/282.02	243/243.02	None	The 1st request at Platteville meeting 5/17/16 was for an easement of 150ft = 50 yds. 50 yds is 1/2 a football field. On our property, it would be difficult to find 50 yds of open space. Without disturbing farm buildings, Native American property, Eagle's nest or vast amounts of oak and walnut timber.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
76	15	280/280.05	None	None	None	While these are the impacts to my home and property, these same impacts and many others, will be repeated, on private lands and farms throughout this Driftless region of Southwestern Wisconsin, a region of our country with a singularly unique geographic, geologic, and archeologic [sic] history. There is no other like it.
77	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am very concerned about the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek (CHC) high voltage power line. I am a homeowner on Country Road ZZ in Dodgeville Township, Iowa County. I retired here because of the beauty of the Driftless Region. One of the proposed routes for CHC runs right past my house, 80 feet from my front door.
77	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Most importantly, this line is not needed. The demand for electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has been flat or declining over the past decade due to the increased energy efficiency of appliances, HVAC systems, and lighting, as well as more home solar power. This decrease in electricity demand is in spite of thousands of new customers coming online.
77	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	ATC, a privately owned corporation, profits solely on the construction and maintenance of transmission lines whether they are needed or not. They have every incentive to simply build new infrastructure regardless of need.
77	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Much has changed with both energy use and the energy industry since this line was first proposed in 2007. New technology is coming on line and there are more climate friendly options. I believe strongly in the science of climate change. Our home has PV Solar panels, providing half of our electricity. We need clean local energy generation combined with sensible energy conservation - not transmission lines that carry 70% fossil fuels.
77	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	I, the rate payer, will be forced to pay for this half a billion dollar project while ATC will receive an annual return of 10.2% on their investment. Alliant already announced a rate hike that will increase my electric bill almost 20% over the next 2 years. We all need electricity. I would like the EIS to include a cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives.
77	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	Can a combination of local wind and solar, storage, energy efficiency, and demand response meet our needs? It is my money being spent to build this line; I believe there are cheaper, less environmentally destructible ways to generate electricity.
77	7	245/245.03	None	None	None	Our home overlooks and abuts the northern border of Governor Dodge State Park.
77	8	241/241	None	None	None	Not only will we have 170-foot industrial towers running through pristine land, the entire 125-mile route will be clear cut and continually sprayed with herbicides. Four state Departments of Natural Resources have identified the Driftless Area in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin as the most important ecological region in the Midwest.
77	9	243/243.01	245/245.01	None	None	The proposed corridors plow through environmentally sensitive areas, specifically designated to be avoided under Wisconsin law: vital conservation areas, eagle nesting areas, and Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, among others.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
78	1	232/232.04	244/244.05	None	None	I am concerned that the 40'-60' bases that go into the ground could cause disturbances that could contaminate ground water (drinking water). I am especially concerned about this due to the numerous lead and zinc mines in this areas from the 1820's - early 1900's. I am not an expert on this, but I would like to see this issue studied. The abandoned mines are only an issue along the southern corridor from Cassville to Montfort. I have found maps online for several communities that show these mines. I have blue highlighted approximate corridors. Attachments: A-1 Potosi A-2 Platteville A-3 Dewey A-4 Livingston A-5 Montfort Also I found a detailed chronicle (including) depth profile of one particular mine, namely Cokerville, labeled A-6. Almost all of these old mines have been reclaimed as agriculture land with no tell-tale signs of disturbance of soil.
79	1	244/244.01	280/280.05	None	None	My great grandparents, Ignatius and Mary Kritz, came to the Driftless Region of WI from Bohemia (Czech Republic today) in 1864. They purchased farmland in Wyoming (WY) Township, Iowa County, WI. My grandfather, Paul Kritz, grew up on that farm and purchased a neighboring farm in 1907 after he married his wife, Elizabeth. My father, Reuben Kritz, was born on that farm and lived there with his wife Aurelia until he died in 1984. That farm and a neighboring one purchased in the 1950s remain in our family. I currently own and live on those farms in Wyoming Township. Throughout the years that my family has owned farmland in WY Township, we have tried to be good stewards of the land, recognizing that this land is not only ours to use for agricultural production and recreational activities but also to share with other animals who live here and future generations. When land has been in one's family for over a century, it becomes an integral part of that family's history and culture.
79	2	244/244.06	None	None	None	To assure that my family's land can continue to remain environment ally sustainable and be used for agricultural and recreational activities, I initiated steps this past year toward setting up a conservation easement.
79	3	244/244.04	None	None	None	I learned about six months ago that the towers for the transmission line (Northern route) proposed by the American Transmission Co (ATC) are likely to run directly across my property or be situated very close to it. My 234 acres are located right at the elbow where the proposed line turns southward to run along County Z to County ZZ (Dodgeville Township).
79	4	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	ATC likely chose my land as part of its Northern route because it spans several hill tops that have crop fields or pastures. It is probably easier to situate transmission towers on hilltops rather than running them up/ down steep valleys that are heavily wooded. If ATC receives approval to use the proposed Northern route, that will create a very visible scar on the pristine Driftless landscape and have an adverse effect on tourism, which is a (perhaps "the") major source of income for Wyoming Township. Given the height of the proposed ATC towers (15-20 stories), they will be very visible from almost any location throughout WY and Dodgeville Townships.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
79	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	When my ancestors settled in WY Township, they found a pristine region that had been a summer home for Native American Indians and that had a tallgrass prairie and bur oak savanna ecology. WY Township was never ideal farmland because of the steep hills and river valleys found throughout the Driftless region. This non-glaciated region has a very different ecology and landscape than the rest of the Midwest does. In the 1960s, this scenic land started to appreciate in value along with acreage prices in WY Township. In response, local farmers started to sell their farms to cultural and touristic institutions (Talesin, American Player's Theater, Governor Dodge State Park, Bethel Horizons, and Tower Hill State Park) that were interested in building or expanding their operations in the Driftless region. The region also started to attract people interested in purchasing land and restoring its native ecology (as the Aldo Leopold family and Foundation did in Sauk County). The transformation of the land from agriculture to environmental preservation and cultural activities is now well advanced in Iowa County and likely to continue in the years ahead as long as the pristine landscape of the Driftless Region remains intact.
79	6	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Because of the changing usage of land and increasing attention to prairie restoration in the Driftless region, many endangered plants and animals can be found in this area. I have seen Regal Fritillary butterflies, Blanchard's cricket frogs, ornate box turtles, Henslow Sparrows, pale purple coneflower, and Wild Hyacinths on my land
79	7	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am currently retired and spend a great deal of my time working on prairie and forest restoration on my land. It is beautiful land and it breaks my heart to think that the ATC towers may cross this landscape.
79	8	280/281.02	None	None	None	While I understand that stabilization of the national and regional electricity grid remains an important Federal and State government priority, questions are being raised by people in this community about whether that is best done by building a transmission line of the scale that has been proposed or through alternative approaches. At the least before the WI Public Service Commission and the Federal Government approve the proposed project, further cost/benefit analysis needs to be done that would tally up the environmental and economic costs of siting the ATC towers in the Driftless region.
80	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	The economic impact on tourism will be significant.
80	2	245/245.04	None	None	None	We get thousands of bicyclists through the Route(s) every year. You know bicyclists, what bicyclist wants to ride under humming towers, or look at them, dropped into the scenery.
80	3	280/280.01	None	None	None	The number of jobs lost due to reduced tourism needs to be estimated for a 5, 10, 20, 40% reduction in tourist volume!
81	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	I live on Seven Seeds Farm located on Pleasant Ridge. As a 6th generation farmer of Seven Seed Farm, I am strongly opposed to this project for the simple reason that my family has spent all their lives as stewards of the beautiful driftless farm. 10 years ago I was able to purchase this property from my mother and transition it to a full functioning Organic Farm.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
81	2	232/232.06	None	None	None	We are also part of a watershed project aimed at preventing nutrient run off which ends up in The Gulf of Mexico. We have planted 12,000 trees in alleys with a keyline in place. We have Meudt Creek located on our farm which is only active in the Spring or in a wet year. The Creek feeds into a larger spring fed Creek and is surrounded by conventional farms that are contributing to the problem in the Gulf.
81	3	280/280.01	None	None	None	This project threatens our certifications (MOSA Organic, Animal Welfare Approved & USDA Organic) by spraying the 150 ft swath that maintains these lines.
81	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	We are also a destination for Agritourism for Co-ops, school groups, among others who care about our mission and healthy products we sell. My soul is in this land as I follow in my Grandparents footsteps to live with the land, Not mine it.
82	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Electric systems are undergoing rapid and widespread technology developments to de-carbonize and modernize the grids that include: distributed generation (solar PV, wind, etc.), storage, micro-grids, green-hydrogen fuel cells, etc.; and the many research and demonstration projects underway will help to indicate the extent and specifications of future transmission and substation requirements. There is urgent need to reduce climate disruption by heat trapping gases from natural gas and coal pollution emissions. Comparative studies of the alternatives, with generous time for public review, are needed first before decisions are made about the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line and substations. A suggestion is to offer support to the U. of Wisconsin System for student projects to develop renewable energy planning and grid studies (short term and long-term) for the area of the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line and substations, open to public participation and review. How could the Wisconsin Public Service Commission intelligently approve specifications of the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line and substations without considering these kinds of studies?
83	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am Debra Eide. I grew up in Oregon, Illinois in northern Illinois, at the very southern tip of the driftess [sic] region, on a very large wooded acreage for which my father was forester. Nature has ALWAYS been a large part of my life, ALWAYS. I was a public school art teacher for 37 years, the last 19 in Wisconsin where I became more involved in Environmental Education, representing my teachers through teachers' union positions and our negotiation team. You see I also have a strong belief in FAIRNESS. My husband and I have been driving an hour each way to our jobs just so we can live where we do, on the lip of the beautiful and vast Wyoming Valley. When we bought our home with a few acres, we purchased it WITHOUT huge towers and high voltage transmission lines. We moved here to escape that type of crowded, cluttered environment in the city. We moved to a unique and quite land, abundant with wildlife, forests, bluffs and prairies. We very much want our area to remain as it is. For the 23 years we have lived here we have cared for our forest habitat and the lives it supports.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
83	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	For 20 years we have been working on our prairie restoration, and most recently we have created a hopping wetlands habitat. With many many species of frogs, pickerel included. This summer a nest of hawks were hatched right at the edge of our woods. A fledgling landed on our deck rail.
83	3	244/244.04	None	None	None	You can see that we have a strong relationship with our land. Our property is long and narrow along County Road Z on the proposed northern ATC route. We are on the blue line. If a transmission line went through our land, it is so narrow that there would barely be anything left of the forest or prairie. And our home would be unhealthy close to the line.
83	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	But it's not just our own property we are concerned for, this pristine driftless area has already been ravaged and stripped by drought, and then storms and tornadoes. It should not suffer further for the sake of private exploitation through the transmission line project.
83	5	120/120.02	None	None	None	Is the need that great? Is there really a need at all?
83	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	Alternatives to this line have not been adequately explored.
83	7	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	Is it needed, except for making excessive and unfair profit?
83	8	243/243.01	None	None	None	The environmental impact is enormous. Wildlife already struggling to hold on to the habitat will lose even more at the hands of man. But man can prevent this.
83	9	260/260	None	None	None	It certainly is not aesthetically appealing.
83	10	280/280.02	None	None	None	It will harm our tourism industry which is largely based on the beauty of this area.
83	11	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property values will suffer more than they already have.
83	12	283/283	None	None	None	These lines are unhealthy. Who would want to live near one?
83	13	280/281.02	None	None	None	Our people owning land and homes here will have to pay more in rate hikes and receive no advantage from this line, just a nasty scar on the land.
84	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	don't need electricity
85	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	Instead of spending the money on another, and unneeded transmission line, spend it on grid security, both with respect to vulnerability to terrorism, and with respect to resiliency in the face of unexpected load/supply changes due to natural causes, accidents, and equipment failures. Vulnerability should be addressed with tower and substation security, both physical and cybersecurity. Resiliency should be addressed through implementation of a smart grid. The level of smartness of the grid in Germany, for instance, has benefited from two decades of development, and a Federal goal of 50% renewables is presenting no grid stability issues with 20% current implementation. In summary consider: *Grid security, physical and cyber, of all nodes, including towers *Grid 'smartness' or intelligent resiliency in the face of changing power supply, load, and environmental conditions.
86	1	120/120.01	None	None	None	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

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
86	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	There is an existing electrical corridor along Hwy 10 (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?
87	1	120/120.01	None	None	None	Placing the line across either of the proposed routes from Dodgeville to Middleton is a terrible idea.
87	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	The power isn't needed
87	3	260/260	None	None	None	and the visual and environmental impacts on the beautiful "driftless" area of SW Wisconsin will be disastrous [sic].
87	4	245/245.03	None	None	None	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 Trail(s).
87	5	280/280.05	None	None	None	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.
88	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	I own (with my wife) two agricultural property totaling 410 acres in Iowa County. Our horse farm is near the Military Ridge proposed route; and our Drysen Rd property is near the Cty Hwy Z alternative proposed route
88	2	282/282	None	None	None	We have six (6) ancient rock art sites; two are extremely rare...>2,000 years old!
88	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	We strongly opposed this power line. It is unnecessary
88	4	283/283	None	None	None	I worry stray voltage will hurt our livestock.
88	5	260/260	None	None	None	The value of 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.
88	6	280/280.02	None	None	None	We also invest in tourist/recreational businesses. We'll be likely to invest elsewhere if this line depresses tourism and recreation in this area.
88	7	280/280.05	None	None	None	The proposed route ignores the extraordinary nature of our driftless scenery, businesses and sense of community. Please draft an EIS that protects our homes.
89	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	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 right next to Governor Dodge Park on 5 beautifully wooded acres. Over the years, any visitors we had marveled 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 severely violate this area in which we live.
89	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Potential loss of tourism dollars
89	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	property values
89	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.
89	5	243/243.01	243/243.04	None	None	Most important to me is the loss and effects to important habitats of plants and animals - many of which are endangered.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
89	6	111/111.01	None	None	None	This meeting today should have been delayed until a time when adequate public information had been distributed to all our citizens and interested, affected parties in our area.
90	1	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	My family has lived at 5079/5077 County Road Z since the 1880's. Our family farm has evolved to be a sustainable organic farm based on heavy agritourism. Our on [sic] farm store is heavily visited as it is close to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. Many tourists visit our farm throught [sic] the year. I am unable to image [sic] the devastating impact the A+C power lines would have on our business and us personally. We at Seven Seeds Farm are vigorously opposed to this unneeded project.
90	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	Totally opposed to the A+C Line. It would desecrated [sic] the scenic Driftless Area
91	1	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	My family has lived at 5079/5077 County Road Z since the 1880's. Our family farm has evolved to be a sustainable organic farm based on heavy Agritourism. Our on [sic] farm store is heavily visited as it is close to Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin. Many tourists visit our farm throught [sic] the year. I am unable to image [sic] the devastating impact the A+C power lines would have on our business and us personally. We at Seven Seeds Farm are vigorously opposed to this unneeded project.
91	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	Totally opposed to the A+C Line. It would desecrated [sic] the scenic Driftless Area
92	1	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	None	Our three generation family of five resides on my wife's family farm at 5079 /5071 County Road Z, Spring Green, Wi 53588. We have chosen the name; Seven Seeds Farm, to represent our children's seven generation link to Ole Mickelson who began this family farm in the 1880's. The farm was conventionally managed until 2004 when my wife, Lea Dolan-Stroncek and I began the transition using sustainable and organic farming practices. Seven Seeds Farm began the pasture based journey with organic grass-fed beef, organic pastured hogs and organic pastured poultry and egg layers. All of our immediate family members and many other relatives have invested their time and arduous labor in this difficult journey to establish a successful farm. In addition, Lea and I have invested much of our life's savings to repair the farm's infrastructure and provide the buildings and equipment to care for our animals and to create an on farm store.
92	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Over nine years the family team has painstakingly worked to establish Seven Seeds Farm store with items that we raise, a direct market meat business, a wholesale restaurant and grocery store component and agricultural-tourism for individuals and groups (school and cooperative members). Most of our customers who visit our farm wish to see our animals, our re established silvopasture model with 12,000 nut and fruit trees (which is a research site for the Savanna Institute), our 14 KV photovoltaic solar energy panels and two solar hot water arrays to heat our water and farm store. Our farm is a jewel in the area of sustainability and sound environmental practices. We are set up to sequester CO2 and reduce the world excess!!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
92	3	260/260	None	None	None	The effect of the 17 story tall ATC transmission towers and power lines along County Road Z corridor would: 1. irreparably damage the landscape in the nationally treasured Driftless Area
92	4	280/ 281.0101	280/281.01	None	None	2. detrimentally effect our organic and Animal Welfare Approved status close to the corridor as toxic prohibited spray would be used to kill vegetation 3. decrease our land and farm values 4. irreparably damage Seven Seeds farm's business
92	5	243/243.04	None	None	None	possibly detrimentally effect the Henslow's Sparrow on the Federal species concern list as this is in the County Road Z corridor
92	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	be psychologically devastating for all our family members who choose this beautiful Driftless Area to spend the rest of our lives!
92	7	233/233.02	None	None	None	Increase CO2 with transmission expansion
92	8	280/281.02	None	None	None	needlessly increase our energy bills
92	9	280/280.02	None	None	None	affect other agricultural tourism in this corridor at Uplands Cheese and Taliesin (Frank Lloyd Wright's architectural school and home).
92	10	280/281.02	120/121.03	None	None	We ask that the USDA/RUS EIS include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives including accelerated spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local renewable energy.
93	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	As a land owner on the Proposed County Road Z, I am totally against the power line. We have an organically managed farm producing organic grass-fed beef, organic pastured chicken and pork. We rotationally graze using our 100 plus acres of pasture. Our business also has an on farm store. The passage of the unnecessary, costly, environmentally damaging power line would devastate our business and possibly cause us to move off our 135 plus year family farm.
94	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	Our family is totally opposed to this powerline. We run a sustainable organic farm. Our organic certifier told us we would lose any organic land that would be sprayed for weeds as the power line could pass right by us. It would be a tragedy to lose our farm.
95	1	233/233.03	None	None	None	Human generated climate change is real.
95	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	We need to transition to renewable energy sources as completely and quickly as possible. 3. Renewable energy production needs to be done locally. Each local ecosystem has a unique mix of renewable energy resources that can be sustainably developed. This must also include energy conservation even to the point of individual life style changes in order to preserve the functioning of the local ecosystem. 4. Mega power generating stations and the mega transmission lines they require must be phased out. We need to be locally responsible for our own renewable energy generation and usage in order to preserve our local ecosystems. Power generation must function in a sustainable way as part of each local ecosystem. Massive energy importation is disruptive. One cannot increase the energy level of a system without changing the system.
95	3	233/233.03	None	None	None	We cannot solve a global climate disruption by shifting disruption to local levels.
96	1	260/260	None	None	None	I am vehemently opposed to any transmission line that goes thru the town of Arena. The reason I built my dream home there 6 years ago was for the natural beauty of the driftless area that we call home. A transmission line thru our township (Arena Township) would destroy the intrinsic beauty of our county.
96	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	I believe the line is unnecessary in any location. Conservation is needed more.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
96	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	If the millions spent on the line were used to support alternatives (wind, solar, geothermal) the impact would be significant.
97	1	260/260	None	None	None	The Town of Belmont is opposed to having this large line go through our township. This line would run by the large "M" in our community and create a significant visual impact and impact the quality of the land this would reside on.
97	2	283/283	280/280.02	None	None	This area of the township has very large dairies which are very worried about stray electricity and the environment impact such a line brings to the environment. The Town of Belmont is located in the corner of Lafayette County, next to Grant and Iowa County. This area of the township is also the highest populated this this may impact health and financial values of the people in this part of the township. As I started, the Town of Belmont is opposed to having this line our community/township.
98	1	260/260	None	None	None	The Town of Belmont is very much opposed to having this line in our township. The area it would do thru is a very scenic area surrounded by the natural made mounds in which 1000's of people come annually to see.
98	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	This area is not only agriculture but also in our historical district which we have limited to new buildings and other activities which are not conducive to the area. The mounds have been a big part of the main tourism in our area and having these lines in and around the area would affect the value of this area.
98	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please consider another route other than through the town of Belmont.
100	1	233/233	None	None	None	The number one environmental concern anybody within screaming distance of this line should have is emissions from the lignite coal fired North Dakota power plants that are going to generate the power going east in this thing. The CO2 from those plants will be in this closed jar we live in, causing a litany of climate change problems that everybody should know by now. The \$500 to \$800 million should go for solar and wind power on regional distributed grids. That way, all living things-including the grandchildren of the power company executives get to breathe clean air.
100	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Because our appliances are more efficient, there is no increase in power use. We don't need this power line-company executives need it to line their pockets.
100	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	This project will initially cost us \$500 to \$800 million. Ultimately utilities will bill us for several times that amount. That's a lot of money for the power companies to extract from ratepayers under the guise of "keeping the lights on" and getting a 10.2% guaranteed profit.
100	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Rather than build these monstrosities to transfer money from our pockets to the pockets of power company executives, we'd like our power to come from renewable sources, distributed on local grids. We could do more good for society using this money elsewhere.
102	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	I am attending this scoping meeting because it is doubtful that this project is needed. The future energy model will not be supplied by fossil fuels piped on high voltage lines. Communities will produce energy on homes using renewables. These lines are already obsolete and burden ratepayers for 40 years, while the builders (ATC et. all) are guaranteed a 10% annual return.
102	2	244/244.04	None	None	None	We own 60 acres near the northern proposed route. The line would cut across pristine land and fragment our parcel

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
102	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	We have many species of birds, turtles, and frogs that we are concerned about. We have a pond and a spring too. A powerline of this magnitude has no place cutting across virgin land.
102	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	Why are we using taxpayer dollars to incentivize utilities to invest in projects that will make our rates higher? We have the highest rates in the Midwest. Please do your job for the environmental impact statement and make sure that includes a comprehensive cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives (as required by NEPA code).
102	5	507/507.02	None	None	None	please include me by sending a copy of your draft environmental impact statement.
103	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
103	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.
104	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Another negative impact I am concerned about is: This line would damage a 125 mile swath of the driftless area of southwest Wisconsin and commit rate-payers to higher monthly bills for years. There are better more cost effective alternatives such as local solar, wind and gas plants. There should be a cost analysis done.
105	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	Conived [sic] 20 years ago, the guaranteed profit for investors is so good that any new, affordable, sustainable energy technology is being ignored and this now outdated, old, idea is being promoted as a "must have"/"must do" by those wanting the guaranteed 40 years of 10+% interest, who are cleverly advertising to all how vital the line is... when actually it is not needed. Technology has advanced so much since this idea was conjured, that less expensive, local, superior solutions which are sustainable now exist. Even the wind farms technology has new, better, more efficient, verticle [sic] wind mills, which respond to less wind, are more durable in high winds, & are safer for birds & wildlife & much less expensive. These installed locally in communities could eliminate again the need for towers... But since this would lessen the 40 years of healthy profit to investors, those backing the whole grid idea will dismiss it. There should be incentives for homeowners & businesses to have solar + wind sources thruout [sic] the state which will support communities instead of sticking to antiquated technology - invest in battery/storage research. Florida has declared that solar energy is illegal. Why? Because of less profits for corporations.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
105	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	We are at a point where moral courage should be exercised. We have only this planet as our house. We all use the same air. We are watching our water be destroyed in efforts to hang on to an energy source that can be replaced by wind + solar - corporations will still make their profit. Even if scaled down a zero or two they will still be financial winners... But how wonderful if corporations could turn to helping save our natural resources, making the effort and succeeding in not poisoning planetary life - those within the corporations are humans also, capable of also becoming poisoned, who need oxygen, clean air, & want to be cancer + disease free. Moral courage would have them helping mankind, all of us.
105	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please support incentives for us little people/homeowners to be able to have solar + wind power. Third world countries are gaining access to more advanced sustainable energy technology than what you are proposing. Florida has outlawed solar energy & trying to get other states to do the same. Elon Musk now has solar rooftops. Please consider widening your horizons & help this state step into a new horizon of sustainable technology. It will be good on all levels for all of us. Corporations & investors included. Without damaging this world's unique Driftless Area.
106	1	102/102.02	None	None	None	My opinion is these lines are ugly and totally unnecessary.
106	2	283/283	None	None	None	It is proven that EMFs are emitted by them and in my opinion that is a health hazard.
107	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Would prefer new line to go with the existing line on our farm near Hickory Creek substation. Really do not want transmission line to go through middle of farm with buildings and timber.
107	2	244/244.01	232/232.03	None	None	Have area of wetlands identified more central on farm.
108	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	Not enough notice for this meeting! Please send a 1st Class mailing to town residents and town government officials about these meetings. Schedule another properly notified meeting!
109	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I understand the requirement to show two different corridors, but it would seem obvious that following an existing line + leveraging 18/151 would make the most sense.
109	2	244/244.04	None	None	None	I have property in Arena Township + to have a power line go through my property would be devastating + would have a huge financial impact on us. I would ask that you strongly consider using an already established route down the 18/151 corridor so that you impact the fewest number of landowners.
110	1	235/235	None	None	None	What precautions are planned to be taken for those areas of the corridor that are underlain by Karst (limestone)?? SW WI has many such areas
111	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I oppose this line being built as proposed. There are better economic, environmental and aesthetic options to insure an adequate energy supply.
111	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	Constructing a 125 mile, 345KV transmission line supported by 17-story tall towers through the heart of the Driftless Area, the Midwest's most unique eco-region, is not sound public policy.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
111	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	Economically, there are serious questions If this line is even needed in the future. Supply currently exceeds demand in Wisconsin's electrical power market and demand looks to be flat or slightly declining recently. New wind and gas plants have already been approved locally that question the need to import out-of-state electrical supplies.
111	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Furthermore, there are better, more cost efficient alternatives including increased energy efficiencies, distributed energy demand response and solar energy.
111	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	Wisconsin's electricity rates are the highest in the Midwest and will only get higher if this line is constructed as proposed
111	6	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	In addition economically, tourism and recreation (fishing, hunting, biking, hiking, etc.) are a large part of the Driftless economic base.
111	7	260/260	None	None	None	Constructing this line will create an aesthetic eyesore that would be devastating to these vital sectors of the economy.
111	8	243/243.04	None	None	None	Environmentally, proposed corridors running through Iowa and Dane counties' many high-quality habitats for threatened, endangered and Federal species of concern.
111	9	243/243	241/241	None	None	This area provides shelter and nurtures diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants.
111	10	245/245.01	245/245.03	None	None	The line also runs through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, part of the central United States waterfowl migration flyway that's recognized as a "Ramsar Convention Globally Important Bird Area". This proposed CHC transmission line will damage vital conservation areas and natural resources - an unacceptable price when better alternatives are available.
111	11	120/120.02	None	None	None	This project does not serve the best interests of our communities, state and nation. I seriously question the need for this line at all, and believe if it is determined that it is needed, that a thorough analysis be completed to determine 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. If this analysis proves to require an additional line, which I think highly unlikely
111	12	120/121.03	None	None	None	I suggest that less damaging alternatives be seriously considered such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines along existing corridors. Establishing a totally new corridor through pristine lands is the last possible alternative.
112	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	This area is a unique sensitive environment that needs to be respected and valued.
112	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	The only sensible answer is going down the highway
113	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	down 18-151 is the only good choice
114	1	120/120.01	None	None	None	I AM IN FAVOR OF NO ACTION. I SEE NO REASON WHY THE US GOVT SHOUDL BE INVOLVED IN THIS TRANSMISSION LINE.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
114	2	111/111.02	None	None	None	AS TO USACE GIVING APPROVAL, THEY APPROVE EVERYTHING. THEY HAVE ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS THAT THEY OVERLOOK EVERY SINGLE TIME. THEY LET UNION GOONS COME TO MEETINGS TO PUSH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS. UNION GOONS WHOI ARE PAID TO COME TO TESTIFY AND USACE DOESNT QUESTION THAT AT ALL. USFWS IS MANAGED BY A KNOWN WILDLIFE MRUDERER NAMED DAN ASHE AND HE WILL APPROVE ANYTHIGN THAT HURTS OUR NATIONAL WILDIFE, SO HIS APPROVAL HAS REAL CONSTRAINTS. WE NEED TO GIVE MORE THORUGHT TO THIS SPENDING OF AMERICAN TAX DOLALRS SO THAT IT IS UTILIZED FOR CRUELTY, BRUTALITY, CORRUPTION AND MANIPULATION OF THE AMERICAN PUBLI [sic].
114	3	102/102.01	None	None	None	IS DAIRYLAND THE ONE THAT JUST KILLED 500 COWS BECAUES THE MILK PRICE WAS NOT HIGH ENOUGH TO SUIT THEM. 500 COWS KILLED. THE FACT IS MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE DRINKING LESS AND LESS MILK BECAUSE THEY SEE THE AWFUL WAY COWS ARE TREATGED IN THESE AG PROFITEER SITES. THE PICTURES AND VICEOS ON THE INTERNET ARE LEGION. WE ARE ALL SICK OF THIS TREATMENT OF COWS. THEY ARE KEPT PERPETUALLY PREGNANT WITH NO RELIEF WITH HANDS INTO THEIR REARS TO INSEMINATE THEM. THEY HAVE THEIR BABIES TAKEN FROM THEM IMMEDIATELY AFTER BIRTH SO THAQT THEY ARE IN STRESS FOR DAYS. I DONT WANT TO DO A THING FOR THESE CRUEL AG PROFITEERS. I THINK THEY NEED TO BE PUT OUT OF BUSINESS. I HAVE GIVEN UP DRINKING MILK AS HAVE MILLOINS OF OTHER PEOPLE. THIS INDUSTRY DOES NOT DESRVE TAX DOLLRS [sic] IN ANY WAY SHAPE OR FORM.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
115	1	111/111.03	None	None	None	<p>I write to urge you to update and expand the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) public scoping process for the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line [81 FR 71696) to allow adequate time for public comment during this process. Many constituents in Wisconsin are paying close attention to the Cardinal Hickory Creek project and are seeking opportunities to participate in public meetings and public comment periods to ensure their input on the proposed line is incorporated into federal and state decisions. Although they have been paying close attention to opportunities to provide input, several constituents contacted me with concerns that the public notice for the upcoming federal RUS public scoping process did not reach many interested stake holders, including local government officials. By the time local leaders learned about it, they had little time to rearrange their schedules to attend. Additionally, the November 2 public scoping meeting in Dodgeville, Wisconsin conflicts with a related meeting being held by the American Transmission Company in Pewaukee. I am concerned this scheduling conflict could limit participation in these public processes for the many Wisconsin residents who wish to attend both meetings. In order to ensure adequate time for members of the public to prepare meaningful input to inform the public scoping for the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line, I ask that you extend the public comment period, and hold an additional public scoping meeting in Wisconsin. In addition, several stakeholders raised concerns about the lack of direct outreach to municipal governments that could be impacted by the proposed 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line. A project this size requires significant communication and consultation with affected communities, private entities, and state and federal governments. The EIS process is a critical opportunity for members of the public to provide meaningful input. As you continue to move through the EIS process, I ask you to directly contact the municipal governments along the proposed route of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line to provide updates on the process, details about upcoming meetings, and ample notification of any additional public comment opportunities. Thank you in advance for your attention to the concerns of Wisconsin residents, and for upholding the integrity of the public engagement process for this project.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
116	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	In order to continue with a democratic scoping process prior to submission to the PSC, we are asking you to cancel the scheduled sessions immediately and restart the process with proper public notification including a minimum 30 day (better 60 day) advance public notice that includes paper mailings to all community newspapers in Southwest Wisconsin and North east Iowa describing the reason for the EIS, what the EIS will address, and all public input opportunities. Federally, the meetings to collect public input for the EIS were not announced on the federal register until October 18 with the first meetings only 13 days following. Our town government is subscribed to all notifications from the transmission builders and the PSC to be notified of all relevant news. We received no notice whatsoever. Oddly, the closest meeting location for the majority of affected landowners in on November 2 the same day that many local governments are already scheduled to participate in an ATC stakeholders meeting across state in Pewaukee, WI. Our community newspapers have received no press releases. There is no announcement on Dairyland Power's homepage nor is there a press release in their press section. The only notice we can find is small announcement on the sidebar of the ATC CHC website that just appeared. It is wholly unacceptable in a federally-required process requiring public input, that such short and limited notice be given. I would appreciate it if you could remedy this issue as soon as possible.
117	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	I left you a voicemail earlier today and also wanted to follow up with an email so that you have that as a contact option. Our office has received quite a few calls and emails this week regarding the upcoming Public Scoping Meetings for the proposed ATC Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line project in South-Western/Central Wisconsin. The proposed routes run through several counties in the 2 nd Congressional District which Congressman Pocan represents. Several of our constituents have called to express displeasure and concern regarding the lack of public notification for the upcoming scoping meetings and I wanted to get some clarity on what all is required by agencies in regards to notifying the public of meetings such as these. In addition to getting some more information for our constituents I also had a few general questions for you regarding the process as a whole. If you have time either this week or next week I would appreciate a call at 608-258-9800.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
118	1	232/232.03	None	None	None	As you are aware, waters of the United States (includes wetlands) should not be disturbed if a less environmentally damaging alternative exists. Unavoidable adverse impacts should be minimized to the extent practicable. Any remaining adverse impacts should be mitigated through restoration, enhancement, creation and/or preservation activities. Information regarding the requirements for mitigation is described in the Federal Register (Volume 73, No. 70) dated April 10, 2008, under "Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources; Final Rule". Any proposed placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States (including jurisdictional wetlands) requires Department of the Army authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Based on the information you provided, a Section 404 permit may be required for this project. A completed application packet should be submitted to the Rock Island District Corps of Engineers as well as 2 copies to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources for processing as soon as possible. The application form can be obtained at: http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/RegulatoryLand/FloodPlainManagement/FloodPlainDevPermits.aspx or at http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/Permits.aspx
118	2	232/232.04	232/232.03	None	None	We would ask that Best Management Practices be used to control erosion and protect water quality near the projects. You are encouraged to conduct your construction activities during a period of low flow. You are required to seed all disturbed areas with native grasses and to implement appropriate erosion control measures to insure that sediments are not introduced into waters of the United States during construction of the projects. Clearing of vegetation, including trees located in or immediately adjacent to waters of the state, should be limited to that which is absolutely necessary for construction of the projects. Please work with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service if trees will be cleared. State of Iowa permits potentially needed for your project: http://www.iowadnr.gov/InsideDNR/AboutDNR/BusinessRegulatoryAssistance.aspx
119	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	Due to insufficient notice, I encourage the USDA to provide another scoping meeting no sooner than 30 days after mailing notifications to all local governments in the study area including the following information:

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
119	2	507/507.02	None	None	None	a) Explain why a federal EIS is required at this time and what parties are involved. (b) Describe the types of information that will be collected in the EIS scoping meetings including the relevant environmental, and economic sensitivities that will be evaluated across the study area for Cardinal Hickory Creek. State that economic impacts for all energy investment options will be considered in the EIS including those that do not involve high voltage transmission. (c) Name and describe the non-transmission alternatives to the transmission project that will be studied, developed and benefits compared. Explain that the EIS will make recommendations about the energy options with the least environmental impacts and steps that can be taken to improve their chances of being adopted. (d) In addition to describing the study area of potentially affected landowners, provide the names of the utilities whose customers that would be charged for transmission services associated with Cardinal Hickory Creek were it to be built. (e) If applicable, describe how Federal tax dollars would be utilized if Dairyland's request is approved. (f) Describe how electric customer energy spending preferences will be assessed during EIS scoping input and reported in the final EIS.
120	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am writing to voice my concern and fear of this proposal. I can't imagine the very idea of allowing high voltage transmission lines to cross one of the most beautiful and valued areas in this country. The Driftless area is special and prized by many and not only those that reside here.
120	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	And the very idea that my utility rates will rise without any service in return is preposterous. We know only the ATC shareholders will be winners. And they will take their money and buy some quiet little place with beautiful rolling hills, majestic river bluffs and abundant wildlife and you can bet there will be no 17 STORY HIGH VOLTAGE power lines in sight!
121	1	245/245.04	None	None	None	This route is a favorite for bicyclists coming from the city of Platteville. County Road B to the "M", West Mound Road, and then Mound view Road and back onto County Road B to town. We bicycle this route regularly and bring friends for the wonderful view. We also have a tiny Civil War Cemetery along Shady Lane that we visit.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
121	2	282/282.01	260/260	None	None	One of the corridors would traverse the Platteville Mound. Platteville Mound is a historical gathering place for thousands each year. Dozens of roads in the area are named "Mound View"... another dozen businesses in Platteville and surrounding areas have "Mound View"... in their name. Do outsiders like ATC get an idea how treasured our 'Mound View' is to us? The Platte Mound first became a historical symbol when Major Rountree, founder of Platteville, had a picnic on top to celebrate the 51st birthday of the country on July 4th, 1827. On October 16, 1937, the "M" was lit for the first time for the Miner's Homecoming. The illuminated "M" could be seen from as far as twenty-eight miles away. Thousands of people have watched the relay of the torch commencing at the Tech building, four and one-half miles away. Before 1940, it was only lit at Homecoming, but after the war, the lighting was changed to the night of the Miner's Prom. The lighting of the "M" is an annual homecoming/alumni ritual dating back to 1937. Furthermore, it's not only local students and residents, but on any given day, people from distant areas collect daily to hike and picnic the "M". You can see for miles atop the Platteville Mound, all the way across the opposite side of Mississippi River, 30 miles distant, to the Iowa Mounds beyond. No wonder that every day of week, at any time of day, there's a half dozen cars parked at base of Platteville "M".
121	3	280/280.05	None	None	None	Every July the little town of Rewey has the largest fireworks around, a display that attracts 15,000-20,000 people. How will these scenic spots and events would be changed with towering, buzzing, snapping 350KV Transmission lines and towers scarring up the countryside? Heart-Breaking!
121	4	243/243.02	None	None	None	Raptors are attracted to the Platteville Mound whenever a Southwest wind is blowing in order to hunt. Juvenile bald eagles, red tail hawks, are often seen collecting here especially in late summer and fall. No doubt for similar reasons this has become a favorite place for hang gliders, who come from all over United States, to use the same updrafts to soar. This phenomenon would definitely be disrupted by these transmission towers.
121	5	243/243.04	None	None	None	The Blanchard's Cricket Frog, an endangered species finds its home throughout Lima township, including the Mounds Branch of the Little Platte River.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
121	6	283/283	None	None	None	Many researchers are studying the effect of an electrostatic field on animals. In order to do so they keep the cages of animals under high electrostatic field of about 30 kV/m. The results of these experiments are, well, shocking. When animals (confined livestock) are kept below this high electrostatic field, their bodies acquire a charge and when they try to drink water, a spark usually jumps from their nose to the ground or watering trough. Hens are unable to pick up grain because of chattering of their beaks, which affects their growth. Strong, artificial EMFs like those from power lines can scramble and interfere with your body's natural EMF, harming everything from your sleep cycles and stress levels to your immune response and DNA! After hundreds of international studies, the evidence linking EMFs to cancers and other health problems is loud and clear. High Voltage power lines are the most obvious and dangerous culprits of EMF. Researchers found that children living within 650 feet of power lines had a 70% greater risk for leukemia than children living 2,000 feet away or more. (As per British Medical Journal, June, 2005). Several studies have identified occupational exposure to extremely low-frequency electromagnetic fields (EMF) as a potential risk factor for neuro degenerative disease. (As per Epidemiology, 2003 Jul; 14(4):413-9). There is "strong prospective evidence that prenatal maximum magnetic field exposure above a certain level (possibly around 16 mg) may be associated with miscarriage risk." (As per Epidemiology, 2002 Jan; 13(1):9-20) The real or perceived effects of EMF radiation decreases property values by 40% and more. Parents who are concerned about raising children near strong sources of electromagnetic fields will not likely purchase properties near high voltage power lines, I know I wouldn't.
121	7	120/120.02	None	None	None	Of course our rural neighborhood hasn't grown enough to warrant this power line. We are using less power every year! More of our neighbors are moving off the grid. Why should our quality of life be so severely compromised for the convenience and mindless growth of the urban population's downline?
121	8	120/121.03	None	None	None	It is widely accepted and with legal precedent that transmission lines of this magnitude will follow existing right of ways, so why can't the Cardinal-Hickory-Creek Transmission Line follow existing right of ways?
121	9	280/280.05	None	None	None	Wisconsin is a lovely state, it has features like none other, but here in Wisconsin we've been given a front row seat to the advance of dozens of industrial sand quarries on our beautiful river banks, iron mines destroying the beautiful Penokees, exploding gas pipelines threaded through our backyards, highly flammable petroleum "bomb" trains rolling through our small towns and gigantic, garish wind farms sprout overnight like mushrooms, their constant humming eliminating soothing silence, and all this in the name "progress" "growth" and "jobs" and we're not supposed to be against it, but I am. As Edward Abbey said "an economic system which can only expand or expire must be false to all that is human." We might not be able to affect present depredations that are already in motion, but if we don't strengthen environmental laws soon, and discontinue our irrational "growth" we will wake up in New Jersey or Southern California instead of Wisconsin

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
122	1	122/122	None	None	None	We encourage you to address a full range of questions with the EIS. First, please consider the environmental impact in the 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.
122	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.
122	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
123	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	That opposition seems based on need (or the lack thereof) and environmental degradation. I am willing to let the Wisconsin Public Service Commission rule on the need.
123	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	I will also assume that the line will follow Wisconsin Highway 18 from Montfort to Mount Horeb - as that route is the established transportation corridor preferred in WPSC guidelines and would not harm the environment any more than the highway does. My advice is eliminate the alternate northern route.
124	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	am writing to share our thoughts on the proposed power line running thru the "driftless area" in SW Wisconsin. We own a 182 acre farm along County Highway ZZ.....my family has owned this for almost 30 years and we have put our heart and soul into improving and enhancing the natural beauty of this area We were devastated when a tornado came thru our farm in June of 2014, destroying our 100 year old barn (that had just been restored totally in 2012), along with our Sears @ Roebuck kit home (circa 1926). We have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars since then in an effort to restore the farm and try to get it back to its former natural beauty. We are devastated to hear that an unnecessary high voltage line is being proposed to run directly thru our property and destroy all we have worked so hard to accomplish.
124	2	120/121.03	120/120.02	None	None	Please reconsider the route for this "line" and whether it is even necessary
125	1	122/122	None	None	None	First, the environmental impact of the proposed transmission line is potentially broad. It should be assessed in its full context, including the effect on 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.
125	2	280/280.02	280/281.0101	None	None	Second, the transmission line could be routed to pass through areas that have a broad range of uses that could be impacted. The EIS should therefore consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
125	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
126	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	The ATC line from Dubuque to Middleton is not needed!!!
127	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	The highway, 18-151 is the corridor that should be used. It already exists, is not a sensitive area, and no one will be disturbed.
128	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	The destruction of our countryside and the loss of our land values. Specifically for us on Sweeny Rd Town of Arena
130	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	We are interested in meeting with you in person to learn more about specific data points you hope to collect, the resources RUS will be able dedicate to the EIS and how to provide information to you most effectively and efficiently. We believe there is great common interest in sitting down and going over some important but lesser known recorded documents from a companion 345 kV transmission proposal, “Badger-Coulee” conducted from 2010-2014. As prospective transmission builders receive opportunities to present materials supporting their positions for the EIS, we request the same opportunity and hope do this efficiently and with knowledge of your goals. We would like to propose meeting with you on or near December 7th when RUS, SWCA Environmental and other consultants will be on hand for the public scoping meeting in Barneveld, Wisconsin.
130	2	280/281.02	120/121.03	None	None	We ask for RUS support in making sure that a highly qualified expert is hired to conduct a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives and to provide a comparison of impacts on local economies for the EIS.
130	3	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The non-transmission alternatives that we request be evaluated alone and in combination for the current Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS endeavor include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerated and targeted applications of energy efficiency utilizing Wisconsin’s Focus on Energy program and programs within Dairyland Power Cooperative and other utilities. • Accelerated and targeted applications of the several types of load management resources. • Accelerated and targeted applications of distributed generation including placement to remove demand and prolong the lifespan of the “reliability” transmission facilities identified by the applicants.
130	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	In the development of the above alternative resources, examined both alone and in combination, “accelerated” means not being restricted to current funding levels but utilizing funding amounts equal to the 40 year inclusive cost passed on to all electric customers for financing, construction, operation, maintenance, usage and depreciation of the proposed high voltage transmission option.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
130	5	122/122.03	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	<p>Additionally, we request that a comparison of the economic impacts on potentially affected local economies be conducted. This study should account for the impacts listed below in terms of benefits and losses under two conditions: (1) selected local economies in the presence of a 345 kV doublecircuit, transmission facility and; (2) the same local economies without the transmission facility but influenced by optimized mix of investments in non-transmission alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts on property values and the local taxbase over 40 years. • Impacts on the development of new residences and businesses within sight of the potential transmission facility over 40 years with special attention given to housing built or remodeled for retirement relocation. • Impacts on businesses patronized by tourists and others visiting the area due, in part, to attractive, natural assets of the area. Estimate over a 40 year period. • Impacts on the average cost of residential and commercial electric service over 40 years.
130	6	122/122.03	280/281.02	None	None	<p>Please note that should the federal-level EIS for Cardinal Hickory Creek fail to include these assessments, it would have negative impacts on energy planning by setting example of insufficient analysis for the utility applicants and the WI PSC. An under-developed EIS also detracts from local government statutory rights to establish energy priorities and associated land use goals. Further, we have examined the 2015 EIS for a transmission proposal conducted with input from the contracted scoping firm, SWCA Environmental Consultants, and it contains no section of cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives hmp://bit.ly/SWCA-EIS . The other EIS's SWCA suggested we examine for example also lack such assessment: hmp://bit.ly/EIS_2 and hmp://bit.ly/EIS_3. Our delegation has received responses from two energy consulting firms expressing interest in conducting the analysis of non-transmission alternatives for the Cardinal Hickory Creek EIS: Synapse Energy, Bruce Biewald, Sommer Energy, Anna Sommer, The Regulatory Assistance Project, Janine Migden-Ostrander, is interested in assisting should interpretations of policy become involved.</p>
130	7	280/281.02	None	None	None	<p>In 1998, Wisconsin ceased Integrated Resource Planning (IRP) marginalizing the ability of investments in accelerated energy efficiency, modern load management and distributed generation to only competing with utility proposals on a case by case basis, and with very limited funding. As a result, the WI Public Service Commission no longer conducts on-going energy planning which has forced rural communities and local governments and state lawmakers to pressure the agency to allow user side, non-transmission alternatives to compete more fairly in the high voltage transmission review process. Without competition from energy efficiency, load management, the high interest, long term debt created by uncontrolled spending in high capacity transmission expansion and fossil fuel generation, Wisconsin's rates and fees are now the highest in the Midwest (figure 2). The high-capacity transmission expansion proposal for which the RUS will be preparing an EIS for, "Cardinal Hickory Creek," would become the eighth high capacity expansion project approved in the last ten years. Debt on prior transmission expansion spending now constitutes 19% of a typical rural electric bill (figure 3). Rural communities with</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>municipalities including those buying power from USDA loan applicant Dairyland Power Cooperative, pay a 20% fixed fee charge in this power which profoundly undercuts the communities ability to invest in solar, load management and energy efficiency. The WI PSC has blocked state lawmaker requests to increase our region-lagging energy efficiency investments (figure 4) and the unchecked capital utility spending is effectively sending energy dollars that should remain rural economies to the finance industry for payment on debt. Renewing Rural Community Engagement and Relevance for USDA/RUS Electric Program Loans. We ask for your assistance not only because our local economies and lands (and electricity costs) are dear to us but because we anticipate it can revive relevant direction for Electric Program loaning. Because improvements from energy efficiency, modern load management and local solar require individual/community investment to realize energy savings and environmental benefits, the improvements uniquely embody shared appreciations the REA used to enjoy. In contrast, very costly, unwarranted, environmentally unaccountable and imposing transmission facilities tend to undercut public trust in the RUS goals. Unlike transmission additions which are challenged to guarantee savings or environmental benefits, partnered utility/community NTA investment not only assures lower electric bills and CO2 reductions in the quickest and most cost-effective ways, but can eliminate the primary source of rate and fees increases: ballooning capital expense for replacement of low voltage transmission facilities. The RUS may be familiar with the forming Energy Vision (REV) initiative under the New York PSC where replacement of a \$1 billion substation was avoided using \$200 million in non-transmission alternatives. In Wisconsin, Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) is paving a similar path adding load-reducing solar facilities at 15 aging transmission facilities: hmp://bit.ly/DPC_substation_solar. At least three of these installations partner with rural development with customers and businesses buying 20 year leases on solar production at less than \$2 per wam: http://www.rec.coop/content/transition-energy. Escalating rural electricity costs in Wisconsin must be checked. Already, they threaten the ability of energy-intensive businesses including dairy operations to remain competitive with businesses in other states. The Rural Utility Service's unique ability to lead the shift from rate-pressuring capital utility investments to NTA's is evident in the agency's heavy emphasis on replacement capital utility spending in the Electric Program loans granted in 2016 (figure 5). The best possible way the agency can promote the new path is to fulfill the requests we pose in this letter to establish responsible precedence. The cost-effectiveness and feasibility of rural electric development partnering community/utility spending has already been demonstrated. A cost-benefit analysis for a prior high capacity transmission proposal in Wisconsin conducted by Powers Engineering (hmp://bit.ly/Powers_Testimony) demonstrated that a one-time investment of \$19 million in targeted energy efficiency, load management and community solar support at low voltage substations would avoid about \$170 million in low voltage transmission facility replacement costs while:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilizing or lowering electric bills in the affected footprint and beyond • Allowing customers and businesses to invest in solar very cost effectively

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>• Accommodate flow through the transmission system relieving any future potential congestion more effectively than a 345 kV transmission facility at a minimal cost of \$600 million.</p> <p>We thank you for this opportunity to outline our goals, make our requests. We hope that you can set aside time to meet with us in person and help us take full advantage of our opportunity to provide scoping input.</p>
131	1	243/243	None	None	None	I BELIEVE ITS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT WILL BE SUBSTANTIAL REPRESENTING A SEVERE IMPACT TO ALL WILDLIFE
131	2	244/244	None	None	None	I NOTE THAT AS USUAL PROFITEERS ARE ATTEMPTING TO USE PUBLICLY OWNED LAND THAT SHOULD BE SAVED AND PROTECTED FOR NATURE FOR THEIR PROFITMAKING OPERATION. THE TIME FOR THEM TO DO THAT IS OVER. THIS UTILITY SHOULD BE BUYING PRIVATE LAND TO DESTROY, NOT LOOKING TO BE A PUBLIC WELFARE CHARGE BY USING PUBLIC LAND. WE NEED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE EVERY ACRE OF PUBLIC LAND WE HAVE LEFT FROM THE PROFITEERS WHO NEVER STOP SEEKING TO USE AND ABUSE OUR PU LIC LAND.
132	1	241/241.02	None	None	None	This is to notify the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Power Line siting personnel both federal US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities and engineering SWCA Environmental Consultants of the occurrence of a rare and endangered fern, Asplenium pinnatifidum, on rock out-croppings either in or near the northern hill route proposed for the Cardinal-Hickory power line. This fern was discovered by botanist Dr. Hugh Iltis (recently deceased - a synopsis of his University of Wisconsin career was printed on the front pages of the Wisconsin State Journal Newspaper December 24, 2016). Discovery of the fern occurred in 1958 and was published in Transactions of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences Arts + Letters, volume 67, 1979. The discovery was re-examined by a knowledgeable person in November 2016 and was identified as still present. A concern for this power line is that the same problems of access still present in this wild, private terrain also existed in 1958. I therefore believe no complete survey has ever been done in northeastern Iowa County for this fern then or since. I propose that a high tension power line through areas with a rare endangered species is incompatible with rare ecosystems, either through direct destruction of habitat or modifications of fragile environment with wide clear cuts near vulnerable habitats.
133	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	At the expense of many to benefit the few
134	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Negative impact of driftless area landscape and impact on home/land values
134	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism is a growing and important driver of economic growth.
135	1	245/245.03	None	None	None	Harm to Conservation + Natural Resource areas
137	1	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	I understand the location of this power line does not comply with Wisc. siting standards
137	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	I also have not seen the need for this project in this area.
137	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	Yet we will be paying for it for many years to come - a financial burden on the population.
137	4	244/244.01	None	None	None	Some of this is prime farm land.
137	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	This line would destroy some small farms, vacation spots and businesses.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
137	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I am concerned about land values, local, state and federal governments with loss of income. I don't think the property owner will get much for 150 feet wide right-a-way.
137	7	260/260	None	None	None	The Driftless Area is unique and attracts tourists to the area - but who wants to drive to see 17 story towers.
137	8	243/243.02	245/245.05	None	None	We have begun to see bald eagle in the Cobb area. It is a popular area for fishing and environmental studies. Will this powerline change that?
137	9	280/280.05	None	None	None	I own farmland in the Cobb area and have lived here most of my life. Southwest Wisconsin is a beautiful and unique area. I do not see any reason to put that power line on this route where it would impact many people and land areas. It seems that ATC has decided to put this line with little regard for the people and the effect on the area and the law.
137	10	280/281.02	None	None	None	Who gains from this power line - not the people of the area, not the environment, not the economy, but the ATC.
138	1	120/120.02	120/120.01	None	None	In the print out I read it's stated the reasons for building the transmission line is to improve the reliability of the electric system, provide economic benefits and expand the electric infrastructure to support renewable energy. I don't really understand just how it will do these 3 things. I'm sure right now there is electricity produced and used at each end of the proposed transmission line so how will moving it 90 or more miles improve it. Perhaps this could be explained in more detail.
138	2	260/260	243/243	241/241	None	To me it is a lot of expense and trouble to go through building huge towers over scenic beautiful rural country disturbing and changing scenic and historic places and endangering birds and native plants and animals when there isn't even a real need.
138	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	How will building towers crossing the river at Cassville affect the charming little ferry that runs across the Mississippi River
138	4	282/282.01	None	None	None	and how will it affect the Nelson Dewey Home outside Cassville?
139	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	I raise bees
140	1	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	None	the local people will not even benefit from this transmission line. It is not needed. Only the company profits.
141	1	507/507.02	None	None	None	1) I'm looking for the Construction Work Plan ("CWP") referenced in the Alternatives Evaluation Study dated July 2016 (p. 13). Can't find it in any appendices, nor is it available online on DPC's site (I've asked Chuck Thompson and an anon "info" link for it ASAP). Is it part of the record in this docket/funding request? 2) I'm also looking for information on the delay of this project, the reasons, and whether that is considered in this RUS process. This project is 1/2 of the MISO MVP 5, the Badger Coulee is the other. Does RUS have any info on that in the record? I'm reviewing the July 2016 AES right now (only to p.13), but apparently this delay was stated by ATC in April, prior to the May RUS scoping activities.
141	2	507/507.02	111/111.01	None	None	3) Why another round of scoping meetings/hearings? Please forward info!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
142	1	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	The Department has records of the state-listed plant and animal species provided within corridor provided for review. In general, these species are associated with several habitats, including heavily wooded stream corridors, small remnant prairies, and wetlands. Avoidance of these kinds of habitats will avoid impacts with these species. As you consider potential routes, the Department invites you to review county level Natural Areas Inventory (NAI) data to identify plant and animal species records. NAI data are available on the DNR's interactive website: http://www.iowadnr.gov/Conservation/Threatened-Endangered/Natural-Areas-Inventory Because NAI data are not comprehensive field surveys, the DNR also recommends that you determine if suitable habitat for the listed species occurs within your project area. This information should be provided for DNR review when requesting additional comments. In addition to the above mentioned information regarding suitable habitat, please provide a GIS shapefile of the project boundary, including proposed routes, with the request for review. The shapefile must be projected in NAD 83, UTM Zone 15N.
142	2	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	Projects occurring on, above, or under state-owned lands and/or waters require a sovereign lands construction permit from the DNR in advance of work. State-owned lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the DNR include: Meandered Sovereign Lakes, Meandered Sovereign Rivers, State Forests, Wildlife Management Areas, State Parks, and State Preserves. Statewide GIS information about public conservation lands and Bird Conservation Areas is available on the DNR's website at https://programs.iowadnr.gov/nrgislibx/ under Administrative and Political Boundaries and Biologic and Ecologic headings, respectively. More information regarding the Sovereign Lands Construction Permit Program is available on the DNR's website http://www.iowadnr.gov/Environmental-Protection/Land-Quality/Sovereign-Lands-Permits
142	3	122/122.04	None	None	None	Department records and data are not the result of thorough field surveys. If listed species or rare communities are found during the planning or construction phases, additional studies and/or mitigation may be required.
142	4	111/111.02	None	None	None	The Department is available for additional review of potential impact of this project once a specific route has been identified. Please refer to tracking number 13571 when requesting additional review.
143	1	250/250.08	None	None	None	As an update, I have in hand the final certificates of approval for the Hallick Farm Airport/Helipad from both the FAA and the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics. The helipad is complete and has been for several months. The turf runway is under construction and will be completed in 2017. Please add the above to the PSC comments and filings. If you would like anything additional, please ask.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
144	1	282/282	None	None	None	<p>Your request for comment by the State Historic Preservation Officer has been received. Date Received: 10/19/2016 Projected end of Review Period based on date received: 11/18/2016 Agency: RUS SHPO Review & Compliance Number (R&C#): 160522006 CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT - DAIRYLAND POWER COOP., AMERICAN TRANSMISSION CO., ATC MGMT., & ITC MIDWEST PROPOSING LINE FROM NE IOWA TO SW & SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN - 125 MILES TOTAL - SCOPING MEETING INVITE In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (revised, effective August 5, 2004), the 30-day comment period under a formal review begins when the SHPO has received a submittal containing full documentation in support of an agency's finding and determination of effect. SHPO Review & Compliance Coordinator SHPO106@iowa.gov The SHPO is under no time restraints but will provide a technical assistance response when:</p> <p>A. The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's definition of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking OR</p> <p>B. The SHPO concludes that the project documentation provided does not support the agency's determination of a property's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places OR</p> <p>C. The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's finding of an undertaking's effects on a historic property OR</p> <p>D. The agency has determined that the undertaking will have "Adverse Effects" on historic properties and is actively consulting with SHPO on resolution of those effects. If the documentation submitted to the SHPO for review meets the basic standards set forth at 36 CFR Part 800.11 and the SHPO fails to respond within 30 days, then the SHPO has waived its opportunity to comment and the agency may either (1) proceed to the next step in the process based upon the agency's finding and determination, or (2) consult directly with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In order to determine the next step in the process, we advise the agency to review the applicable sections of 36 CFR Part 800 or the programmatic agreement under which your undertaking is being reviewed. Be advised that the successful conclusion of consultation with the SHPO does not fulfill the agency's responsibility to consult with other parties who may have an interest in properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Nor does it override the sovereign status of federally recognized American Indian Tribes in the Section 106 consultation process. We have made these comments and recommendations according to our responsibilities defined by Federal law pertaining to the Section 106 process. The responsible federal agency does not have to follow our comments and recommendations to comply with the Section 106 process. It also remains the responsible federal agency's decision on how to proceed from this point for this undertaking. Should you have any questions please contact me at the email below, referencing the R&C# above</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
145	1	282/282.02	None	None	None	Sovereign Lands: 13571 Your application was logged under the tracking number listed above. Please use the assigned tracking number on all future correspondence for this project. Environmental Reviews can be submitted electronically to: SLER@dnr.iowa.gov. This correspondence does not constitute approval. When review has been completed a letter or email concerning the Sovereign Lands determination will be issued. Thank you, COLLEEN CONROY Clerk Specialist
146	1	122/122	None	None	None	First, please consider the environmental impact in the 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.
146	2	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.
146	3	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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.
148	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	The Iowa Chapter of the Sierra Club supports using the existing transmission line easements and Mississippi River crossings near Cassville, Wisconsin, for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project. This is preferable to acquiring and creating a new easement. Although this crosses the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge, there are limited numbers of locations where a transmission line can cross.
148	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	We encourage you to discuss in the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Purpose and Need Section, giving a preference to renewable energy on this transmission line.
148	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	We also encourage you to describe and discuss how this project fits into a robust electric transmission grid, as part of the EIS. We realize Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) has already done some of the work on this and that work can be incorporated into the EIS.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
149	1	250/250.08	None	None	None	Between now and the time the letter was sent to the ATC, the Wisconsin Bureau of Aeronautics and the FAA has both approved my application. The helipad is complete and the runway will be completed by next year. We needed to wait for the crops to come out of the field before completing the turf runway. If you are looking at Google Earth what you see will be deceiving. The turf runway will extend through the tree line. Use the GPS coordinates to identify the actual location. I purchased this property over a year and a half ago with the express purpose of building the helipad and the runway. Putting the transmission line through my property takes from me that opportunity. If that opportunity is taken from me, I will use any and all means to recoup my investment from those taking that opportunity away from me. Any reasonable person would do the same. As a note, the helipad location is programmed into the University of Wisconsin Medivac [sic] helicopters navigational computers. The helipad is a designated pick up point to be used as needed to pick-up and transport local residents to the hospital. The Hallick Farm Helipad, identified as WI66, is part of our local EMS system.
149	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	In addition to the above, the Town of Vermont is one of the most beautiful areas of Wisconsin. Living here is a gift. Why anyone would want to run a transmission line through pristine land that should be preserved is beyond me. Especially, when there is another corridor along a highway. Who preserves our land and the fabric of our communities if we don't? We are the stewards of the Township.
149	3	243/243	None	None	None	in addition to the unparalleled beauty of the lands, my farm has woods that are teaming with wildlife. There are Deer, Turkey, Herons, Bald Eagles, you name it. We don't hunt the property. We are the stewards of the land.
150	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I urge you to protect the beauty and cohesiveness of the Wisconsin's Driftless Area by not installing a new transmission line between Highway 18/151 and Highway 14. If a new line is absolutely necessary it should follow the existing Highway 18-151 corridor.
151	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My name is Carol Parrell and your company is looking at our property, outside of Black Earth, as a path for the transmission lines. We whole heartedly object to this destruction of our homeland. This farm was purchased by my husband's grandparents in the 1930's and has been in the family ever since.
151	2	243/243	241/241	None	None	This is a natural resources corridor with many plant and animal species that thrive.
151	3	244/244.02	None	None	None	We have one of the few remaining cattle herds pasturing on the hillside.
151	4	245/245.04	None	None	None	Thousands of bicyclists, hunters and nature lovers enjoy this area daily.
151	5	260/260	None	None	None	The idea of your company running high power lines through this area with trucks, land movers and unsightly high line structures is unacceptable.
152	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Expressing my opinion, the north corridor (esp. not knowing the exact lines) is as disturbing as I can think of If and only IF you have ever traveled the area. There already is enough power lines running through that whole north route that takes enough away from the natural state that it is in nonetheless add huge powerlines with hanging wires everywhere. I sit and think....is this what we pay people for to think of how to destroy what's left? Common sense has to tell some that the corridor along a 4 lane highway that has no beauty is the only way even if it costs more.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
153	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Please register my opposition to this proposal. This is an appalling amount of money, which would be better spent on alternative sources of energy. Slow down and take a more careful look at this. Is there really a need?
154	1	120/121.03	260/260	None	None	My wife and I own 92 acres on the north side of Norwegian Hollow Road which appears to be smack dab in the middle of the proposed rural alternate siting for the new transmission lines. The land has been in the family for about 50 years. We can't imagine a greater environmental travesty than to site the lines through such beautiful land instead along 18&151.
155	1	122/122	None	None	None	Please consider the environmental impact in the 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.
155	2	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	Please consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values.
155	3	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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.
156	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service < http://bit.ly/Ltr-Debt > from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied. I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am concerned about rising energy costs. I prefer investments in end-user improvements like energy efficiency over investments that increased dependency on utilities and create long-term debt. Global warming is a fact, it's not going away, and it's getting worse. We must curb our energy use, not "keep the lights on" as ATC urges.
156	2	507/507.02	None	None	None	You may use my email address to notify me when the draft statement is available.
161	1	260/260	280/281.02	None	None	While being a blight on the landscape and an insult to the environment these large transmission projects also serve as a means to get the utilities hands deeper into the pockets of rate payers across the state.
161	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Imagine investing all these millions in local solutions which would strengthen the grid from the distribution side and keep our energy dollars in the state.
161	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	We are still fighting to limit the damage ATC has planned for our property and hope that the PSC denies the Cardinal Hickory Creek line if for no other reason than to preserve the timeless beauty and biodiversity of an area that even the last ice age did not touch.
161	4	120/120.01	None	None	None	Moving wind energy hundreds or thousands of miles only discourages local energy development and opens the grid to potential sabotage or bankruptcy.
161	5	110/110	None	None	None	It appears that industry has taken control of the regulatory process.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
162	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Two corridors are proposed: The North corridor goes NE from Cassville to Montfort and continues NE to a spot west of Highland. From there it goes more or less E to Middleton. The South corridor goes E from Cassville to a point between Platteville and Belmont, then N to Montfort, then W near or along the Hwy 18 corridor to a point E of Mount Horeb, where it goes NNE to Middleton. I strongly favor the South corridor. The South option will cause less harm to unique geological, hydrological, and ecological features of the region.
164	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service < http://bit.ly/Ltr-ProtectLand > from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied to including energy efficiency, modern load management and use of community solar to prolong the life span of transmission facilities. I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am 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.
165	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	The construction of this power line would come at a huge cost, both financial and environmental,
165	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	The construction of this power line would come at a huge cost, both financial and environmental
165	3	122/122	None	None	None	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.
165	4	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values
166	1	122/122	None	None	None	I encourage you to address a full range of questions with the EIS. First, please consider the environmental impact in the 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
166	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Second, consider the full economic impact of the line on ratepayers, tourism and recreation, farm and other business operations and property values
166	3	245/245.04	None	None	None	My family bikes, hikes, skis, and camps regularly in and around this region due to its majestic beauty and unique topography.
167	1	260/260	None	None	None	The driftless area in the southwest part of the state of Wisconsin is found in no other part of this country. To deface this delicate area with 17 story high voltage transmission lines is just plain wrong.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
167	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	In addition I, as a resident of this area and close to one proposed line, do not want to pay higher utility rates to support these lines; the demand for electricity is flat.
167	3	232/232.05	None	None	None	And the very idea of running these structures across the Mississippi River is unbelievable!
168	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	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.
168	2	260/260	None	None	None	Furthermore, these high tension wires would have a negative impact on the environment and surrounding beauty of the landscape.
168	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	Lastly, these lines are not economically warranted and the driftless area would be negatively impacted without any benefit.
169	1	122/122	None	None	None	I know you appreciate that to make NEPA effective, however, the EIS on the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project must be rigorously objective and analytically solid, standards that proponent federal agencies, in their momentum to “get on with business,” may be inclined to sidestep.
169	2	120/120	511/511	None	None	Until passage of the National Environmental Policy Act on January 1, 1970, environmental analysis rarely, if ever, had served to inform and undergird major federal decisions. For nearly two centuries, Federal agencies had made their decisions mainly based on agency predilections and political support. However, in 1969 the threat of a disturbing project in Florida set in motion a new way of making federal decisions. Serving then as Deputy Under Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior, I received a note from John Ehrlichman, Counsel to the President for Domestic Policy, asking if I knew anything about a massive jetport proposed for the Big Cypress Swamp just north of Everglades National Park in south Florida. I hadn't. That led me to Manny Morris, a hydrologist with the National Park Service, who put me in an air-boat in south Florida for a three-day crash course on how the jetport would impact the sheet-water hydraulics and ecosystem of the Everglades. When I returned to D.C., my boss, Under Secretary Russell Train, called in Dr. Luna Leopold, senior scientist of the U.S. Geological Survey, and directed him to head a team of experts in Florida to assess the environmental consequences of building the jetport in the Big Cypress Swamp. Acknowledging the FAA's need to solve air traffic congestion at Miami International, the Leopold Report nonetheless made clear that the new jetport would lead to peripheral development and its attendant drainage on such a scale as to effectively dry up and destroy the Everglades National Park. The lucid Leopold Report eventually led to President Nixon directing the Secretary of Transportation to cancel the jetport. But the Leopold Report had an even greater effect than cancelling a bad project. It helped persuade the Congress, with strong support from the Nixon Administration, to insert in the proposed National Environmental Policy Act, then in committee, a clause requiring that before taking major actions with significant impact on the environment, Federal agencies fully assess in writing those consequences. Including a frank assessment of alternatives, even if it means cancelling the project. NEPA also established the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), in the Executive Office of the President, to serve as policy adviser to the President. President Nixon appointed Russell Train as Chairman, and Train immediately brought me on to

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>help start hiring a small professional staff to insure that NEPA was not just paid lip service among the federal agencies. Initially, we at CEQ encountered considerable foot dragging in the bureaucracy, as many federal agencies were unaccustomed to objective, public assessment of what they were proposing to do. Old habits died hard. They were used to lining up their allies in Congress, getting an appropriation, and just pushing ahead. It took diligent effort by CEQ and some key judicial decisions to convince federal agencies that NEPA meant a new way of doing the public's business, that to enter fully into the spirit of NEPA meant reexamining assumptions and writing their analysis in plain English, instead of trying to bury decisions under the weight of document obfuscation and gibberish.</p>
169	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	<p>Is This Project Needed? It is not. The transmission companies' assertions that CHC is needed are based on faulty assumptions. I refer to the outdated assumptions underlying the 2011 MISO report, which lumped together data collectively of nine states from the Midwest to the Gulf of Mexico, including Manitoba Province of Canada, and recommended 17 different high-voltage transmission lines, Cardinal-Hickory Creek being the last and most expensive. What may have seemed relevant some years ago for a large region of the U.S. and central Canada is no longer the case, certainly not for Wisconsin. Electricity demand in much of the Midwest continues to decline or remain flat. That's certainly been true in the Madison market. For the past ten years, electricity sales for Madison Gas & Electric have declined and for Wisconsin Power & Light sales have been flat, despite each utility adding 11,000 new customers. In the growing Chicago market, Con Ed's electricity sales are declining about 1% each year--despite the company adding 100,000 customers. In Minnesota, Excel-Northern States Power has seen its electricity sales drop about 1.5%, and in Ohio, American Electric Power is anticipating a drop of more than 16% over the next decade. This is a picture not of energy need, but of citizens and businesses making more efficient use of electrical energy. Over recent years, Americans have been buying and plugging into more energy efficient appliances--refrigerators, washers and driers, dishwashers, air conditioners, etc. And now with LED bulbs, we are beginning what I expect will be a revolution in dramatically reduced electrical demand for lighting. This trend in declining electricity sales is likely to continue as increasingly more efficient appliances are used throughout the market, and more and more businesses and homeowners install solar units.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
169	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	ATC is in the business solely of building transmission lines, and imposing the bill on the public. Cardinal-Hickory Creek would be a hugely expensive project: about \$2billion, when financing, easements, and operation and maintenance are added to the \$500million to \$700million construction costs (plus a guaranteed profit of 10.2%). All of us Wisconsin ratepayers would have to shoulder the bill in higher utility bills. Alliant Energy is already seeking permission from the Public Service Commission to more than double in just two years the fixed charges to residential customers. Wisconsin's electricity bills are the highest in the Midwest, and now likely to go much higher. Where is the justification for saddling Wisconsin ratepayers with more than a billion dollars of increased utility rates to pay for out-of-state power over a proposed CHC line? ATC has not demonstrated that need.
169	5	120/121.03	110/ 110.0407	None	None	At the last scoping session a RUS representative said that the only alternatives RUS is considering are the two alternative transmission corridors. If true, that position would put RUS in direct contravention, and absurdly so, of the purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act and its implementing federal regulations. ATC and its partners have a more reliable, less expensive, and less disruptive option than pushing these massive high voltage towers and lines through the heart of the Driftless Area. There are better, more cost-effective alternatives. Wisconsin utilities are bringing on new locally generated electricity, including a big 650-megawatt natural gas plant in Beloit, and new wind farms in Seymour and Forrest, and the counties of Monroe, Rock, and Green totaling 560-megawatts. Home and business solar continues to expand. All this is providing local generation, particularly from renewable energy, here in Wisconsin where it makes more economic sense than burdening ratepayers with the huge costs of importing electricity from out of state via a massive transmission line. CHC does not meet the requirements of Wisconsin law that energy demands be first met with the most cost-effective options, including energy efficiencies and conservation. Despite assertions from CHC proponents that the line would principally bring Iowa wind power into Wisconsin, the proposed "open access" transmission line would draw electricity from any or all energy suppliers that pay highest for access to the line. Besides wind and nuclear, that will include out-of-state coal-fired power plants, thereby aggravating climate change. How can this be justified as sensible energy policy? Peak power can be better supplied through a combination of increased energy efficiencies, distributed energy, demand response, and solar. I urge the Rural Utilities Service to examine in detail more cost-effective alternatives to this proposed transmission line, including the option of not building the line. It is worth remembering that the genesis of NEPA's EIS responsibility on federal agencies grew out of a mammoth project--the proposed jetport in the Big Cypress Swamp of the Florida Everglades--that when weighed in light of the persuasive Leopold Report convinced a President of the United States not to build it.
169	6	120/120	None	None	None	NEPA is to "insure that presently unquantified environmental amenities and values may be given appropriate consideration in decision-making along with economic and technical considerations." Pushing this huge, ugly project through the Driftless Area would do just the opposite.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
169	7	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	In blighting this unique landscape with huge, ugly transmission towers and power lines, CHC will not only depress property values, it will depress tourism itself, which in turn will depress property values even more--a self-defeating circle.
169	8	280/280.02	None	None	None	Who will want to come visit here, retire here, bicycle along its hilly trails? Much of our economy depends on tourism, not of the massive crowds one associates with Disneyland or Yellowstone, but modest numbers of folks from out of town seeking, for example, lunch at the Grey Dog Café in Mineral Point, or a good book from Arcadia Books in Spring Green. Restaurants here are ever on an economic knife's edge, hoping that customers coming here in summer are in sufficient numbers to overcome the natural fall-off in winter. In the ten years that my wife and I have lived in the Driftless Area, we have seen nearly a half dozen good restaurants go out of business because of the difficulty surviving during the lean months of winter. The CHC project could permanently cripple what is already a tenuous economy.
169	9	245/245.01	243/243.02	None	None	The alternate corridors for the transmission lines bull through some of Wisconsin's most sensitive environments. Crossing the Mississippi River, the power lines would lie athwart the Upper Mississippi River Wildlife and Fish Refuge. This is the heart of the Mississippi Flyway, where hundreds of thousands of waterfowl spend the fall months during their long migrations south from Canada. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service can confirm that high voltage lines kill a great number of ducks and geese due to collision and electrocution. Multiple studies in the United States and Canada confirm that waterfowl are the bird group most vulnerable to death by transmission lines.
169	10	243/243.02	None	None	None	The USF&WS and Wisconsin's Dept. of Natural Resources should also be able to assess similar risks to bald eagles, as there are 51 active bald eagle nests in the four counties where the proposed transmission line would run, more than half of those nests being within townships in the transmission corridors.
169	11	235/235	None	None	None	The entire Driftless Area gets its name and unique characteristics from having evaded the mile-high glaciations of the Pleistocene, better known as the Ice Age, that from roughly 2.6 million to about 12,000 years ago ground down and near flattened much of the upper Midwest. Geologically, the Driftless Area is a far older landscape, its rugged ridges and rock outcroppings and contrasting valleys the product not of glaciation, but of millions of years of wind and water erosion
169	12	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	is a region of much ecological variety, of southern sedge meadows, oak openings and barrens, dry and moist cliffs, and forested seeps, and a wide range of animal and plant species, more than a few rare and endangered.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
169	13	243/243.04	None	None	None	Henslow's Sparrow is a Wisconsin threatened species and found in 12 of the 16 townships or ranges through which the transmission line would run. The Loggerhead Shrike, a state endangered species is found in 2 of the 16 townships or ranges in Dane and Iowa Counties. Other threatened bird species in the area include the Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler, and Upland Sandpiper. Also impacted by the proposed transmission line would be the rare Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee and the state-endangered Regal Fritillary butterfly. The line could compromise other endangered and at-risk species, such as the Pleistocene Snail, Blanchard's Cricket Frog, Pickerel Frog, Blanding's Turtle, Ornate Box Turtle, Lake Sturgeon, Lake Chubsucker, and Pugnosed Shiner.
169	14	120/121.03	245/245.03	280/280.02	None	The northern route would cut through the Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area, along Governor Dodge State Park, and go right over the lush pastures and contented dairy cattle of Uplands Cheese, producers of Pleasant Ridge Reserve, the most highly awarded cheese in American history. This is a proposed transmission line corridor of appalling insensitivity.
169	15	120/121.03	243/243.01	None	None	The proposed southern corridor is no less disruptive, as it would cut through part of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, a more-than-95,000-acre grassland--one of the highest concentrations of native grasslands in the Midwest. This Area contains more than 60 prairie remnants, and is habitat for 14 rare and declining grassland bird species.
169	16	245/245.03	None	None	None	Add to the above the following sensitive environments through which, by which, or across which the transmission line would run: Grant County, Wisconsin: Grant River, Platte River, Pecatonica State Trail, Jack Oak Slough, Cassville Slough. Iowa County, Wisconsin: Military Ridge State Trail, Blue Mound State Park, Pleasant Valley Conservancy State Natural Area, Dodgeville and Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area. Lafayette County, Wisconsin: Pecatonica State Trail, Belmont Prairie State Natural Area. Dane County, Wisconsin: Blue Mound State Park, Military Ridge State Trail, Erbe Grassland preserve, Pleasant Valley Conservancy State Natural Area, Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands & Stream Conservation Area.
169	17	232/232.01	243/243.01	None	None	Finally, the proposed lines would cross twenty-four premier trout streams, at least one of which, Black Earth Creek, is designated a Class I, Outstanding Resource Water, and eight designated "Exceptional Resource Water." The biologists and resource experts with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources can help guide you in determining the extent of harm and depletion this project will cause to Wisconsin's environment.
169	18	280/281.02	None	None	None	The CHC project, whatever is claimed by its proponents, is driven by the transmission companies' need to satisfy their investors: to make money for them. This is not a public project driven by clear-eyed analysis of the public good and need. It is essentially a private project designed to make money for its shareholders, while thrusting a towering and ugly scar onto the Driftless Area. It is a misguided proposal that stands common sense on its head.
170	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Although I am not convinced there is a need for the proposed transmission line, it appears that the line will be built.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
170	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Consequently, as a resident of the Town of Vermont I'm writing to voice my preference for the route that would follow highway 18-151 from Montfort to Middleton. Doing so is the more practical, efficient and compliant with existing state law route. Easement already exists along most of the route, current transmission lines exist along this corridor, and the highway follows a ridge top much of the way making for easier installation. Conversely, the alternative northerly proposed route is not an existing corridor, would require easement granting, possible purchase of land, cuts across a pristine area of unspoiled hillsides and valleys, impacts many trout streams including Black Earth Creek, would require extensive clear cutting and does not follow an existing highway making for difficult installation and is proposed to cross Vermont Lutheran Church property - which is on the historic registry - and its cemetery.
171	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	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.
171	2	122/122	None	None	None	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.
171	3	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	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.
171	4	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	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.
172	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
172	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.
172	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
173	1	280/280.05	260/260	None	None	I am writing to you oppose the idea of running the high voltage power lines through our beautiful countryside of the Driftless region near Wyoming Valley. I have lived in my home for 30 years and would be very disturbed to look out my window and see these enormous metal structures. We have a beautiful rural community, having these massive structures lining our roadsides, would completely ruin our homesteads that we have worked very hard to make into what we call home.
173	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area.
174	1	244/244.02	244/244.03	None	None	I ASK that you would not put that new line through the Driftless area of Wisconsin to Iowa. You will divide farms; a working cheese factory that grazes their own cattle in that area.
174	2	260/260	None	None	None	This would be a great loss of scenery,
174	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	loss of a business
174	4	283/283	None	None	None	danger to his cattle with all the electricity
174	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	I don't believe there is a \$ savings by putting up these towers. Someone is making a lot of money at the land owners' expense all along the route.
174	6	244/244.02	None	None	None	I grew up on a dairy farm and know that some things are not good for milk cattle – and this would be one of those things.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
175	1	120/121.03	120/120.02	511/511	None	I was concerned to learn recently that RUS does not seem very inclined to look into the Need for the CHC line or Alternatives to transmission (Need/Alt), but will apparently focus more effort on assessing one proposed line route vs the other. I believe NEPA (and also Wisconsin law) require that Need/Alt be addressed before a new line can be considered. ATC et al do not seem to have considered Need/Alt, or at least they have not demonstrated such. The EIS is intended to counterbalance the industry's view, as such for-profit companies are inherently biased to build. Lack of Need/Alt assessment by the petitioners cannot be met with similar lack of such assessment by the EIS. There is ample reason to believe that there is no need for this line, enough reason that ignoring Need is inexcusable: 1) Electric use is flat or slightly declining in the area that would be served by the proposed line, and the trending is toward declining use. 2) Even ATC & partners are not saying use is increasing; the only justification they could give for the last line (Badger-Cooley) was Emergency Need, not day-to-day use or peak load (and even Emergency Need is presently being challenged in court as not valid). 3) Additional generation has already been approved in this area, which will result in local production in excess of demand. This new generation will be on line before the CHC line could be built. 4) a) If the Badger-Cooley line is stopped by the court for lack of need, there would not be any reason the CHC line would be needed, b) If the B-C line is put into service, there would not be any need for an additional line to the same substation.
175	2	120/120.02	511/511	None	None	Even Emergency Need seems questionable, given new generation and improved storage that would be in place before the line. If there is any belief that Emergency Need might be a justification, the EIS must address it. I suggest that RUS/SWCA explore the ongoing case in LaCrosse Co, WI as part of the basis of Need or Emergency Need for this line.
175	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	110/110.04	None	I understand that RUS's intent to minimize assessment of Need and Alternatives is based upon budget; limited funding for the EIS. Yet I do not believe that limited funding overrides legal obligation. I also suggest that an inadequate EIS is a ready basis for legal challenge; and if RUS feels it hasn't the budget for a proper EIS, it should consider the budget for a legal challenge (and then likely doing a proper EIS anyway per court order). To perhaps simplify the matter, and to also accommodate funding limitations, it seems prudent to focus on Need. If no Need can be shown, the other steps would seem unnecessary or at least much easier (cheaper) to address. I see no logical or legal justification for largely bypassing assessment of Need and Alternatives, or to determine where a line should go if the line isn't needed.
176	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am a woman who reared her children on a farm in the Driftless Area of Southwest Wisconsin and now have grandchildren who are exploring the wondrous beauty and biological diversity of this area. Because this is a place that is so dear to the hearts of many, I urge you to listen to the voices of the people who have spent much of their lives in Iowa County, as well as those who come here to nurture their souls amid the "grace of wild things."
176	2	235/235	None	None	None	The Driftless Area of Wisconsin provides a unique geological landscape formed by the absence of that last Ice Age Glacier.
176	3	234/234.03	244/244.01	None	None	It provides a rich topsoil for farming and gardening;
176	4	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	unique and special status flora and fauna

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
176	5	282/282.01	None	None	None	diversity in topology and historic landmarks
176	6	233/233	None	None	None	People delight in the quality of the air that they breathe here and the quiet beauty that surrounds them.
176	7	244/244.01	245/245.04	283/283	None	The proposed ATC lines would impact significantly on farming, recreation, tourism and the general health and well-being of the residents of Iowa County.
176	8	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	It is also important to note that property values would be decreased greatly by the negative impact on the aesthetics of this beloved land.
176	9	120/121.03	None	None	None	Certainly we all need to be thinking about future energy needs and the environmental impact of any decisions that will be made. Iowa County is filled with citizens who would support the exploration of alternative energy sources. The cost of solar energy is decreasing; wind power remains a viable alternative. Existing low-voltage transmission lines could be upgraded. The money that is being proposed to develop those ATC lines could be spent making this county a model of sustainable, alternative energy.
177	1	243/243	241/241	None	None	The Driftless is a unique and beautiful area which is home to a diverse variety of wild plants and animals, and it needs to be protected.
177	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	It's already been proven that our area is declining in electricity usage, so why should locals be paying for another big eyesore that we don't even need?
177	3	283/283	None	None	None	There are also many possible negative effects that these high voltage lines have on the surrounding ecosystem, which includes the animals and people that live near them; from what I've heard and read about them, I don't want to live near one, and I think the fewer of them we have around, the better.
177	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	I also think it would be moving in completely the wrong direction to add another high voltage line in order to bring in (unnneeded!) electricity from miles & miles away- even as far as Iowa! This is nonsensical. We are at a point world-wide, where we need to be re-structuring the way we live. We need to put our time and money into the further development of clean, sustainable and local energy sources, and we need to do it now, not waste more time and money in projects like this.
178	1	232/232	None	None	None	The Goals of the Black Earth Creek Watershed Association (BECWA) are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, conserve, support and advocate for the wise, long term management of the physical, environmental, cultural and historic resources that constitute the heritage and future of the watershed. • Foster and encourage citizen and locally-based stewardship among the many members of the Watershed community
178	2	122/122	None	None	None	Given the location of the Cardinal substation, there are no alternative routes for the transmission line that avoid the BEC corridor. It is imperative that there be a full consideration of environmental and economic impacts in the decision-making process.
178	3	232/232.06	None	None	None	Black Earth Creek is recognized as an important environmental asset by the State of Wisconsin, which selected it as a "Priority Watershed" in the 1990's investing over a million dollars in stream improvements.
178	4	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	Black Earth Creek is an important recreational asset to the area—bringing visitors to fish, bird watch, walk, hike, bike along the creek. These visitors enhance the economic vitality of the community.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
178	5	260/260	232/232	None	None	One of the reasons visitors come to this watershed is because of the aesthetics—the beauty of the place—the connection to open spaces, clean waters, freedom from excessive noise and visual pollution. The proposed transmission line would blight the scenic and environmental values of our watershed.
178	6	280/281.01	232/232	None	None	Educators from elementary, middle and high school and university classrooms use Black Earth Creek as an excellent local source for experiential learning and an example of a low-impact watershed with strong, citizen-based land stewardship.
178	7	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Individual homeowners in the watershed are concerned about effects of intrusion on their properties, loss of privacy and diminished land values.
178	8	120/120.02	None	None	None	Many residents argue that there is no necessity for this line because of flat or lower power usage. Rather than bringing “clean energy” and other not so clean sources of energy to Wisconsin from Iowa, we would advocate for development of homegrown, small-scale clean energy sources. • The Public Service Commission should complete analysis of whether this new transmission line is needed, including viable, economical alternatives.
178	9	120/121.03	None	None	None	If need for the transmission line can be demonstrated, existing corridors should be prioritized (according to Wisconsin law) to minimize impact on the Black Earth Creek watershed and landowners who live in the watershed.
179	1	232/232	243/243.01	245/245.04	None	We live in the Town of Vermont—an area of rolling hills and wetland areas. The entire town is in the Black Earth Creek Watershed—a valuable resource for the entire area, state and beyond. No matter which route the proposed power line would take, it will adversely affect the watershed. Black Earth Creek Watershed is 103 square miles named for the Class 1 trout stream so important to the vitality of the entire area and beyond. Why is this watershed important?? BEC is an important asset to the area—bringing visitors to fish, bird watch, walk, hike, bike along the creek, these visitors enhance the economic vitality of the communities, and come here to enjoy the beauty of the area BEC is already recognized as an important environmental asset: State of Wisconsin selected BEC as a “Priority Watershed” in the 1990’s investing over a million dollars in stream improvements
179	2	260/260	232/232.06	284/284	None	One of the reasons visitors come here is because of the aesthetics—the beauty of the place—the connection to open spaces, clean waters and freedom from excessive noise pollution
179	3	280/ 281.0101	511/511	None	None	Individual homeowners are concerned about effects of intrusion on their properties, loss of privacy and diminished land values. Real estate values and potential home sales have already taken a nose-dive since the path designated by the dreaded BLUE LINE has been published.
179	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	Good arguments can be made about whether there is a necessity for this line—lower power usage, emphasis on local, small scale power production.
180	1	241/241	243/243.01	235/235	None	I am writing because I am very concerned about the impact on the environment regarding the cardinal-hickory creek transmission line project. The proposed area is so beautiful! It has virgin woods, great rock out cropping’s and a lot of wildlife. It would be a shame to ruin the homes and the homes of the wildlife.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
180	2	260/260	284/284	None	None	We only want to see natural beauty and hear nature sounds. We do NOT want to see big ugly transmission lines and listen to the humming noise that comes from them.
180	3	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Iowa County and Dane County have many endangered/threatened etc. species. The Northern long-eared bat, whooping crane, Higgins eye pearly mussel, sheepnose, Hine's emerald dragonfly, mead's milkweed, Prairie bush-clover, eastern prairie fringed orchid and the cricket frog just to name a few.
180	4	234/234	232/232.04	None	None	If the transmission lines are put up, the ground underneath them will be full of chemicals that kill the plants which will run into other parts of the woods and could contaminate the resident's well water along with harming the plants and wildlife.
181	1	280/ 281.0101	120/121.03	None	None	Another negative impact I am concerned about is: the destruction of the land especially on the northern corridor. The value of the land will decrease substantially [sic]. Our land on Sweeney road will be devastated, visually + financially
182	1	260/260	243/243	232/232.03	None	I'm writing to express my concerns regarding the need for the proposed ATC power line that cuts through heart of the Driftless Area where I live. We are residents of the Town of Arena, Wisconsin. This area is unique in its beauty, its biological diversity, its wetlands and so much more.
182	2	280/280.02	245/245.04	244/244.01	280/ 281.0101	The proposed line would be a massive, unnecessary project that could cause irreparable damage to one of the most beautiful areas in Wisconsin. It would impact tourism, hunting, recreation, farming, property values and much more.
182	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	We, the energy consumers, would be stuck with the bill for the next 40 years.
182	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	I do not believe we need this line to insure an adequate energy supply. Electricity use throughout the Upper Midwest is flat or declining, so why build another transmission line? Where is the evidence that energy usage is increasing to such a degree that we must mar this community with the sights and sounds of a massive gouge being ripped through it? This line is not needed. The knowledge and ability to improve energy efficiency without marring our land, our natural beauty and our senses is readily available. And, if it can be proven that energy demand is rising and more energy will be used near us, why is the transmission line the best solution, not just for the Power Companies, but for our community?
182	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	And, if it can be proven that energy demand is rising and more energy will be used near us, why is the transmission line the best solution, not just for the Power Companies, but for our community?
185	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. The need for it has not been established. Evidence indicates the absence of need.
185	2	233/233	None	None	None	Future generation and consumption of electrical energy by the customary means for the power line have been shown to be extremely damaging to our atmosphere.
185	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	Paying for this power line is an imposition on many consumers at a time when earnings are less than adequate.
186	1	241/241	243/243	283/283	None	The power line has the potential to do irreparable damage to the flora, fauna, and human residents along and adjacent to the corridors.
186	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property values are permanently reduced before and after construction.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
186	3	283/283	None	None	None	Potential risks due to EMFs and Stray Voltage are unwanted.
187	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I would like to submit my comments and concerns about the proposed transmission line by ATC. My husband and I bought a 42 acre parcel in the Driftless Area in 2011, and moved permanently here earlier this year from Chicago. We chose this area for our home because of its limited development and the local emphasis on renewable energy and sustainable agriculture.
187	2	235/235	243/243.01	None	None	The Driftless Area is a unique geologic area, with many important habitats that need protection.
187	3	243/243.04	None	None	None	Dozens of endangered and threatened species could be negatively impacted by construction and operation of this transmission line.
187	4	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	In addition, I'm concerned that the proposed project will not be beneficial from an economic viewpoint, other than to ATC. Our region's economy relies heavily on agriculture, tourism, and recreation. The scenic beauty in the Driftless is hard to find anywhere else in the Midwest and creates significant economic opportunities. The proposed line will certainly have negative impacts on these economic sectors, as well as diminish nearby property values.
187	5	120/120.02	None	None	None	Moreover, I understand that demand for electricity in this area is declining, while the proposed line will actually result in higher energy costs to ratepayers. What positive purpose can this project actually serve for the area it will impact?
187	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	I respectfully request that you include in your analysis 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. Please consider any and all less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low- voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.
188	1	111/111.01	None	None	None	I attended an open house session this past summer where the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project was presented by the power companies to area residents, supposedly to take input and comments. However, many of us were informed at that time that the Transmission Line “is a done deal.” In fact it is NOT a done deal. This completely misled many people to believe there was nothing they could do about it.
188	2	120/121.03	120/120.02	None	None	I am concerned about the lack of alternative energy options being considered for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project that is being proposed for the Driftless Area in which I live. 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 which makes me wonder why this is being considered in the first place!
188	3	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	Vermont Township is a beautiful place to live and visit. Many people come here to ride our roads, hike our trails and fish our waterways. There are several bicycling events that take place here annually because of the roads and beauty of our area. Am personally in charge of an annual Spring Art Tour event in this area where hundreds of visitors come from around the country to admire the beauty of this place and to visit the artists who live and work here.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
188	4	260/260	None	None	None	The unprecedented behemoth towers and clear-cutting necessary with this project would be a blight on the scenic views and enjoyment of our natural landscape.
188	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	This project would have a severely negative impact on the economic well-being of these events and our communities.
188	6	243/243	None	None	None	In addition, I am extremely concerned about the impacts the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project will have on our local wildlife and environment.
188	7	232/232.03	243/243.04	None	None	Vermont Township 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.
188	8	243/243.01	243/243.04	243/243.02	None	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 clear-cutting necessary for the installation and maintenance 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.
188	9	232/232.03	243/243.02	None	None	I personally live directly across the road from protected wetlands where the Sandhill Cranes nest and feed during the warmer months of the year. The planned lines that would pass directly over our property would create a terrible hazard for these magnificent birds and destroy the value of our property.
188	10	260/260	None	None	None	The whole reason I purchased my property in the first place was because of the beautiful view of the valley from our house on a hill.
188	11	283/283	None	None	None	There are also studies which have shown that the magnetic fields and stray voltage generated by these mammoth towers would detrimentally impact the health and economic well-being of livestock farms and residents in our area.
188	12	280/281.02	None	None	None	I urge you to require that a Cost Benefit Study and an Economic Impact Study of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line be done to prove beyond a shadow of a doubt that it is truly necessary. I suspect these studies will prove otherwise. I respectfully request that my concerns, and the concerns of many others who live and work here, will be given due consideration at this important time of deliberation on the project.
189	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	I am writing to express my hope that the proposed electrical transmission line be constructed only if it is objectively shown that, in the foreseeable future, i.e., the next 20 years or so, the Dane County Wisconsin area is likely to require the proposed transmission line to meet its demand for electricity; AND if it is determined and shown that those additional electrical needs cannot and should not be met by the projected, realistic contribution that can be made from BOTH conservation of demand and the cost-effective development of locally-provided renewable electrical energy. In other words, I believe that the construction of this transmission line should only be approved after it has been objectively determined that Dane County's electricity requirements cannot be met by further cost-effective and achievable conservation measures and additional locally-produced, renewable electrical supply.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
189	2	120/121.03	260/260	None	None	If, as a result of the analysis I propose above, it is determined that an additional electrical transmission line should be constructed, I suggest that neither of the proposed transmission line routes be selected. Both of them cut across the entire length of the Driftless Area, most of which is in southwest Wisconsin, from Madison to the Mississippi River. The huge continuous towers and lines would be an added eyesore to any landscape; an eyesore that can't be mitigated. In fact, routing such a huge line through the beautiful landscape of the Driftless Area should be avoided. From an esthetic standpoint, both of the currently proposed routes are poor. The proposed option of the route going past or close to the Pleasant Valley Conservancy is bad insofar as, over the past 20-25 years, hundreds of people have volunteered their time and money to restore an entire large hillside to its historic oak savanna environment. Through their longstanding efforts, the Pleasant Valley Conservancy, on Pleasant Valley Road, is a source of spiritual enrichment for many persons in the area. The alternative route of the line along Military Ridge, from Mount Horeb to Montfort, is also bad because it would be a continuous visual blight to motorists traveling US Hwy. [sic] 18/151. For many people who do not take the time to stop and explore special places in the Driftless Area, such as Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Hwy. 18/151 is their only exposure to the Driftless Area. Yet, the proposed route of the line along Hwy. 18 would impede travelers' views of the landscape.
189	3	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	If possible, and if a line is needed, I ask that consideration be given to siting the line on a more southerly route from the Cardinal Substation in Middleton, roughly following WI Hwy. 78 toward Blanchardville and the west toward Platteville WI. Ideally, the line would be routed southwest to Illinois, but that may not accomplish the project's objectives.
190	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. I believe that ATC has not demonstrated a need for the electricity in the greater Madison area, over the long term.
190	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	I believe they have intentionally refused to develop an alternative that provides the same amount of power using distributed production using solar, wind and biomass sources. I don't understand why we would buy power from wind farms in Iowa and Minnesota, instead of producing it locally, and thereby creating good jobs in Wisconsin.
190	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	I don't agree with the formula that almost guarantees that ATC makes a profit. The costs just get passed on to us through our local utility companies. We may be able to make our own or buy our electricity locally at a lower cost instead of being locked into a 50 year agreement with ATC.
190	4	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	We live in Iowa County near the highway 18/151. The huge towers would be visible from our farm and could reduce our property values. 6. The driftless area where we live is special for its scenic beauty. The huge towers would certainly be a blight on our whole area.
190	5	281/281.1	None	None	None	We are concerned that the electric lines will cause problems with radio and TV reception. We have noticed problems when driving near other high voltage lines.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
191	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	I leave it to others to stress the lack of need for this costly transmission project and the reasons to prefer other, most cost-effective means to meet electrical demand. I agree with their points.
191	2	260/260	245/245.03	None	None	<p>What grieves me most about this project is how ugly the power lines would be. I have seen similar towers in western Wisconsin and on a trip returning to the Madison area from up north. At present ATC towers are being constructed through my Town of Middleton neighborhood. I see other towers every time I am on Madison's Beltline. There are already more than enough unsightly, huge towers crossing Wisconsin's landscape.</p> <p>The proposed corridors lie completely within the Driftless Area, our very special scenic landscape. The region is acknowledged as important by the four states involved, which have designated it a region of critical conservation opportunity and concern. Personally I love to spend time enjoying its hills, valleys, watersheds, and wildlife.</p> <p>To me it would be a tragedy to run huge power lines through the area. The proposed routes would mar vistas from many special natural areas, such as the Black Earth Creek Watershed, Black Earth Rettenmund Prairie, Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Governor Dodge State Park, Blue Mounds State Park, and/or the Mississippi River, plus other State Natural Areas, restored prairies, restored oak savannas, and watersheds.</p>
191	3	260/260	245/245.04	None	None	I use Pleasant Valley Conservancy as one illustrative example of my opinion. The Conservancy is on my favorite bicycling route, which often involves a stop there for a walk up to the ridge top. The private landowners have worked strenuously for almost 20 years to restore a native oak savanna landscape on their property, which is open to the public and protected by a conservation easement. After all that effort and expense, after so much native beauty has been restored, it would be a tragedy to run huge power lines near this property. I stand for beauty. The human soul needs beauty, although all too often our species creates ugly things like power lines. I advocate for preservation of the aesthetic character of the Driftless Area.
192	1	250/250.08	244/244.02	None	None	We are opposed to the electric line going in Iowa County Wi. We have a working dairy farm in the area and an airport we use for agriculture use and feel the line will disturb both along with our health and our animals health. How will our airport affect your towers? And how will the towers affect my airport?
192	2	281/281.1	None	None	None	Will the power lines affect cell phone service?
192	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	We live in a beautiful valley and feel the line could go in a better place.
192	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	Has ATC proven there is a need for another transmission line in this area?
192	5	250/250.08	None	None	None	Our airport coordinates are latitude 43-05-29.65N longitude 89-59-52.75W located in Section 10 T7N, R4E Town of Arena Iowa County Wi. The name of the Airport is Forseth Field.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
193	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Is another high-voltage transmission line needed at all? - Today, demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. The project proponents are relying on outdated industry forecasts of steadily increasing demand that have proven to be inaccurate for this region. The RUS should use current demand data for the region and look at new electricity generation sources that are being built and planned. - In addition, would the proposed open-access transmission line actually meet the purpose of helping move wind energy or helping Midwest states meet Renewable Portfolio Standards as vaguely claimed by its developers?
193	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Are there reasonable alternatives? - This cannot become a false choice between building this transmission line and doing nothing at all. The proponents appear to analyze each alternative one at a time without considering the more likely scenario of a combined approach. Can a combination of non-transmission alternatives—new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage, demand response—meet whatever needs actually exist? Could less damaging transmission alternatives—upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines, or routing a higher-voltage line outside the Driftless Area—satisfy any genuine demand requirements?
193	3	245/245.03	None	None	None	The EIS must analyze and evaluate: - Impacts on the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge - Impacts on the Military Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity, Governor Dodge State Park, Pecos State Trail, and other special natural resource features
193	4	260/260	245/245.04	None	None	Impacts on aesthetics and recreation values throughout the area
193	5	232/232.01	232/232.03	None	None	Impacts on waterways and wetlands
193	6	241/241	None	None	None	Impacts on forested areas
193	7	244/244.06	None	None	None	Impacts on conservation lands
193	8	282/282	None	None	None	Impacts on archaeological and historic sites
193	9	243/243.02	None	None	None	Impacts on eagles and other migratory birds
193	10	243/243.04	None	None	None	Impacts on endangered, threatened, or protected species
193	11	122/122	None	None	None	Those impacts and others should be assessed, not just for the proposed project, but for any and all reasonable alternatives
193	12	122/122.04	None	None	None	And, in each case, the EIS should identify and fairly evaluate the effectiveness of possible mitigation efforts.
193	13	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	What might be the negative economic impacts? - The EIS must address the potential economic impacts on ratepayers, on tourism and recreation, on farm and other business operations, and on property values.
193	14	122/122.01	None	None	None	What are the potential cumulative impacts?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
193	15	243/243.04	243/243.01	111/111.02	None	can speak personally to some of the impact that the proposed line could have on my small corner of the Driftless Area. My family owns almost 200 acres just North of the intersection of State Rd. 23 and Cty. ZZ in Iowa County, WI. The proposed Northern route for the line goes right by/over our property. We are working on our land to return what we can to its natural state through prairie and oak savannah restoration. We have had a series of grants under the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Landowner Incentive Program. The goal of the LIP is “to help private landowners create and manage habitat for species that are rare or declining. The program provides management advice, assistance with management plans and cost-share funding to individuals and http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/endangeredresources/lip.html I trust that the RUS will work with the Wisconsin DNR to get the full list of such projects throughout the Driftless, including the results of bird, reptile, snail and other surveys they have done in the area. At the open house I was asked to send in all of the details of my project and to ask my neighbors to do the same. It would seem to be much more efficient and complete for the RUS to work with the Wisconsin DNR to get a comprehensive list of projects and survey results. Nevertheless, I will mention that a number of species of bird in particular have been documented on our land, including the following identified by the Wisconsin DNR as 2017 “species of greatest conservation need” – Acadian Flycatcher, Cerulean Warbler and Wood Thrush.
193	16	280/280.02	None	None	None	I will also take a moment to mention our neighbors – Grass Dairy and Uplands Cheese Company. The proposed Northern route goes right through the dairy farm and creamery. You can find more information on them at the following: https://www.uplandscheese.com Upland Cheese’s Pleasant Ridge Reserve is America’s most awarded cheese, having won Best of Show in the American Cheese Society’s annual competition three times (2001, 2005 and 2010), and having also won the US Cheese Championships in 2003. It is the only cheese to have won Best of Show three times, and the only cheese to have ever won both of the major, national cheese competitions. It also made the finals of the World Championship Cheese Contest this past year. Uplands Cheese Company was named one of Martha Stewart’s 2016 American Makers. http://www.lohud.com/story/news/2016/11/03/wisconsin-cheesemaker-andy-hatch-honored-2016-martha-stewart-american-maker/93230280/ . The families who run the operation are featured in this month’s Martha Stewart Living magazine.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
193	17	244/244.02	None	None	None	<p>The construction of the proposed line, along with the large structures, management of the associated easements and potential stray voltage issues will undoubtedly have a negative impact on the herd and ultimately the cheese. This award-winning cheese, along with the future of family farmers, is dependent on the health of the herd and flavor of its milk, which is in turn dependent on the health and mix of the grass on which it feeds.</p> <p>The negative impacts of transmission lines on agricultural lands and livestock are acknowledged. http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric10.pdf. In this case, the negative impacts go beyond the milk directly to the cheese operation. During construction, some paddocks would be lost and others could be damaged due to resulting overgrazing. The cows may also be disturbed by the construction process. This could negatively impact milk production and flavor and, ultimately, cheese production and potentially taste and reputation. Longer term impacts to the herd and the cheese are also possible. Please consider this full economic impact when putting together the EIS.</p>
193	18	245/245.03	260/260	None	None	<p>The environmental impact, as well as the negative aesthetic and economic impact of the line, will be felt just a few miles South of us at Governor Dodge State Park</p>
193	19	245/245.04	None	None	None	<p>It could also negatively impact the impressive cycling terrain, which in turn negatively impacts area economics. You will note that a number of the bicycling loops identified for the 2016 Olympics bid would be bisected by the proposed lines. http://www.cyclesouthwestwisconsin.com/images/loops/Bike_Routes_flat2.pdf There are a number of loops right by our property that are also used for annual cycling events such as the Dairyland Dare, Horribly Hilly Hundreds and Wright Stuff Century. https://www.dairylanddare.com http://www.horriblyhilly.com/index.htm http://wrightstuffcentury.com</p>
194	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	<p>My first point regarding impact of the project is that to construct a line that has not been proven to be needed is the most serious negative impact possible with financial resources diverted from other needs, and with the damage the project would do to the environment.</p> <p>Others have presented information through this study process that utilities in the Midwest, including those in Wisconsin, are showing less demand for electricity, and are projecting even less demand due to increased efficiency by end users of heating and lighting systems in housing, business and industry. This efficiency is expected to increase more in the future. In addition to reduced electric energy usage, technological improvements in solar energy, wind energy and battery storage allow an increasing number of businesses and homes to provide for their own electrical power needs.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
194	2	110/ 110.0407	120/120.02	None	None	Under Wisconsin law, the Public Service Commission is charged with approving new energy infra-structure only if the new facility satisfies the reasonable needs of the public for an adequate supply of electrical energy. The public of the State of Wisconsin demand and must receive from those that govern strong vigilance over added costs for the generation and transmission of electricity. If unneeded electricity infrastructure is developed in Wisconsin, it brings significant losses to the state with the inappropriate use of public funds as stated below: 1. It brings large and unnecessary costs to tax payers. 2. It reduces the incentive and desire of the legislature and governor to tax the tax payers for even more funds to be used for education, transportation and other important needs. 3. It causes damage to and loss of appropriate utility of the land and forest lost in the development of the transmission line. 4. It impacts air quality due to more fossil fuels used in the generation of electricity.
194	3	280/281.02	120/121.03	None	None	The trade-offs are too great for us to develop more transmission lines if not needed. An honest and comprehensive study of the need for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project must take place, and if it is determined that it is needed, the placement of the line is critical in protecting our natural resources, our environment, the ecology of our area and the history and cultural sites of our area.
195	1	120/121.03	260/260	None	None	The Platteville Common Council is not taking a formal position on the building of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line at this time. However, the Platteville Common Council unanimously opposes the proposed route for the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line that skirts the City of Platteville along U.S. Highway 151. The reasons for our opposition are three-fold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The other proposed option is a more direct route, less costly and would impact fewer people, o Significant landmarks would be visually impacted by the proposed transmission line. Those landmarks include the Platteville "M" as well as the first state capitol site located near Belmont, and o Platteville, as part of the larger tristate area, is a regional center for tourism. A new transmission line would be an unsightly addition along the major transportation corridor in our area. We look forward to the elimination of the proposed route that includes Platteville in the upcoming months.
196	1	245/245.03	260/260	None	None	I am writing to express my concerns about the Cardinal/Hickory Creek Transmission Line Proposal. Governor Dodge State Park is an aesthetic and recreational gem in the Driftless area of Wisconsin. This powerline passing near the entrance to the Park and the associated clearing of vegetation will negatively impact tourist's first impression of the Park. Tourism dollars are a large part of this economy.
196	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	A thorough study of the necessity of this power transmission line needs to be made.
196	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please consider less damaging alternatives that also protect the environment of this unique Driftless area.
197	1	243/243.01	260/260	None	None	The proposed corridors plow through environmentally sensitive areas, harming vital conservation areas, degrading streams and wildlife habitats, and disrupting the scenic landscapes that are part of our heritage and that attracts tourists to the area.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
197	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Further, ATC has not been able to document a need for additional imported out-of-state electrical supply to be carried by the proposed line. Electrical sales have declined in Wisconsin over the past decade
197	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	there are better, more cost-effective alternatives if a need for more electric supply should arise in the future.
198	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Please consider that the EIS include a cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives (NTA's). These being: 1. Energy efficiency 2. Load management 3. Developing local power. We feel that comparable dollar investment in local power generation, combined with the growing efficiency of energy use in our society and local load management could result in a substantial dollar savings for individuals served. Add to this the lack of negative environmental impact on the communities through which this line is proposed to travel, and the companies and individuals involved might well see huge savings, as compared to the projected income received. It is worth the study to determine this, as it could very well result in profits higher than proposed to the companies involved. One example alone would be that the involved companies, in addition to their prorated dollar investment in the line, would not be paying out damages to local communities for their loss of tourism dollars, because of the unsightly, unhealthy power towers. We understand that the utility, ATC, has already commissioned, and possibly received the results from, a company (Burns and McDonnell) which was hired to do the fieldwork for this EIS. (Statement made by Greg Poremba (SWCA) to an attendee at the Middleton meeting on 11/04/2016.) Would this in any way be considered self-regulation with no oversight? To avoid the appearance of collusion, we would like the EIS fieldwork to be conducted by a qualified environmental firm with no ties to the power industry.
198	2	232/232.06	None	None	None	Also, we in this area, live in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Since the Cardinal substation is located in a position from which it would be impossible to avoid impacting this watershed, we feel it is of the utmost importance that the following points be considered when conducting this non-partisan EIS: 1. The Black Earth Creek Watershed is an important ecological feature, promoting and helping to ensure the clarity of potable water in area wells as well as in the creek itself for aquatic life.
198	3	243/243.01	280/280.02	None	None	The Black Earth Creek is a nationally, possibly world-known, trout stream. This is an economic feature which brings in fisher people who promote the success of local restaurants, lodgings and campgrounds.
198	4	232/232	280/281.01	None	None	The Black Earth Creek Watershed is also an important educational tool for the local classrooms, who with their teachers (from kindergarten through high school) come to learn about sustainability, the water cycle, aquatic creatures. Beyond that, it is also a classroom for water researchers from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, which is well-known internationally as one of the top water research institutions.
198	5	232/232	None	None	None	Any disruptions caused by the earthmoving and stray voltage involved in this CHC project, will without doubt, bring serious disruptions to the ecology of the Black Earth Creek as well as to those who depend upon its value as an educational, recreational and financial source of benefit.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
198	6	120/120.02	None	None	None	Above all, we would emphasize that the need for this project is the biggest question to answer. That answer could be easily determined by a non-partial EIS, which we feel would reveal that the development of less invasive local sources of energy could well fulfill the decreasing need for energy provided by vulnerable high cost structures marring the landscape.
199	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I had the great fortune to grow up in the drift-less in Northeast Iowa. As an adult in 1993 I returned to the drift-less area in Southwest Wisconsin just North of Governor Dodge State Park with my wife and two children. Besides the fact the last glacier did not scour the area, the drift-less area is a spiritual experience for me on a very personal level.
199	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	I am opposed to the proposed 345 KV Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project for the following reasons: (1) No evidence has been produced to show the transmission line is needed to meet increased demand. Statistics show supply is out-pacing demand.
199	3	120/120.01	120/121.03	None	None	Through a program with Alliant Energy, we pay a surcharge to receive half of our electricity from alternate sources. More emphasis in pursuing alternative sources of energy generation should be a priority.
199	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	The residents in the drift-less area in Southwest Wisconsin will be paying increased utility rates for a commodity from which we will receive no benefit.
199	5	245/245.04	260/260	None	None	The Southwest Wisconsin drift-less is a beautiful area that attracts enormous traffic volume for bicyclists, motor cyclists, auto road rallies, campers, vacationers and the annual Art Tour generating additional income to the area. People come to this area because of its beauty, variety for adventure and not to be reminded what has happened to the land where urban centers now reside.
199	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property values for the families that need to sacrifice land for the proposed routes will see a significant decrease in property valuations.
199	7	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	The environmental impact required to clear the land for the right of way for the proposed route will scar the earth, displace fowl and animal habitats, damage streams and waterways.
199	8	283/283	None	None	None	I am concerned about the impact that electromagnetic forces have on living organisms' electric balance. More research is necessary to better understand the affect and make better social decisions.
200	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	What is the real need for a new transmission line? This has not be adequately presented or defending considering flat or declining electrical demand. Nor has adequate consideration be given to alternate renewable (clean) energy sources such as wind or power to offset any future demand. Has due consideration been given to local generation of clean energy and energy conservation to meet future demands? Is the transmission line really necessary to meet demand or is it a method for concerned commercial interests to justify raising rates and increasing profits?
200	2	260/260	None	None	None	Never mind the visual pollution of large towers interrupting the pristine landscape of the Driftless Area,

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
200	3	283/283	None	None	None	but what is the direct and indirect effect of Electromagnetic Fields (EMF's) carried in these lines. It is well established that radiation of the magnetic waves generated by high voltage transmission lines has a deleterious effect on the flora and fauna in close proximity to these lines. Has due consideration been given to the direct effect of this radiation on wildlife and domesticated animals that may stray into the vicinity of these EMF's, let alone the effect on human beings that are exposed to this radiation?
200	4	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	Further, what about the direct loss of habitat for wild animals by the presence of transmission lines, the disruption of conservation areas, degradation of streams, wetlands and waterways?
200	5	243/243.02	243/243	None	None	How does the presence of EMF's disrupt the migratory pattern of birds and animals?
201	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	The trends for electricity use show a decline rather than an increase, so I believe this line is simply an excuse for the power company to say that they are using more "renewable energy" by bringing in energy from wind farms in Iowa. What about the NON-renewable environment you will be destroying in building this power line? There are sufficient energy sources in Wisconsin already and the potential to exploit more renewable source right here in our state should our energy demands rise. Stop the destruction of our environment to satisfy demands for greater revenue! Please do not build this line. There is no need for it and every reason not to do it.
202	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	The need is ill-defined. Getting bigger, faster and more responsive are insufficient and short-sighted.
202	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Alternative considerations for a need that is as yet ill-defined has not been satisfactorily explored. Alternatives and merged solutions that are creative, productive, safe, environmentally responsible, and sustainable have not been forthcoming.
202	3	232/232.04	243/243.01	233/233.03	None	The environmental impact on the Driftless Area, considered by many to be an environmental wonder to be cherished, preserved and nurtured, is largely negative in terms of water quality, wildlife habitat, fauna, flora and potentially climate.
202	4	283/283	None	None	None	Electromagnetic field emissions have been shown to have immune consequences on people and increased mortality in reptile studies, all of which needs greater research before a project of this magnitude potentially magnifies a known health hazard.
202	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	In summary, if there is a truly credible need, a project like this must be presented along with alternatives or merged solutions that report comparative environmental impact on a very important and unique geographic area to Wisconsin.
202	6	243/243	283/283	232/232.04	None	Give serious consideration to the negative impact on the health of wildlife, the safety of the residents near the proposed line, water quality and environmental destruction when weighing the value of just getting bigger and more powerful to satisfy the growing material needs of a select few.
203	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Hopefully you take consideration of the devastation this line would do especially going through the northern route.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
203	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	It will be a burden financially on all of Wisconsin and residents of Counties it goes through and has not proven that it is even needed. The concern seems to only be for them to create a larger profit margin for themselves with no regard to land owners. The
203	3	260/260	None	None	None	The Towns of Dodgeville, Wyoming, Arena, and Vermont have the most beautiful countryside in Wisconsin. The idea of destroying that is inconceivable.
203	4	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	We strongly oppose the power lines going in the vicinity let alone on our property. We lived on this property for 19 years with the plan of it being our ability to retire on the value of the land. We have established values of the different parcels we have already sold. As such 002-0763.A home and 20 acre lot sold for \$725,000, neighboring lot of 12.4 acres sold for \$220,000, both of which resold in 2015 together for \$950,000. We also sold a neighboring parcel for \$120,000, 14 acres without a building site. The northern 31 acres along Sweeney Road is sold at a price of \$350,000. This 100 acres of land is at this value because of the beauty and varied features it holds. It has seclusion for each parcel. There are bluffs and rock formations though out the whole property. It has hardwood and pine trees of various varieties including jack pines. There are springs, streams, several ponds and water gardens. The view from the lots and home are not to be compared. It has panoramic views from Mt Horeb and across to Dodgeville. Placing power poles across the whole viewable area would be a devastation and monetary hardship for not only us but all the owners of these lots and homes.
203	5	243/243	None	None	None	It has an abundance of wild life of all kinds which may be affected by these power lines, including cricket frogs noted in the area by the DNR. If a line of power poles are constructed in any area on this property, it will be ruined forever.
203	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We have two parcels on the market now, both priced in the \$300,000 range. If these power lines go even in view of any of these lots it will devastate the values of our lots and the lots already sold.
203	7	244/244.02	None	None	None	We also graze all 100 acres which would create a possible health hazard for the cattle.
203	8	120/121.03	None	None	None	In addition to how it will affect us personally we are strongly against the lines crossing all of the countryside in Iowa County and east towards Middleton. The corridor along 18/151 is open already and would not leave such a destructive path ruining the countryside of so many land owners on the northern path. I can't comprehend why going the northern route would even be a viable solution compared to the open corridor of 18/151 if this line even needs to go through at all.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
204	1	243/243.04	243/243.02	243/243.01	None	Per US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), it is estimated that 97% of listed species throughout the Driftless Area in Wisconsin live on private lands. Without involvement of landowners, the obstacles to successful conservation management are huge. Landowners make this conservation possible. (Joanna Gilkeson, USFWS) For nearly three decades, our land has been a private wildlife sanctuary, providing habitat protection in an internationally recognized, unique landscape, the irreplaceable Driftless Area. This private wildlife sanctuary provides habitat for bobolinks and other ground nesting birds who depend on safe grassland space and safe airspace, and we have spent years enriching their habitat to promote the success of their fledglings. Among other habitat observations, milkweed (possibly even purple milkweed) and diverse butterfly populations have increased. Part of our habitat restoration plan has been to eliminate herbicide and pesticide application. Another aspect of our habitat restoration plan for this wildlife sanctuary has been to add to it with neighboring acres, when given the opportunity. We did so in keeping with our active conservation efforts for the unique habitats in the driftless area of Wisconsin. It has been a challenge to simultaneously support conservation efforts with the agricultural needs of a local farm family whose small herd depends on the harvest from this land, but we make the acres they need available as long as their need continues. To balance acreage use in agriculture, we set aside areas to remain undisturbed, and undisturbed perimeter vegetation is a vital aspect of our wildlife conservation. It has been maintained to provide, among other benefits, perches for feeding fledgelings [sic], to preserve important wildlife food sources, and also as shading and windbreak. ATC would completely remove this actively living perimeter, replacing it with a massive physical barrier, deterring the wildlife we have encouraged for decades, and adding risks of compounding electromagnetic radiation, stray voltage, and electrocution. The wall of wires would be just at the level of the flight of Sandhill cranes, some of which return to this hilltop annually.
204	2	235/235	None	None	None	Ecological Landscapes of Wisconsin, a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) publication, indicates that special surveys are still needed to locate and identify the unmapped unique slopes and cliffs of the Driftless Area.
204	3	243/243.02	None	None	None	We have enriched the habitat of other birds, in particular barn swallows, observing and responding to their needs. We are witness to generations of bobolinks, swallows and goldfinches, to name just a few of the diverse bird species thriving here. Their success depends on open spaces with welcoming vegetation. This community is perfectly suited for encouraging Driftless Area Wisconsin wildlife. Grouse and Whip-poor-will can be heard here regularly. Other birds we have seen include Common Nighthawks, Pileated Woodpeckers, Eastern Meadowlarks and Western Meadowlarks, and we have heard the song of what we believe may be the Henslow's Sparrow.
204	4	243/243.03	None	None	None	This acreage is part of a rural neighborhood of ridge and valley, where wildlife can thrive away from the barriers of nocturnal noise, excessive light and the certain death of highway collision. Transmission lines are incompatible with this wildlife habitat, and they would cause irreparable, permanent destruction and permanent wildlife habitat fragmentation.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
204	5	243/243.03	None	None	None	This land provides a sorely needed opportunity to reduce habitat fragmentation and isolation and to increase ecological connectivity, a stated DNR consideration (PUB-SS-1131X 2015).
204	6	280/280.04	None	None	None	Could it be, that despite the undoubtedly unique habitat of the Driftless Area, despite our active commitment [sic] to habitat protection, and the very clear Wisconsin siting law specifications, the smaller number of people along this path who would object to confiscating our land makes us the easier target?
204	7	260/260	110/ 110.0408	None	None	The culture of citizens of Town of Vermont is reflected in a Comprehensive Plan to make “landuse decisions that respect the rights of landowners while preserving and enhancing those qualities that make the town a special place to live and work.” This Plan has the explicit goal of protecting the environment, including a detailed Ridgetop Protection Plan (see 10.4 Ridgetop Protection). A massive wall of high beyond Town of Vermont, in sites free of highways or high buildings, would flagrantly disrespect the culture of this community. Per the Town of Vermont Comprehensive Land Use Plan, structures are to be designed and located so they are compatible with their surroundings, and our community members are held to this standard.
204	8	280/280.05	None	None	None	Even during this planning stage for CHC, our neighborhood is deeply affected by ATC’s threat of degrading this beloved land. We all have responsibilities to our professions as well as to our families. The upheaval of likely land seizure, of land condemnation, the very land so dear to people in the Town of Vermont, is already leaving a long-lasting, damaging impact to this human environment. Shouldn’t this be a key feature of an environmental impact statement?
204	9	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	It is disingenuous to say that urban centers need electricity transmitted for hundreds of miles, destroying Driftless ecology to get there. Electricity can be generated and distributed much, much closer to urban centers. We very much doubt such a project would be proposed without the guaranteed subsidy, the 10 percent donation, of ratepayers. This ecological damage to the Driftless Community is not necessary. Improvements and new developments in renewable electricity generation and storage are fast becoming available to all communities at whatever scale necessary.
204	10	280/281.02	None	None	None	An impartial cost-to-benefit analysis, comparing full promotion and rewarding of community participation (including - as just one example - the involvement of farmers - providing them with incentives for manure digestors, solar panels, wind turbines), would inevitably compare favorably, if given an identical multiyear effort and a multimillion investment with a guaranteed return on the investment to the one provided to ATC (who would merely transmit the electrons, not actually produce any electricity).
204	11	280/280.05	None	None	None	If the tone of this comment statement seems angry, that is because any normal people would be angry when they have worked for three decades to lovingly tend to an irreplaceable ecosystem, and who supported this community economically, contributing hundreds of thousands of dollars in property taxes over those years.
204	12	243/243.01	None	None	None	ATC has threatened to destroy this unique and fragile ecosystem, free of permanent barriers to wildlife.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
204	13	120/120.02	110/110	None	None	Not only has the need for this expensive project not been proven, with costs of many kinds, but the legally specified routing priorities are completely disregarded here, apparently not applicable to ATC.
204	14	280/280.05	None	None	None	Allowing a permanent wall of wires, serviced by massive motorized equipment, including low flying helicopter traffic, across these unspoiled Driftless Area lands, to bring monopolized electricity to places which have local options, desecrates Wisconsin's heritage.
204	15	241/241	235/235	None	None	This private wildlife sanctuary includes branching v-shaped valleys, key to the Driftless Area, and the undisturbed perimeter vegetation would not only be replaced by a wall of wires, but regrowth would be suppressed [sic] by endless herbicide use. The runoff into delicate ecosystems of the valleys, possibly karst landscapes, would be devastating.
204	16	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Per SWCA Vision: integrity as individuals and a company in our business practices and scientific endeavors; accountability on the part of our employees to deliver on their commitments to SWCA, our clients, and our communities; creativity in developing solutions to challenges encountered by our clients. SWCA has been selected and employed by RUS, which is part of the United States Government, and we citizens are your clients. To determine that hardworking, dedicated community members in a unique ecological landscape must have their land seized for private gain without a serious, impartial, in-depth comparison to non-transmission alternatives does not seem consistent with the SWCA vision.
205	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My parents- Gary and Nancy Cox- bought our family's property in rural Vermont Township WI 21 years ago.
205	2	241/241.01	None	None	None	Our 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below us- lie within the Driftless Area. We have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as we garden, doing all we can - as we respect and honor this unique area. My mother is a visual artist and she has done countless paintings celebrating the beauty there.
205	3	260/260	None	None	None	It is ironic that we property owners have this gorgeous and environmentally sensitive land threatened by ATC's proposal of huge ugly electric transmission powerlines.
205	4	245/245.04	None	None	None	Bikers use our roads as their routes.
205	5	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination.
205	6	232/232.01	243/243.01	None	None	I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival.
205	7	243/243.02	None	None	None	The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, and yellow warbler.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
205	8	243/243	None	None	None	Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here.
205	9	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	Clearing a path for the powerline through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries.
205	10	245/245.05	None	None	None	Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York.
205	11	243/243.04	None	None	None	While fishing these creeks my dad often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species. Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also.
205	12	243/243.02	None	None	None	The surrounding open meadows host Least Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, turkey, pheasant, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock. Migrating birds that use this area on their way through: scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, orioles, grosbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, indigo bunting.
205	13	241/241.03	None	None	None	Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work.
205	14	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I ask that an analysis be completed to determine 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. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.
205	15	280/ 281.0101	280/281.02	110/ 110.0407	None	Decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market, proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards.
206	1	244/244	280/281.01	None	None	This is to notify the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project sighting agencies of the US Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service and SWCA Environmental Consultants of the occurrence of forest tract used for scientific research in or near your northern route powerline proposal. While I do not have the time to check into and attribute the published studies that have resulted from these investigations, I hope engineering does. As I recall this study involved monitoring the population of specific species of mosquito and it's [sic] involvement in vectoring a viral brain infection of both animals and humans. This interdepartmental study by at least two University of Wisconsin departments that included Entomology and Veterinary Science. Within the last two years the land owner has been contacted by emeritus professor Dr. Barney Easterday of the University of Wisconsin about the availability of this land to revisit the study. Since the habitat of this mosquito is very specific, an absolute requirement for renewing this investigation is that the forest be left undisturbed. I propose that a clear cut for a high tension power line is incompatible with basic research in studying [sic] transmitted diseases of animals and humans. If the line goes directly over the sight it will be destroyed. If it goes anywhere near it will affect the results in unforeseen ways. Keep your power line away from basic research.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
207	1	241/241	None	None	None	Their 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below them- lie within the Driftless Area. They have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as they garden, doing all they can - as they respect and honor this unique area.
207	2	260/260	None	None	None	It is ironic that property owners there have this gorgeous and environmentally sensitive land threatened by ATC's proposal of huge ugly electric transmission powerlines.
207	3	245/245.04	None	None	None	Bikers use their roads as their routes.
207	4	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination.
207	5	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival.
207	6	243/243.02	None	None	None	The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, and yellow warbler.
207	7	243/243	None	None	None	Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here.
207	8	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	Clearing a path for the powerline through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries.
207	9	245/245.05	None	None	None	Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York.
207	10	243/243.04	None	None	None	While fishing these creeks Gary often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species. Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also.
207	11	243/243.02	None	None	None	The surrounding open meadows host Least Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, turkey, pheasant, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock. Migrating birds that use this area on their way through: scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, orioles, grosbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, indigo bunting.
207	12	241/241.03	None	None	None	Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work.
207	13	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I ask that an analysis be completed to determine 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. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
207	14	280/ 281.0101	120/120.02	110/ 110.0407	None	Decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market, proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards... I see these lines as nothing but negative and am firmly opposed.
208	1	245/245.02	120/121.03	None	None	The Ice Age Trail Alliance (Alliance) has reviewed the Rural Utility Service's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact State related to the potential impacts of Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative. The Alliance's comments relate to the eastern portion of the proposed project roughly bound by the Cardinal Substation in Middleton and points west and south of the Village of Cross Plains and are limited to the effects of the proposal on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (Ice Age Trail) and associated property interests. The Ice Age Trail runs roughly northwest to southeast and would cross the proposed transmission line in the area of Stagecoach Road or CTH P in the Town of Cross Plains. The impact of the proposed line would be significant in several areas: 1) Table Bluff Segment: The Table Bluff Segment of the Ice Age Trail currently exists northwest of the Village of Cross Plains and bound by Scheele Road and Table Bluff Road. The northern option for the transmission line would cause significant negative user impact on the views from the Ice Age Trail along the bluffs of the Swamplovers Preserve. This Preserve is a 433-acre property owned privately but with a permanent conservation easement held by the Alliance. Federal Land & Water Conservation Funds, State Stewardship Funds, Dane County and private funds were all used to acquire this easement in 2005. The Alliance will obtain ownership in fee of the Preserve no later than 2025. The Preserve offers exceptional views of the Driftless Area, one of the important geologic stories interpreted by the Ice Age Trail. This is the view that would be interrupted by the transmission line. 2) Cross Plains Segment: The Ice Age Trail currently exists within the Village of Cross Plains, both along village streets and atop its limestone bluffs. The northern route of the proposed line would have a significant negative impact on the Ice Age Trail. The bluffs on the north side of the village offer excellent panoramic views to the south and a transmission line with the proposed specs would be in clear view. It is unclear if the northern route would be seen from the Ice Age Trail while along Black Earth Creek in the village, or if the southern route would impact the Ice Age Trail along this segment. 3) Black Earth Creek Preserve: The Alliance owns a 36.7 acre property named the Black Earth Creek Preserve. It is located on the north side of Stagecoach Road. Federal Land & Water Conservation and State Stewardship Funds were used to acquire this property. Although no Ice Age Trail currently exists on this property, it is likely to host the Trail in the near future. The property also straddles Black Earth Creek, a class I trout stream, and several large spring ponds. Both the southern and northern proposals show the transmission line running along the Stagecoach Road corridor. The proposed line would have a very significant negative impact on the Preserve, the Ice Age Trail, and the creek and spring ponds. 4) Cross Plains National Scientific Reserve/Cross Plains State Park and State Ice Age Trail Areas (Complex): This 1,700 acre site is a complex of properties held by the National Park Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Dane County and private

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						landowners. The Ice Age Trail is yet to be developed on the Complex but plans are underway to begin the trail layout process. Both the southern and northern routes of the proposed transmission line (along Stagecoach Road) will negatively impact future Ice Age Trail and other uses on these properties. Furthermore the southern transmission line option running along CTH P would also have a negative impact on views from the state-owned and possibly the NPS-owned portions of the Complex. The Alliance is extremely concerned about the proposed transmission line's impacts on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. First, the Alliance is aware of the flat or negative trends in electrical use in the area and is not convinced the line is necessary to meet current and future electric needs in the area. Secondly, if a new line is proven to be necessary, then the Alliance proposes the southern option is utilized, and, that the line is buried in areas where it would be seen from the Ice Age Trail and the Complex. We will continue to work with our partners at the National Park Service, town and village officials, and other non-profit organizations to seek all means of limiting the line's impact on the Ice Age National Scenic Trail.
209	1	511/511	None	None	None	In the past it seemed that our government was more open to supporting basic research that supported ideas with a solid basis and were working to support the future. Now it seems that mammoth funding and resources are thrown at the crisis of the day; for example Ebola and now Zika. Zika is a viral disease transmitted by specific mosquitos. (letter 2 refered [sic] to a mosquito transmitting disease) It is questionable whether our government is wise to support crisis response at the expense of basic understanding. Doesn't the existence of crisis response itself acknowledge the system has failed? What could happen if the viral disease referred to in letter 2 would mutate to a more virulent disease? What if different insects adapt to carrying [sic] this disease? We could face massive devastation [sic] in farm animals or human population. Crisis response indeed. Does the powerline want to cut short a basic investigation that could affect us all? Please stay away from our critical forest tracts.
210	1	280/280.05	260/260	None	None	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.
210	2	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	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.
210	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	It is my understanding that we do not need the extra power because electricity usage has been flat or decreasing throughout the upper Midwest.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
210	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Also, renewable resources have increased, and clean energy programs are being met with success. Therefore, there are less damaging clean energy alternatives.
210	5	122/122.01	None	None	None	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.
211	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I believe existing corridors should be used wherever possible to minimize impact to the Black Earth Creek watershed area.
211	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	As a member of Vermont Lutheran Church, which has always prided itself on the scenic and idyllic location of the church, I'm especially concerned about the routing of a power line in the vicinity of the church. Thank you.
213	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We purchased land on Sweeney Rd, with the intention to build our dream home. To date we have the garage/workshop built and are using it, next step is building our home which is in process this year.
213	2	260/260	None	None	None	We selected this lot/area because of it's [sic] beauty and the very limited power lines, etc. The area is clean and natural, we believe it's a benefit to the community to keep it that way. Our home design is one that will fit in to the surroundings with minimal impact to the environment. It just doesn't make sense to tear up such beautiful terrain to put power lines when then can be put up in existing locations.
213	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	The ecological impact is significantly less using existing routes.
214	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My husband and I live at the edge of the revised potential path that goes through Vermont Township on its way to the hub near the headwaters of Black Earth Creek. We have lived here for 33 years. The dominance of nature in our daily lives and the maintenance of healthy habitats for other species is fundamentally important to us. Just last Sunday we participated, as we traditionally do, in the Christmas Bird Count, Mt. Horeb area section. This brings to mind the anxiety and uncertainty we feel about this proposed transmission line. For many years we have been fed by our Community Supported Agriculture farm Vermont Valley. This business feeds 1000 families all over the county and employs dozens. The transmission line is a detriment to them and to us.
214	2	120/121.03	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	I do not feel the case has been made for the need for this line, nor do I feel any real alternatives were pursued. All the focus is on which path it will follow, not on a cost-benefit equation about other answers. This project will be guaranteed to make lots of money for the companies' shareholders, but we, the public, and especially those of us who live here, will be unwillingly saddled with the cost for decades. Energy usage and distribution and production is changing so fast, I am not convinced it is in any way good public policy to commit ourselves to this project. We have not, in my opinion, been given the honest costs of this. The costs seem to be a moving target. I feel that this is being shoved down our throats, whether it is needed or not. Our state has turned its back on energy efficiency and conservation. We are falling behind other states economically. I want us to be more savvy about energy than we are. What are the costs of the other potential options?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
214	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	My second concern involves what I consider to be a disingenuous discussion of who will use this power. I follow energy usage and planning in the upper midwest, and I see that Illinois supports Cardinal-Hickory Creek because the power will essentially be a pass-through to Illinois. We will pay, and the utilities and their shareholders will make money as the power is sold to other states. This is of no benefit to Wisconsin. The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel coverage has been up-front about this, pointing to the corporate argument about “potential outages” to be avoided and the ability for Wisconsin utilities to sell power to Illinois. Audaciously, officials have been quoted as saying they look forward to similar support from the PSC.
214	4	243/243.01	243/243.04	None	None	My third point of concern is disturbance of a rich habitat, creating a huge swath through “virgin” territory. On my land, we have fields that welcome bobolinks, meadowlarks, Henslow’s sparrows, etc., all in decline. Our area has a threatened bat population and much-appreciated bobcat numbers. We have prairies and we have large areas of forests. We have waters of great value for fishing and habitat for countless species. And we appreciate it all. And it brings money into our community, as people come to take part in silent sports. We feel that this path of large transmission poles will degrade the view shed for all and most especially damage life for all the flora and fauna we all moved here to be close to. Much effort and expense has been committed to protect Black Earth and Vermont Creeks and to provide restorative stewardship at Festge County Park.
214	5	120/121.03	110/ 110.0407	None	None	It is my understanding that Wisconsin state law requires that new paths be considered only as a last resort. Are we being jerked around and manipulated for a regulatory game? Is all this expense a waste, if, indeed, the chosen path would be down Hwy 18/151? The anxiety level is high, and the mental health of the community and its individuals is damaged. There is an economic cost to this. How are you accounting for that?
214	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	My 4th area of concern is the damage to property values. This issue has dragged on for a long time, and it will be years before it is all resolved. This hurts the value of land in our area. No one wants to purchase land or commit themselves to a life here if there will be a big swath cut through or a view shed destroyed.
214	7	120/121.03	280/281.02	None	None	I urge a re-examination and an honest disclosure of what true alternatives are available and what the actual costs to communities, human and otherwise, will be.
215	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. Is there enough valid proof that another transmission line is needed in this area?
215	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	2. If needed, are there better alternatives to ugly, invasive large towers and lines? 3. If needed, would there be a less scenic, less environmentally invasive location?
215	3	280/280.02	245/245.03	None	None	If constructed, these towers would not only impact local residents, but would deter the many visitors to Governor Dodge State Park, Bethel Horizons, Blackhawk Lake, House on the Rock, Taliesin and many other area attractions.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
215	4	260/260	None	None	None	You will notice there are no visible power lines of any kind in the Taliesin area. This is because Frank Lloyd Wright insisted they be buried to not interfere with the beauty of the area. 6. Does ATC realize that thousands of people travel and relocate to this area, specifically for the scenic, natural beauty which the proposed power lines would destroy
215	5	120/120.02	None	None	None	It has not been proven there is a need for this new line, in fact, electricity use in this area is on the decline.
215	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	If constructed, local citizens would be required to pay for this line, while not even using the electricity.
215	7	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	Numerous landowners, farmers and businesses would suffer financial hardship, in addition to lost property value.
215	8	260/260	None	None	None	The building of 150 ft. towers with heavy lines over a 125 mile area would be a huge scar on the natural landscape of one of the most beautiful areas of the Midwest.
216	1	283/283	245/245.05	None	None	interferes with my hunting because I will be eating sick deer from the powerlines brain tumors + tumor. health of wildlife poison the water stray voltage falling ice noise, add to cancer of all sorts and other health problems are u going to pay my doc bills and explain to my kids why u decided to kill me
216	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	put it by the Wisconsin river that's where it's supposed to go
218	1	244/244	None	None	None	The inability to use the land because of bumper zones around the lines. destroy the little pcs of land that people worked all there [sic] lifes [sic] to have, a little pcs of land in the country,
219	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My name is Michael Dolan and I operate Seven Seeds Farm on county rd Z in Spring Green by the pleasant ridge store. I believe the landscape and local community would be devastated by the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line for various reasons.
219	2	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	First, there is no denying that it will devalue the land as well as decrease tourism of the amazing driftless area.
219	3	234/234.01	232/232.04	None	None	Second, this transmission line create soil erosion and contaminate our water,
219	4	241/241.03	232/232.04	None	None	the weeds will most likely be managed with herbicides around the transmission lines and with our hilly terrain that will lead to soil runoff and the atrazine and glyphosate used to control weeds will contaminate our group water.
219	5	244/244.01	None	None	None	Lastly, although there may not be much research I can't help to think that the transmission lines will affect the productivity of our farm.
220	1	281/281.1	None	None	None	will this affect my call phone or law enforcement radio reception radio tv, walkie talkies, regular phone
220	2	283/283	None	None	None	Bethal we have a bible camp for kids out on Zz so u are putting all the kids in harm's way of health issues
221	1	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	Loss of Real Estate Value, difficult to sell propty [sic] because no one wants to live by these huge ugly and noisy lines.
221	2	283/283	None	None	None	and have health issues
222	1	283/283	None	None	None	I have some concerns with the possible routing of this new 345kV line. I have been doing some research and there is evidence of these lines causing increased cases of cancer in children. My wife and I our expecting our first child and this raises a lot of concern for us.
222	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	I am not convinced that this line is even necessary at this time.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
222	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	If this line is in fact needed, it seems there would be ways to keep it from running so close to residential properties.
223	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	My family and I live on our 357-acre farm (and tree farm) in Iowa County near the Highway151-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.
223	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.
223	3	282/282.02	None	None	None	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.
223	4	244/244.02	None	None	None	Please consider what effect stray voltage will have on livestock.
223	5	232/232.04	244/244.01	None	None	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.
223	6	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	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.
223	7	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	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.
224	1	283/283	None	None	None	Ice falling off lines hitting people and animals and property damage How is that helping the environment
224	2	241/241.03	None	None	None	weeds growing underneath scaring the land.
224	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	This is the Driftless Area glaciers never touched it why should you scar the land with something we don't need
225	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Increased Energy Cost For something u want to profit from

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
226	1	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	I am very concerned about the environmental impact. There are many animal species that have not been in the driftless area for years but are now returning. The possibility of taking away areas for these animal to live is saddening to me. I am also concerned about the wildlife and plant life that is already in the area. I would hate to see these animals displaced by the building of these high power lines. Building these high voltage power lines will also kill vegetation. We need all this vegetation to feed the animals that are here which will also feed the larger wildlife. This is helping to make animals native to this area return. I hope to continue to see more wildlife to return.
226	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am also very concerned that land that has been in my family for over one hundred years will be taken from us. This would be heart breaking and very devastating to me. This land has so much family history and priceless memories. To lose any of this would be tragic as well as distressing.
226	3	244/244.01	None	None	None	There will also be agricultural impacts from the building of the high voltage power lines.
226	4	234/234.02	241/241.03	None	None	Research shows that there is an increase in soil erosion, it will create opportunities for weeds and other pest encroachment, compact soil and damage drain tiles as well as hinder or prevent spraying and/or seeding by plane.
226	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	The cost of this would be over five hundred million dollars. Madison gas and electric also has said that energy use in the Madison area is decreasing, which is the area that will see the most benefit from the construction of these power lines.
226	6	260/260	None	None	None	The driftless area is a beautiful area and one of a kind. You will find no other place that looks like this area of Wisconsin. There is no need to detract from the natural beauty of the land. This area is not only valued by the citizens that live here but also those who travel here to see the natural beauty
227	1	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	Negative Impact on Tourism [sic] loses its scenic appeal for tourists
228	1	280/280.02	282/282	283/283	None	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
228	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.
228	3	280/281.02	280/280.01	None	None	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).

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	4	110/ 110.0404	280/280.02	None	None	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.
228	5	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	6	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	None	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.
228	7	120/120.01	None	None	None	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.
228	8	110/ 110.0404	120/121.03	280/280.02	None	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.
228	9	260/260	245/245.05	244/244.01	None	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.
228	10	260/260	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	11	245/245.05	None	None	None	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.
228	12	241/241	None	None	None	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.
228	13	244/244.02	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	14	244/244.01	234/234.03	None	None	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.
228	15	280/280.05	None	None	None	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.
228	16	232/232.03	243/243.01	None	None	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.
228	17	243/243.01	245/245.05	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	18	283/283	None	None	None	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.
228	19	234/234.01	None	None	None	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.
228	20	284/284	None	None	None	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.
228	21	233/233.02	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	22	232/232.04	283/283	None	None	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.
228	23	243/243.02	None	None	None	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.
228	24	280/281.01	280/280.02	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	25	245/245.04	260/260	280/280.02	None	Southwest Wisconsin's topography, roads and view sheds produce desirable conditions for bicycling enthusiast. 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.
228	26	280/280.02	243/243.02	None	None	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.
228	27	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	28	280/280.02	None	None	None	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.
228	29	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.
228	30	280/280.01	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	31	283/283	None	None	None	<p>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, and 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.</p>
228	32	120/120.01	None	None	None	<p>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. 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.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
228	33	120/121.03	507/507	None	None	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 they were 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?
229	1	280/280.02	245/245.03	None	None	Impact on Tourism Govern Dodge State Park Where North Luthren [sic] Church Stood Old Rock House 1840s Old Barns School House Old Country Bar Store Old Cemeteries Bethal Horizon Camp & Retreat Center Cheese Factory All things that bring money in to the County or town of Dodgeville
229	2	260/260	None	None	None	Theres [sic] a look out to the River + Govern Dodge Park The power lines will take away the appeal of this area
230	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	When I want to run around naked I have to worry about people watching me privacy issue. perverts Driftless Area maybe u should care about the beauty of the land for everyone not just for prophet [sic]
231	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	damage to property from people running in and out of your land when you don't want them there loss of privacy
231	2	283/283	None	None	None	plant growth is proven to show that the voltage is bad so what does it do to human

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
232	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	The Town of Dodgeville does not/don't back this project. This will hurt us financially
232	2	233/233	None	None	None	Air Quality will bring the voltage close to the ground
232	3	283/283	None	None	None	We have a lot of lighting [sic] in this area so that will be striking the poles and putting us more in danger
233	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	There is a lot of Nesting bird in our area We see eagle on our land Bob White WhipperWills Hawks Robin geese etc. which will impact ther [sic] flight and Nesting under the poles will be a death trap
234	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	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?
234	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	How would such a line impact property values, especially those less than 5 miles from the proposed route?
234	3	244/244.02	None	None	None	Farms adjacent to other regional transmission lines have been negatively impacted by stray voltage. Please calculate economic impacts from lost dairy production.
234	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	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.
234	5	243/243.04	243/243.01	None	None	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?
234	6	120/120.02	120/121.0301	None	None	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.
235	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	take our livelihood that we worked for all our lives. Dreams will be no more the beauty will be gone.
235	2	283/283	None	None	None	It will add anxiety [sic] and health problem to me and my family
236	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	devalue my land. Want to buy this property next to these beauty of High lines? Hell NO! Think someone going to want to live next to them? Hell NO. We got our taxbill with land value so Now that I'm in this Transmission line area my land is not at fair market value. because my value has dropped a lot no one wants to buy with that ugly shit out the front door
237	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Has Atc really proven there is a need for another transmission line in this Area
237	2	280/ 281.0101	280/281.02	None	None	land value there is no benefit for the people just corporate greed
237	3	243/243	241/241	232/232	None	It will be a hazard to the environment plants and animals water
237	4	284/284	None	None	None	add noise to the environment
237	5	283/283	None	None	None	danger from falling ice physical, mental, emotional anxiety
238	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	destroys the options to do what I want with my land (Statistics) Show crop growth is impaired by these high voltage lines
238	2	283/283	None	None	None	miscarriages leukemia cancer other health issues

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
239	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We invested in the driftless region a little over a year ago by buying a home and land. The plan was to escape the chaos of Chicago and have a place to relax, rejuvenate and reconnect with natural beauty.
239	2	260/260	None	None	None	Our home site on a bluff and has a panoramic view.
239	3	241/241	235/235	None	None	Our property has dramatic rock outcroppings, remnant native vegetation, a pine relict, and incredible views that look onto Blue Mounds State Park. We have contracted with Quercus, a land management firm, to help us restore and maintain our oak savanna, woodlands, and prairie.
239	4	243/243.02	None	None	None	We've have the thrill of looking out our window and seeing a pileated woodpecker that has made it's [sic] home out of a dead tree on our property. I have identified over 100 different birds that have come to our feeders over the year
239	5	243/243	None	None	None	the red tailed fox greets us as we head up the driveway.
239	6	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	We have invested in the future of the driftless region of Southwestern, WI. For what? The proposed power line would degrade the views and therefore the property values.
239	7	241/241	241/241.03	None	None	Construction of the power line, even if done carefully, would disturb the native vegetation and introduce invasive species that would degrade the ecological integrity of the area.
239	8	120/120.02	None	None	None	I have yet to see a study that proves the need for this. Electric consumption is down and families continue to find new ways to conserve their usage.
239	9	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Why not produce energy locally so it does not need to travel. here are non-transmission alternatives that would ne [sic] less costly. Why not be investing in our future and find a better way to do this.
239	10	280/281.02	None	None	None	So the big question is... who is truly going to benefit from the project besides ATC and its' shareholders?
239	11	110/110	None	None	None	And who actually has the power to change this?
240	1	280/280.02	245/245.03	None	None	We are in an old community area Theresa log house school house old rock house early 1840 place that a church stood all on the pleasant ridge area old country store bar a church group that brings in thousands of tourist and kids camp + govern dodge State Park all in one area. Cheese factory
240	2	244/244.02	244/244.01	243/243	None	Farmland growth of crops cattle horse and wildlife are all going to be affected by this splitting [sic] of the land. land loss for farming cows gazing
240	3	283/283	244/244.02	243/243	None	people drinking that cancerous milk and cheese electric shocks miscarriage of calfs [sic] + wildlife
241	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Are there better alternatives than another string of ugly powerlines
241	2	232/232.01	None	None	None	Surface and ground water - poison the water system
242	1	245/245.05	280/280.02	None	None	Consultants hired by TU have studied the economic impact of recreational angling on the Driftless Area's communities. Annually, over \$1.1 billion in direct and indirect impacts take place as a result of angling, and over 6,500 jobs arise from that activity. If we squander those resources for unwise infrastructure projects, some of that impact will be lost as people find trout streams unproductive or to have lost their aesthetic appeal. 70-story transmission towers will greatly reduce that appeal.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
242	2	232/232.01	243/243.01	None	None	The area proposed for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line is rich in trout resources. Grant, Iowa and Dane have over 425 miles of classified trout waters. These represent our cleanest, coldest streams and springheads, a tiny fraction of the earth's surface waters and a fragile resource. They are susceptible to unwise land use practices, the historic curse of the entire Driftless Area, sedimentation, nutrient fluxes, and more recently temperature changes and other impacts of climate change. Trout Unlimited, in its work across the region, strives to mitigate poor land use and change unwise policies that impact these streams.
242	3	232/232.01	122/122.01	243/243.01	None	Transmission lines in other areas have impacted many streams. Poor construction practices and unauthorized dams and other structures have blocked streams and poured sediment into them. Sediment clogs the riffles where much of a trout's food lives and where most reproduction takes place. It fills pools trout need for refuge and wintering habitats, and crowds out natural vegetation essential to healthy trout streams.
242	4	232/232.01	None	None	None	The proposed line locations pose a serious hazard to numerous trout streams, including some considered to be among the best in the state. The Blue River, Blue Mounds Creek, Sugar River and Black Earth Creek are widely valued by anglers and boast good habitat, healthy trout populations and abundant public access. The proposed routes would cross the following trout streams: Baker Creek, Black Earth Creek, Blue River, Conley Lewis Creek, Deer Creek, E. Br. Blue Mounds Creek, Elvers Creek, Flint Creek, Fryer's Feeder, Garfoot Creek, German Valley, Gordon Creek, Lowery Creek, Narveson Creek Norwegian Hollow Creek, Otter Creek, Schlapbach Creek, Smith Conley Creek, Sudan Branch, Sugar River, Tributary to Williams-Barneveld Creek, Vermont Creek, W. Br. Blue Mounds Creek, and West Branch Sugar River. Many of these are Exceptional or Outstanding Resource Waters, a DNR classification warranting extra protections for high quality waters.
242	5	260/260	None	None	None	The aesthetic impacts are obvious.
242	6	234/234.01	232/232.06	None	None	In addition, construction vehicles and runoff from the construction of concrete bases can rip up protective vegetation and change runoff patterns in low-lying areas. Poorly placed silt fencing allows heavy sediment to feed into streams. With the observed increase in intense rain events in this area in the past decade, we have seen heavy flooding and damage on an annual basis. Adding a massive construction project through this area should not be permitted without extensive evaluation of watershed impacts, pre-permit monitoring and requirements for widespread use of buffering techniques to protect these waters. Possibly it should not be permitted at all.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
243	1	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I have had the opportunity to review the map of the two identified preliminary major corridors and have a couple questions which could also be suggestions. Looking at the study area, I noticed it doesn't include the section of Hwy. 151 that splits from Hwy. 18 in Dodgeville, then continues through Mineral Point, then to Belmont. I'm wondering why this area is not included in the study area? It is a major highway and would allow a more diagonal approach for the transmission lines. Why is the Proposed Substation Siting Area in Montfort and not in Belmont? If the more diagonal approach for the transmission lines could follow my previously mentioned Hwy. 151 route and the Substation Siting Area is in Belmont, this would make the most sense being the fastest and maybe most cost effective route. I don't know all the logistics in the planning of these corridors but am trying to better understand why the quickest and possibly most cost effective route wasn't provided as an alternate corridor. I'm deeply concerned about the proposed alternate corridor that runs East to West from the Cardinal Substation to Govenor [sic] Dodge State Park area. This corridor has no existing transmission lines, no interstate, no highway, or no roads. I do not understand why this route would even be considered an option. I remember as a child going on long rides with my family and counting the electrical poles along the highway to make time pass. It feels almost natural to see electrical posts and lines along highways. Therefore, I do not understand why all efforts would not be taken to erect these new transmission lines using existing transmission lines, highways, roads, railroads, etc. I know there's lots of standard sized wooden electrical poles that run in and out of the countryside in the above proposed alternate corridor but those are so unobtrusive. These 100 to 150 feet tall metal poles are a visual pollution to a countryside blanketed with trees, rolling hills, and waterways.....waterways that may not be the Mississippi but are just as beautiful and serene and can be just as impacted socially and environmentally. According to the map, this corridor looks completely untouched. The erection of new transmission lines in this particular alternative corridor will require a lot more trees to be torn down versus the other alternative corridor. For a period of time the wildlife will be effected but will eventually recover.
243	2	243/243	None	None	None	I'm concerned about the periodical cicadas that only emerge every 17 years. Please review the following link: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Periodical_cicadas . Back in 2007, Northern Illinois Brood XIII emerged at the above mentioned proposed alternative corridor. It was amazing to hear and see!! It was unique!! They are expected to emerge in 2024, one year after the potential Planned Project in Service of 2023. I believe the removal of trees and disruption of the grounds beneath may destroy the nymphs and reduce their numbers and it shouldn't be a chance we take.
243	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	In the end, I can only hope that a corridor that follows existing transmission lines, roads, highways, etc. is chosen. It makes the most sense. So please consider my questions/suggestions and concerns.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
244	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	I am writing to raise questions about the validity of the planned transmission line. I am a land owner near the proposed line in Ridgeway Township. I question the need for a new transmission line rather than strong proposals for reducing energy use to live within our current energy availability. It seems to me that a new line will only encourage greater energy usage "because it is available." The discussion should be how we live within our means with available energy or less energy. Additionally, new energy should come from renewable sources.
244	2	260/260	None	None	None	I am also concerned about the visual impact of such a large line in one of the more pristine areas of Wisconsin. Once built it will never come down and will affect the quality of life for residents of that area for ever.
244	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I am concerned about the adverse effects on property values near the line.
244	4	241/241	280/280.05	None	None	In summary, I think the line will adversely affect nearby protected prairie areas and quality of life for residents
245	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	I understand that this power line is to be used for the benefit of areas not anywhere near the site (ie Chicago is the likely benefited recipient of the power line while the site in Spring Green bears the burden of the power line in fracture). It seems "unfair" for land owners in Wisconsin to suffer environmental and business damages for the benefit of Chicago.
245	2	260/260	None	None	None	The location of the high voltage power line is not appropriate for several reasons. First, the site is located in what many consider a very scenic area of Wisconsin, with the rolling hills and rivers. The area is scenic enough that Frank Lloyd Wright decided to build in the area many years ago. Tall high voltage towers located every several hundred yards would be intrusive to this scenery.
245	3	283/283	None	None	None	Second, many studies have been conducted that question that safety of high voltage lines by homes.
245	4	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	Third, as this site is an organic farm business, a portion of the property is likely to lose its organic status due to the towers, thus negatively impacting the business.
245	5	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Forth, property values will decrease if the power line is built. I have first-hand knowledge of a property owner in Lakeview, MN that has been negatively impacted by a high voltage power line and the company was forced to purchase his home due to the impact.
245	6	120/121.03	511/511	None	None	Finally, I believe the rational solution is to place any high voltage power line along established transportation/communication corridors. A high voltage power line was just completed from Monticello to close to Moorhead, MN; an approximate 200 mile length power line. This power line was placed along I-94. This seems like a sound solution that served well for both electrical power users and land owners across the Midwest.
246	1	102/102	None	None	None	Nice job, Bobbi, and all the others that interacted on how to represent the BECWA position.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
247	1	120/121.03	260/260	None	None	I am opposed to the two routes shown on maps. While I'm normally in favor of high voltage lines running along existing highways (since highways are already ugly and minimal environmental damage will occur by locating lines along such road corridors), in this instance I'm against it. Highway 18/151 runs along an unusually high ridge and you can see for miles to the north and south. It would be a shame to add highly visible power lines to this scenic and historic route. Military Ridge, as it is known, should be free of this sort of ugliness. The second option running through the beautiful hills and valleys between Hwy 14 and Dodgeville is equally disturbing. It is a highly desirable part of the county in its natural and touristic state. Running power lines so close to Governor Dodge State Park is a big mistake. It would be visible from the whole area and detract from the natural aesthetic that draws thousands of tourists. If the lines are even necessary, which is not convincingly the case, an alternative, less attractive route would be better. For example, the lines could run due east along Highway 11 and then northward along Hwy 69/PB corridor toward Middleton. This route consists mostly of large corporate farms on relatively flat land. It's much less beautiful, less natural, and not used nearly as much by tourists.
248	1	110/110.07	None	None	None	This project makes significant use of greenfield corridors in the Driftless Area of Iowa and Dane Counties in Wisconsin. For this reason alone the RUS should not be a source of funding for Dairyland Cooperative for this project.
248	2	110/ 110.0407	120/121.03	None	None	The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSCW), by law, must follow in order: (1) existing utility corridors, (2) highway and railroad corridors, (3) rec trails, (4) new corridors, in determining where transmission lines are to be built. In Iowa County, WI, the revised preliminary corridors each have significant amounts that do not utilize existing utility or highway corridors at all. The existing utility corridors around Spring Green aren't even in the study area anymore. The northernmost preliminary route is mostly greenfield, cutting across beautiful rural and visually unspoiled areas, much of which is wooded. The landowners in this rural area should not suffer the burden of a transmission line that will mostly be built to benefit the significant load centers in Madison and eastward. At least the southern route runs along a busy existing highway corridor and certain utility corridors; nevertheless, a transmission line along US HWY 151 will further spoil the view south from Military Ridge.
248	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	Throughout the numerous reports on the USDA website, it is stated that an important purpose of this project is in meeting Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS). This project connects to wind power generation. But, given the Wisconsin RPS is by and large satisfied coupled with the declining cost (which will likely continue to decline) of solar power and its usefulness in meeting demand at peak times in the summer, it is debatable this transmission line should be built at all.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
249	1	283/283	None	None	None	We live at 4555 County Highway J, Mt. Horeb. As you can see by the attached pictures the existing power line which is 69KV is only 45 feet from our house. The new line 345KV is larger and carries more voltage. Therefore, our concern is for the safety and health of our family. We, including our children and grandchildren play in the yard. We want to be able to continue to enjoy our yard without concern about the power lines overhead. In cold weather there is a possibility of ice falling from the power lines and towers. Per our conversation with Jon Calloway of ATC who informed us that the high power 345KV lines do "buzz". Buzzing from power lines can have a detrimental effect on a person's health. A friend of ours was diagnosed with cancer and one of the very first questions the doctors asked was "Do you live near high voltage power lines?". So, the medical profession does recognize a link between cancer and high voltage power lines. The study area is quite wide and so the new line could be shifted to avoid being on our property and close to our house.
249	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	We request that an analysis be completed to determine 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. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.
250	1	510/510	None	None	None	We live in Dodgeville Wisconsin and own 6 acres of property at 4788 Miess Road, Dodgeville, Wisconsin. Both the City of Dodgeville and our Miess Road property fall within or near the proposed corridors for the Cardinal Hickory Creek CHC transmission line. Please record our concerns contained in this email and also record the three supporting documents attached to this email.
250	2	120/120.02	110/110	None	None	The electric utility companies, including Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., American Transmission Company, ITC Midwest LLC and Dairyland Power Cooperative, referred to here as the "Utilities", should not be the parties which determine the need for future electric transmission capacity and additional transmission lines in this area. That determination should be made by an independent private or governmental entity with input from all parties impacted by such a determination.
250	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	The Utilities should not be guaranteed a profit on the construction and implementation of transmission lines. We know of no companies in this area that ever get any guarantee of profitability, much less a very generous rate such as the 10% ROI that is being granted on the CHC project.
250	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	We do not believe that the Utilities are being honest about the projected need for electricity and transmission capacity in this area. Information from other sources states that demand for electricity in this area has been flat or declining in recent years and that the declining trend is expected to continue. Again, the determination of need should be made by an independent entity.
250	5	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	We need to explore other better, more cost-effective alternatives to electricity being brought in from other areas via high voltage transmission lines. 5. We need to invest in the production of electricity locally via wind or solar power as an alternative to energy brought in via high voltage transmission lines.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
250	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	The consumers of electricity in our local area should not have to pay for the construction of the proposed transmission line since we are not the people/companies that will directly use or benefit from that electric power.
250	7	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	The transmission line routes proposed by the Utilities conflict with Wisconsin Citing Standards.
250	8	282/282	260/260	None	None	Construction of transmission lines within the routes proposed by the Utilities will certainly cause environmental, cultural, and esthetic damage to the local area known as the "Driftless Area".
250	9	260/260	280/ 281.0101	122/122.01	None	The unsightly appearance of massive transmission poles or towers and their supporting easements and maintenance roads will have a negative effect on the visual appeal of this area. That negative impact will include loss of revenues to both private and public entities in this area. 10. The cumulative negative effects of the proposed transmission line will result in decreased property values in areas surrounding the transmission lines
250	10	244/244.04	280/280.05	None	None	The expected amount that landowners will be compensated for the destruction of their land, the restricted use of their lands subjected to easements, the negative effects to their livelihoods, and the negative effects to family history and heritage is ridiculously low. The easement process is nothing more than legalized theft.
250	11	232/232.01	None	None	None	Two neighbors immediately adjacent to our Miess Road property have had their water wells collapse in very recent years due to the geology in this area. We need assurances that construction of transmission lines in this area will not cause further damage.
250	12	280/281.01	None	None	None	The Driftless Area, and our Miess Road property as well, supports broad areas of 100+ year old oak trees. The value of those oaks (and other old forest stands) goes far beyond the mere value of the trees for lumber or firewood. We feel that the construction of the proposed transmission line should NOT be allowed to destroy old stands of forest.
250	13	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Our Miess Road property (a mere 6 acres) is part of a subdivision dating back to the 1980's. That subdivision is made up of 12 separate properties ranging in size from 2.5 to 19.4 acres. The construction of a transmission line through any of these small properties would virtually destroy the monetary and esthetic value of any given property. Please record the attached document entitled "Map of subdivision at 4788 Miess Road, Dodgeville, WI".
250	14	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	Adjoining our Miess Road property (and also within the proposed corridor) there is a dwelling constructed as a Bed and Breakfast. That property looks out over an astonishing panorama that typifies the Driftless Area. The hills and valleys can be seen for as much as 15 miles. The construction of a transmission line next to that property would, again, virtually destroy the monetary and esthetic value, and income potential of that property.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
250	15	243/243	None	None	None	White Nose Syndrome which generally destroys bat populations has been discovered in this area in the past two years. As such, local bat populations are on a rapid decline. One species of bat, the Eastern Pipistrelle, is of specific concern for population decline. In recent years, an outhouse on our Miess Road property has been the summer roosting place for a small group of Eastern Pipistrelle bats. An article was written about “our” bats in the January 2016 issue of the Wisconsin DNR Bat Program publication entitled “ECHOLOCATOR”. Please record the attached two documents entitled “WI DNR Bat Program ECHOLOCATOR Jan 2016 – Cover” and “WI DNR Bat Program ECHOLOCATOR Jan 2016 – Article”.
250	16	245/245.03	260/260	None	None	We are all very fond of Governor Dodge State Park which is located about 3 miles north of Dodgeville. The proposed northern corridor for the transmission lines runs along the northern border of the park along Iowa County Road ZZ. That northern edge of the park is characterized by massive rock cliffs. Those beautiful rock formations are a favorite for park visitors. Approximately 500,000 people visit the park each year. The sight of a string of transmission towers behind those rock cliffs would ruin the raw beauty of that area and negatively impact the many visitors to the park!
250	17	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	In conclusion, we believe that the proposed transmission line is not needed and, even if it were, that other more earth-friendly, more cost-effective alternatives should be explored and given priority.
251	1	120/120.01	120/120.02	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
251	2	120/120.01	120/120.02	None	None	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, build out 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.
251	3	280/281.02	120/121.03	None	None	Considering known and unknown costs and benefits, a more serious consideration of 765 kV system build out presently terminating in Chicago may make more sense than the piecemeal build out 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.
251	4	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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.
251	5	122/122.02	None	None	None	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.
251	6	122/122.04	283/283	None	None	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.
251	7	120/121.03	120/120.01	None	None	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.
252	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	My husband and I are very strongly opposed to the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project for many reasons. We own property and live in the Town of Springdale and the revised preliminary corridor for the power line runs through our property and home at 2885 Town Hall Road. Our family also owns land in Vermont Township, and we are affected by the proposed corridor there as well. I also serve on the Town of Springdale Plan Commission and also worked on the Town of Springdale Comprehensive Planning Committee on the 25 year Smart Growth plan for our township.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
252	2	120/ 121.0301	120/120.02	None	None	We not only oppose the proposed routes for this power line, but oppose any additional high voltage power lines in this part of the state. Electricity demand in the Midwest has been declining recently while at the same time, Wisconsin utilities have been increasing charges for a growing transmission system. We are already paying some of the highest rates in the Midwest. We should meet future needs by continuing to improve energy efficiency and investing in community solar and wind facilities. The money we spend should stay here to create local jobs and lower emissions more efficiently. We also feel that in these times of daily hacking of computerized systems and terrorism, less centralized energy generation will be less vulnerable to large scale sabotage.
252	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Both the law and the good of our environment demand that we use alternatives to this environmentally destructive power line.
252	4	241/241.03	241/241	243/243.03	None	Construction of the line will do permanent damage to the land, and the harm would be ongoing with the use of cutting and herbicides to control vegetation. Fragmentation of forests will decrease plant diversity and reduce habitat for native species.
252	5	243/243.01	243/243.02	241/241.03	None	On our land alone there is a stream that runs into the Sugar River, animal dens, resident Barred Owls, Redtail Hawks, Coopers and Sharpshinned hawks, and migrating Sandhill Cranes, as well as many other smaller migrating songbirds and resident birds and mammals. The Driftless Area provides habitat for species that are declining and the remaining native grassland remnants need to be protected. The creation of corridors for this power line will also introduce invasive species as well as predators of native birds.
252	6	244/244.02	None	None	None	In addition, there are cattle grazing on the land that this proposed corridor runs through.
252	7	283/283	241/241	None	None	We and several other families who also live in this proposed corridor have chosen to live here because of the natural beauty and peace and quiet that this place provides. We have worked hard on our land to restore that areas that were originally prairie and oak savanna. Many people in our township have also worked hard to help preserve the rural and agricultural character of this place. We strive to keep this a healthy place to live and work and are very concerned about the effects of the electromagnetic fields and herbicide drift.
252	8	280/281.02	None	None	None	As stockholders of Madison Gas and Electric, we oppose MG&E funds being spent on an unnecessary and damaging power line. We believe many other stockholders would feel this way if they had knowledge of how much it will cost. In addition, the corporate goals of XCELL energy shouldn't be allowed to push this power line through the Driftless Area to the detriment of all of its residents.
252	9	282/282.01	None	None	None	The Military Ridge Rail Trail runs through the proposed corridor in the Town of Springdale, as well as a historic monument that is accessed off of Norwegian Trail. The historic Springdale Lutheran Church and cemetery would also be impacted by what would be a huge eyesore.
252	10	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We feel that this project would significantly decrease our property values, as well as that of everyone else living in the proposed corridor.
252	11	280/280.02	None	None	None	It would also impact the value of places where future growth has been planned (e.g. a school for the Mt. Horeb School District).

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
253	1	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	My wife and I own Aldebaran Farm, a lodging business/vacation house in Wyoming Township, Iowa County, Wisconsin. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek project would severely affect the value of our property and the viability of our business, which depends on tourism.
253	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Cardinal-Hickory Creek and projects like it represent the power paradigm of the past. Today we need renewable, distributed power. Not only is such power more safely and efficiently produced, it is less harmful to the environment and less vulnerable to terrorism. For these reasons I have invested in a large solar energy system on my property, and many Wisconsin residents would do the same given the proper outreach and realistic incentives.
253	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Instead ATC promotes an outmoded technology that will severely harm the natural beauty of Wisconsin's fabled Driftless area and wreak havoc on the appeal of such tourist attractions as Taliesin, American Players Theatre, Wisconsin River, the House on the Rock, and Mineral Point. The Taliesin area is especially important.
253	4	260/260	None	None	None	America's greatest architect, Frank Lloyd Wright, successfully discouraged the use of overhead transmission lines in the valley where he built his famous home; the absence of lines there is an almost subliminal source of its great beauty and appeal.
253	5	233/233.03	None	None	None	Conventional power generation is a major cause of global warming.
253	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	We should studying and promoting development of the renewable and distributed power system that the 21st century demands. At a time when we need the Toyota Prius and the Chevy Bolt, ATC is trying to sell us a lumbering Cadillac.
254	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.
254	2	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	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.
254	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.
255	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.
255	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
256	1	244/244.02	280/280.02	None	None	My name is Caitlin Hatch and my family owns and operates dairy farm and cheese factory just outside of Dodgeville, WI. I am shocked and extremely concerned by the news of the proposed transmission line that could potentially run through my backyard and rip up our farm fields.
256	2	283/283	None	None	None	Not only am I concerned about my rights as a property owner, I am also very concerned about the health of my family
256	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	the negative impact this line would have on our fragile ecosystem here in the Driftless Region of Wisconsin and the negative consequences this would have on our economy.
256	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	The Driftless Region of Wisconsin is celebrated by locals and tourists alike. If these towers are built, our communities will suffer on so many levels. We thrive on tourism. This line will decrease the amount of people who come here and without tourism our communities will dwindle.
256	5	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Our property values are already at stake. No one will want to move to this area once they discover that these towers are a threat.
256	6	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I would like to request that an analysis be completed to determine whether a combination of non-transmission alternatives – new local wind and solar generation, energy efficiency, storage – would meet actual electrical demand at a lower cost both economically and environmentally. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low- voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand. And better yet, wind and solar are the way of the future.
256	7	280/281.02	None	None	None	This is just a last-ditch effort to make money off of our backs. Even if no electricity were to ever run through the lines we would still be required to pay them at 10.2% return. This is outrageous, selfish and unacceptable.
257	1	244/244.01	283/283	None	None	We strongly oppose the proposed power line for the following reason: Farming concerns including stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF).
257	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	Farm Impacts including Stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields- According to the PSC report referenced and mentioned above: "The placement of transmission structures can cause the following agricultural impacts: a. Create problems for turning field machinery and maintaining efficient fieldwork patterns.
257	3	234/234.01	None	None	None	Increase soil erosion by requiring the removal of windbreaks that were planted along field edges or between fields;
257	4	234/234.02	None	None	None	Compact soils and damage drain tiles;
257	5	283/283	None	None	None	Result in safety hazards due to pole and guy wire placement;
257	6	244/244.01	250/250.08	None	None	Hinder or prevent aerial spraying or seeding activities by planes or helicopters
257	7	244/244.01	None	None	None	Interfere with moving irrigation equipment
257	8	244/244.01	244/244.04	None	None	Hinder future consolidation of farm fields or subdividing land for residential development."

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
257	9	244/244.02	None	None	None	Stray voltage- "Stray voltage and its impacts on livestock and other confined animals have been studied in detail by state and federal agencies, universities, electric utilities, and numerous scientists since the late 1970s. The PSCW has opened investigations, encouraged the upgrade of rural distribution systems, established measurement protocols, and compiled a stray voltage database to track investigations, all in order to develop successful strategies for minimizing stray voltage in farm operations (http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/electric/strayVoltage.htm). Over the decades, significant resources have been allocated to understand this issue. Electrical systems, including farm systems and utility distribution."
257	10	244/244.01	None	None	None	We have agricultural backgrounds and are concerned for the nearby large farm operations, which there are a number of large operations in the proposed patch with thousands of acres of working farmland that would be destroyed by the construction of this power line. There have been studies that stray voltage has caused problems and the transmission lines also have been known to interfere with GPS systems used on tractors. This GPS technology is very expensive for the farmers. The best solution is not to build a power line anywhere near a farm to alleviate these concerns including stray voltage potential.
257	11	507/507.05	None	None	None	We would like confirmation of this response and would appreciate updates to the proposal.
258	1	280/281.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	Please incorporate these suggestions from the Town of Vermont Board and residents for inclusion in the scope of the EIS. Of particular importance is the common theme requesting comparative cost benefit analyses of the CHC and the package of non-transmission alternatives?
258	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	WHEREAS, high-capacity transmission expansion projects increase the likelihood of additional transmission and electric customer investments in Wisconsin and regionally; and, WHEREAS, the final cost of expansion projects including financing, operation and maintenance over 40 years can reach into billions of dollars and place significant financial burden on all Wisconsin ratepayers in addition to those in other states; and,
258	3	120/120.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	WHEREAS, demand for electricity in Wisconsin and adjacent states has been flat or in decline in recent years and utilities in affected service areas have projected no or minimal load growth in planning documents submitted to the PSC; and, WHEREAS, other means of meeting energy demand claimed by the applicants must be considered, including comparable investment in accelerated energy efficiency, conservation, load management, and local renewable power options before high capacity transmission is approved; and, WHEREAS, average ratepayer investment in energy efficiency in the U.S. tripled from 2007 to 2012 to lower end-user costs and harmful emissions while investment in energy efficiency in Wisconsin dropped over the same period;
258	4	260/260	None	None	None	WHEREAS, our responsibilities include protecting and enhancing natural and local economic assets, including scenic beauty and development potential that would be adversely impacted by 110 to 180 foot steel or concrete poles and wires for high voltage transmission

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
258	5	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	WHEREAS, high-profile transmission lines tend to reduce property values and tourism due to their prominent visibility and perceived negative health effects creating adverse impacts on local economies in contrast to non-transmission alternatives such as energy efficiency, load management and local solar which tend to produce positive economic impacts
258	6	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	WHEREAS, Wisconsin State Statute 1.13(2) encourages local governmental units to define their energy planning priorities and State Statute 1.11(2) encourages the WI PSC to study, develop, and describe appropriate alternatives to recommended courses of action for full public consideration before the scoping stage of utility applications and for preparation of the Impact Statement;
258	7	280/281.02	None	None	None	WHEREAS detailed explanations of the perceived need for regional transmission expansion have not been combined with a comprehensive comparison of long-term investment costs and returns for all energy investment options and provided for Wisconsin ratepayers stated in clear terms of monthly, average potential savings, long term job creation, and carbon emission impacts.
258	8	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The Town of Vermont in Dane County requests that all efforts made to develop or enhance the energy system upon which our community relies and adhere to these energy investment priorities: a) Maximize cost-effective conservation, efficiency, and load management; b) Rely to the greatest extent possible on local, renewable generation; c) Support local ownership of energy generation that includes dispersed renewable energy to support the local economy, including the creation of sustainable jobs; d) Minimize the size, scale, voltage, and environmental impacts of electric e) transmission and generation.
258	9	280/281.02	None	None	None	Town of Vermont requests the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to ask the applicants to provide potentially impacted landowners and Wisconsin ratepayers clear, consumer-friendly descriptions of the applicant's cost-benefit analysis concerning all energy investment options, their cost-benefit analysis being made available in open houses during the public outreach phase of this proposal and on the internet during the same time period. 4. Upon receipt of the application, Town of Vermont requests Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to ensure that the applicants provide a clear, consumer friendly, comprehensive , cost-benefit analysis incorporating comparisons of comparable investments in accelerated energy efficiency, load management, distributed generation (on site/community and other local, non-fossil fuel generation). The dollar amount applied to each of these non-transmission investment options should be no less than estimated total Wisconsin ratepayers would assume for the proposed project, with financing, maintenance and operation costs over 40 years. We ask that this analysis provide summaries of these comparisons with estimated, averaged impacts on typical monthly electric bills for residential and commercial customers in Wisconsin accommodating all costs.
258	10	280/280.02	None	None	None	Upon receipt of the application, Town of Vermont requests Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to ensure that the application evaluates the economic outcomes on directly affected local economies for the high voltage transmission option, the low voltage transmission option and the non-transmission options. We ask that application include analysis of total carbon emission impacts over time for the same energy investment options.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
258	11	111/111.02	None	None	None	Upon receipt of the application, Town of Vermont requests Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to ensure that the above application information be complete and fully accessible to all potentially impacted landowners, all municipal governments in all potentially impacted counties and state wide media outlets for all affected ratepayers at the same time Notice of Proceeding is made and before the public scoping process is initiated. 7. The Town of Vermont, Dane County, requests the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to record this document in the public record of Docket 05-CE-146 and to include it, in entirety, in the Appendixes of the state and federal Environment Impact Statements for this proposal
259	1	241/241	232/232.03	None	None	My sister and brother-in-law -Gary and Nancy Cox- bought their family's property in rural Vermont Township WI 21 years ago. Their 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below them- lie within the Driftless Area. They have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as they garden, doing all they can - as they respect and honor this unique area. Nancy is a visual artist and she has done countless paintings celebrating the beauty there.
259	2	260/260	None	None	None	Three ice ages have not threatened the Driftless Area. It is ironic that property owners there have this gorgeous and environmentally sensitive land threatened by ATC's proposal of huge ugly electric transmission powerlines.
259	3	245/245.04	None	None	None	But many besides property owners are concerned. Bikers use their roads as their routes.
259	4	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination.
259	5	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival.
259	6	243/243.02	None	None	None	The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, and yellow warbler.
259	7	243/243	None	None	None	Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here.
259	8	232/232.01	243/243.01	245/245.05	None	Clearing a path for the powerline through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries. Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York.
259	9	243/243.04	None	None	None	While fishing these creeks Gary often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species. Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
259	10	243/243.02	None	None	None	Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock. Migrating birds that use this area on their way through: scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, orioles, grosbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, indigo bunting.
259	11	241/241.03	None	None	None	Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work.
259	12	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	ask that an analysis be completed to determine 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. Please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.
259	13	280/ 281.0101	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	Decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market, proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards. See these lines as nothing but negative and am firmly opposed.
261	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	We are Madison residents who own 3 acres of land 5 miles northwest of Dodgeville (4790 Miess Rd. #5 [of 9]). As long-time admirers of the Driftless area, we had hoped to buy a place of our own someday, a retreat for our family and a place for our two growing sons to be in nature, climb a tree, shoot a bow and arrow, walk the dogs. Seven years ago, after an extensive search, we found a spot: 3 acres on a ridge, with a cabin, rock outcroppings and a sweet view across bucolic fields. Perfect for us. We are people of moderate means who scrimped and saved toward this goal; buying this modest place was a stretch for us, but a long-time dream for our family, so we did it. Finally, as of this past summer, we own it outright--just as we hear the news of the transmission line. Our rural retreat is literally fully contained in the blue line of the proposed northern route. That is not an exaggeration. If the transmission line is built, the 150-foot swath of easement would likely cut through our 3 acres that is a long north-south property. 15-story high 345-kilovolt lines would tower over our property and/or that of our neighbors. Imagine that. We have many small acreage neighbors on this ridge, along with a few farmers who have more land that they depend upon for their livelihood. That's more than 10 families in about a quarter square mile that would be negatively impacted. There would be nowhere to hide from the line, plus the visual sight and electric field that emanates from it in all directions. Our retreat and lifelong dream, as well as our investment, would quite literally disappear.
261	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	We ask that you investigate whether another high-voltage power line is necessary. Has ATC/ITC proven the need? Our understanding is that energy use in Wisconsin is flat.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
261	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	This power line would cut a 125 mile path through an area that won't be serviced directly, yet the people living in the shadows of these towers are the ones paying for them through increased electrical rates over the next thirty years. And this is the eighth rate-raising transmission line project in Wisconsin in a decade. High voltage transmission lines are about moving energy along great distances, more to the benefit of commercial utilities than to the citizens who live beneath the imposing interstate infrastructure.
261	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Our vote is for the other energy infrastructure model: local distributed energy, which is safer, less imposing, more democratic, and potentially more responsive to environmental concerns
261	5	245/245.05	245/245.04	None	None	Here is a list of assets in our own, immediate local environment that would be negatively impacted by a high voltage transmission line: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otter Creek, a renowned trout stream • Meiss Road is a popular bike route • The Dairyland Dare benefits 1,200 cyclists and the local economy
261	6	280/280.02	None	None	None	Dairy farms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meiss Organic Meat farm
261	7	245/245.03	None	None	None	Governor Dodge State Park
261	8	232/232.01	None	None	None	Blackhawk Lake
261	9	282/282.01	None	None	None	Innumerable native historical sites the whereabouts of which are already shrouded to protect them. Please contact the DNR and UW-Extension.
261	10	235/235	243/243.02	241/241	None	Amazing visuals: rock outcroppings, glens, hollows, coulees, hawks and eagles, rolling hills, prairie, woods
261	11	260/260	284/284	None	None	The bucolic view from our 3 acre plot over the pastures of our dairy farm neighbor. This line will upend the view, obscure the sounds with buzzing, and alter the peace of the unique, ancient beauty of the Driftless area. It's in everyone's interest to see that this natural place endures.
262	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Lack of need- Demand for electricity has gone down in recent years due to industrial/manufacturing companies leaving Wisconsin as well as decreased demand due to conservation efforts. We feel further long term studies should be completed to determine if a true need exists.
262	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	This letter is to comment on the new transmission line known as Cardinal Hickory Creek that is being proposed near our home. Since 2006, we have lived at this address: 5775 Foster Road, Blue Mounds, Wisconsin 53517.
262	3	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	Potential better alternatives- We feel if such a need is justified in the future, it makes sense to propose the route to be along Highway 18/151 where distribution power lines already exist. This also provides easier access to install and maintain the transmission line, which would cost less to complete. The 18/151 corridor would be a more prudent utility investment.
262	4	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	Proposed routes conflict with Wisconsin Siting Standards-State law clearly intends that transmission avoid unnecessary impacts to the environment including natural and cultural resources and that new routes be created only as a last resort. The proposed line routes conflict with this intent. More information is described in the PSC document found at: http://psc.wi.gov/thelibrary/publications/electric/electric10.pdf

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
262	5	244/244.01	241/241	260/260	None	Damage to vital conservation and natural resource areas- The proposed most northern route disturbs thousands of acres of farmland and forests, and would disrupt the scenic landscapes that are part of the historic area.
262	6	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	Negative economic impacts-The proposed transmission line would reduce property values, and stalls rural economic development. High voltage lines have a significant negative impact on property values.
262	7	244/244.01	None	None	None	Farm Impacts including Stray voltage and Electric and Magnetic Fields- According to the PSC report referenced and mentioned above: "The placement of transmission structures can cause the following agricultural impacts: a. Create problems for turning field machinery and maintaining efficient fieldwork patterns;
262	8	234/234.01	None	None	None	Increase soil erosion by requiring the removal of windbreaks that were planted along field edges or between fields;
262	9	241/241.03	None	None	None	Create opportunities for weed and other pest encroachment;
262	10	234/234.02	None	None	None	Compact soils and damage drain tiles;
262	11	244/244.01	250/250.08	None	None	Hinder or prevent aerial spraying or seeding activities by planes or helicopters;
262	12	244/244.01	244/244.04	None	None	Interfere with moving irrigation equipment. Hinder future consolidation of farm fields or subdividing land for residential development.
262	13	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	None	Stray voltage- "Stray voltage and its impacts on livestock and other confined animals have been studied in detail by state and federal agencies, universities, electric utilities, and numerous scientists since the late 1970s. The PSCW has opened investigations, encouraged the upgrade of rural distribution systems, established measurement protocols, and compiled a stray voltage database to track investigations, all in order to develop successful strategies for minimizing stray voltage in farm operations (http://psc.wi.gov/utilityInfo/electric/strayVoltage.htm). Over the decades, significant resources have been allocated to understand this issue. Electrical systems, including farm systems and utility distribution. "Items mentioned above from the report significantly concern us. We have agricultural backgrounds and are concerned for the nearby large farm operations, which there are a number of large dairy and farmland operations in the proposed northern corridor. There are thousands of acres of working farmland that would be destroyed by the construction of this power line. There have been studies that stray voltage has caused problems and the transmission lines also have been known to interfere with GPS systems used on tractors. This GPS technology is very expensive for farmers. The best solution is not to build a power line anywhere near a farm to alleviate these concerns including stray voltage potential.
262	14	120/121.03	None	None	None	We are most concerned that the northern most corridor would be the most expensive and not be a prudent utility investment. With the purchase of easements, and also the rugged terrain in remote territory, it doesn't make sense for this most northern route. This proposed route doesn't have easy access for installation or maintaining of the power lines. The proposed most northern route covers thousands of acres of unchartered territory, (compared to existing corridors Hwy 18/151).
262	15	507/507.05	None	None	None	We would like confirmation of this response and would appreciate updates to the proposal.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
262	16	283/283	None	None	None	Result in safety hazards due to pole and guy wire placement;
263	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I'm writing to oppose the construction of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line through the proposed northern corridor in Iowa County. If it's determined that the transmission line is in the public's best interest, and can be built without unduly burdening ratepayers or damaging the environment, the project's stakeholders should choose the southern corridor, along Route 18.
263	2	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	My family has had ties to Iowa County's Wyoming Valley - home of Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin school, and one of his first projects, Unity Chapel - for over 30 years. We operate a small vacation-home business about 3 miles from the proposed northern corridor, and the natural beauty of the surrounding area is one of our best marketing tools. We're not alone, either; numerous local artists, craftsmen, and farmers support themselves by catering to the tourists drawn to the region's rolling hills, open skies, and pristine farmland. Running massive above-ground power lines through the valley would damage and disrupt the beautiful landscape that's both our family legacy and our livelihood.
263	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	We understand that new transmission capacity is required to keep the grid running smoothly into the future. And as someone who's concerned about climate change, I can certainly appreciate the benefits of connecting Iowa's wind power to out-of-state demand. But Cardinal-Hickory Creek's stakeholders have a responsibility to choose the lowest-impact site for their project, and that's unquestionably the corridor along Route 18, where vehicle access is already in place and the landscape is already marred by a highway. Please make the right choice for Southern Wisconsin. Don't build in the northern corridor.
264	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am a homeowner in the Town of Clyde, WI. As a person who believes strongly in the necessity to decrease our energy dependence on centralized sources, I have installed a 4kW PV system on my roof. It is currently tied in to the utility grid, but I am also looking at new developing technology & protocols which allow distributed storage of excess PV energy which can later be drawn upon by the utility company (this is more than simply a battery for my own energy use). I have also assisted my mother in becoming a member of Legacy Solar Co-op, where she can help finance non-profits, businesses and individuals in installing solar in Dane County and surrounding area. I have some questions that I would like addressed, interspersed with my comments:
264	2	120/ 121.0301	280/280.02	None	None	Will the EIS conduct and include a comprehensive analysis of non-transmission alternatives such as accelerated energy efficiency, load management and development of local renewable power? Have you contacted renewable energy businesses in the affected counties for their input? 2. Will the EIS study the use of targeted energy efficiency, load management and community solar to prolong the lifespan of the smaller "reliability" transmission lines that the applicants have identified? 3. Will the EIS study and compare the impacts on local economies of the high voltage transmission line verses the impacts of accelerated spending on accelerated energy efficiency, load management tools and development of local renewable power?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
264	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	A case cannot be made for the need for the transmission line in the interests of energy security when the US Department of Defense itself is investing in renewable, dispersed storage energy. A case cannot be made for “public benefit” when the energy usage of the affected area has been decreasing over the last 10 years due to conservation and energy efficiency installations as well as renewable energy installations. A benefit of profitability for a company, even for a utility company, is not a public benefit when the customers end up paying the costs.
264	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	Will the EIS study the impact of increased utility rates on customers of the utility companies? We have already seen companies request rate increases many times because of “increased costs”, yet why should the customers be the ones to foot the cost of a poor business decision in the building of an underused, unneeded transmission line?
264	5	280/280.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	Have you or your colleagues determined the economic activities that are currently bringing in new revenue and growing the tax base in rural local economies in WI? I encourage you to look at the economic study funded by the Wisconsin Towns Association which found that the development of retirement housing in areas of natural beauty is a large driver of new revenue. hBp://bit.ly/WTA_Econ_Study6 . What impacts on local economies do you plan to evaluate? Will you compare local economic impacts on tourism from the high voltage transmission line and those from investments in energy efficiency and other non-transmission alternatives?
264	6	122/122.03	None	None	None	Have EIS researchers studied how energy dollars have been spent in Wisconsin in recent years? Are you aware that this transmission line would be the eight high capacity line added in 10 years? Are you aware that WI spends much less on energy efficiency compared to adjacent states, (under \$1 a month compared to 2-3 times this amount for MN, IL and MI) 8. Will the EIS conduct independent analysis for up to date load forecasts or rely on utility projections? If you plan to rely on utility data, please explain this choice. 9. To what extent will the EIS use field workers to collect actual, on site environmental and economic data?
264	7	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	To what extent will the EIS use field workers to collect actual, on site environmental and economic data? I have volunteered since 2014 surveying rare plants for the WI DNR Natural Heritage Inventory. I know other friends who have volunteered in grassland bird surveys and Dry Prairie habitat surveys. I can see that the current proposed route carefully avoids or circumscribes most State Natural Areas. However birds, insects, plants and animals do not restrict themselves to our artificial boundaries. Additionally, by having detrimental infrastructures near existing habitat, the increase and expansion of rare or endangered species is hampered.
264	8	245/245.03	243/243.04	None	None	One of the proposed routes cuts into Belmont Prairie SNA. Study the environmental impact of a high voltage transmission line on the grassland species, including the listed species Dickcissel, upland sandpiper, Bell's Vireo, and grasshopper sparrow.
264	9	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	Proposed routes will be easily visible from Military Ridge State Trail, Blackhawk Lake Recreation Area, and Governor Dodge State Park, all of which have been enjoyed by my family. Study the impact on recreational use of these areas, and it's associated economic impact of decreased use on the local communities.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
264	10	250/250.05	None	None	None	A transmission line has impacts beyond the construction period. What are the environmental impacts of methods of maintaining the line (e.g. controlling tree growth), or accessing off-road lines for repair during storm events?
264	11	283/283	244/244.02	None	None	The Barneveld area has suffered major tornado damage in the past. What is the likelihood of damage to the transmission line during a similar windstorm [sic]? If the line were damaged, what are the risks of injuries to nearby residents, or to their livestock?
264	12	111/111.02	232/232.05	None	None	Will the EIS consider, and request input from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, complete and appropriate environmental impacts on the Mississippi River Flyway, a major migratory route, which the proposed line will cross?
264	13	233/233.03	None	None	None	Will the EIS consider climate change and increased flooding (and consequent damage) on the infrastructure, especially as it crosses the Mississippi River?
264	14	283/283	None	None	None	The security of the grid is dependent on its vulnerable cyber network for management and control. Will the EIS study the ability of the infrastructure to preclude interruptions from cyber, Electro-Magnetic Pulse (EMP), or other actions resulting from manmade or natural disasters?
266	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am writing in strong opposition to the proposed American Transmission Co. plan to build a 125-mile powerline through the unique ecosystem of the Driftless Area of southwestern Wisconsin. My husband and I have been residents of this area for over thirty-three years and have a deep appreciation for the diversity and natural beauty of the region. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek powerline would have profound, negative environmental and economic impacts and is a costly, unnecessary waste of resources.
266	2	120/120.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	In my opinion, some of the reasons for not constructing this powerline include: 1) Lack of need in an era of declining or flat use of electrical power – The need for out-of-state electrical supply has not been shown. If an actual need is identified then an analysis should be conducted of non-transmission alternatives which have less damaging effects.
266	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	High cost of construction and maintenance – Wisconsin electrical ratepayers would be supporting construction and maintenance costs of the line for forty years with no direct benefit while profits go to the developers.
266	4	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	Negative economic impact on tourism, agriculture and property values – The transmission line would be supported by 17-story tall towers with a wide swath of clearance on either side of the line.
266	5	244/244.01	245/245.03	None	None	Environmental damage of conservation and agricultural lands, native heritage sites, state parks, and scenic landscapes.
266	6	243/243	243/243.02	None	None	Construction along the proposed routes would result in severe damage to environmentally and culturally sensitive areas, bird migration, fish and wildlife.
267	1	120/121.03	280/280.05	None	None	Springdale is located in Dane County, Wisconsin, and would be directly affected by the proposed southern route through Iowa and Dane Counties as it heads north to the Village of Cross Plains. We would like to take this opportunity to tell you about the considerable environmental assets that exist within and adjacent to our town, and about the shared commitment of our residents to preserving the rural character of Springdale. This rural character would be irreparably damaged by the proposed transmission line.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
267	2	244/244	510/510	None	None	<p>The Town of Springdale has an existing Land Use Plan, adopted in March of 2002, which reflects the values and goals of our citizens and is intended to preserve the rural character of our town. Through consensus and compromise, the volunteer leadership and citizens of Springdale developed a Land Use Plan (attached) that reflects our core values. This plan provides guidelines to the local Town government from its citizens regarding how land use decisions should be made. The Springdale Plan Commission continues to make their land use decisions based on this document today. The most significant shared value we were able to agree upon is that we wish to preserve the rural character of Springdale. We encourage you to appreciate the strong emotions that questions of land use engender in a rural municipality. A variety of perspectives on property rights and appropriate land use must be considered and accommodated. The development of our Land Use Plan was a long and sometimes contentious process that involved thousands of volunteer hours, along with input from a great number of our citizens. Two drafts were disseminated, with public comments encouraged. During the eleven-month period from May 2001 to March 2002, the Town conducted 10 information meetings, 30 citizen committee work sessions, three Plan Commission work sessions with the citizen committees, two public input sessions, and one public hearing. When the Springdale Land Use Plan went before the Dane County Board of Supervisors for approval, the plan was praised for its innovative approach and incorporation of conservation subdivisions. Dane County Supervisor John Hendrick said, "In some ways, this (plan) may be the best plan that's ever come to this board. This is one of the few land use plans in Dane County that will be enforced primarily by land division ordinance. And that's innovative." [For more background information on the County Board response to the Springdale Land Use Plan, see the attached article from the Mount Horeb Mail.] The Springdale Land Use Plan has these stated objectives, among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To preserve the agricultural land, open spaces, and other natural resources of a rural town • To respect environmentally sensitive areas and culturally significant sites • And to prohibit large commercial development and industrial development.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
267	3	260/260	110/ 110.0408	244/244	None	<p>The Land Use Plan for the Town of Springdale includes specific provisions to protect the visual landscape.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Land Use Plan contains provisions that prevent development on the highest points in our varied topography. For homes that require a Certified Survey Map, the Town asks that new homes be built so that they blend into the landscape as much as possible. Residential developments must be built off of farmland and in less obtrusive sites. • Given our varied typography, characterized by rolling hills, forests, wetlands, and rich farmland, a 345 kV transmission line would directly conflict with the Town's Land Use Plan. A high-voltage line would be visible for miles from many vantage points—hardly blending in with the landscape as our Land Use Plan requires of new structures. • Previous Environmental Impact Studies we have seen define “affected households” as those that are within either 150 feet or 300 feet of the proposed transmission line. We encourage you to consider the fact that the visual impact of transmission towers and lines extends significantly beyond that distance in environmentally rich, rural areas such as the Town of Springdale, where our topography includes rolling hills, forests, wetlands, and rich farmland. Neither 150 feet nor 300 feet seem to be adequate measures for capturing the impact on our visual landscape.
267	4	282/282	110/ 110.0408	None	None	<p>The Land Use Plan for the Town of Springdale has provisions to preserve and protect the unique and irreplaceable culturally significant sites found in the town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culturally significant sites include—but are not limited to—the First Norwegian Church Cemetery and Monument to the early Norwegian settlers, and a century-old, historically significant farmhouse. The Town also contains other archaeological and historic assets.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
267	5	232/232.06	232/232.04	None	None	<p>We are concerned about the impact of a 345kV transmission line on the environmental assets within the Upper Sugar River Headwaters and Watershed, as well as the impact on agricultural producers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Upper Sugar River Watershed, with a drainage area of approximately 170 square miles (109,404 acres) and 115 stream miles, is located in Dane County in southern Wisconsin. It is rich in resources, including fisheries, wildlife habitat (including rare and endangered species), native plant communities (many in decline), and recreational opportunities. The Upper Sugar River wetlands, and the headwaters, could be directly affected by the proposed transmission line. • The Upper Sugar River Watershed Association (USRWA) is a grassroots organization that provides leadership for continuous resource improvement through strategic partnerships that benefit the watershed's land, water, and people. In 2016, USRWA received funding from the Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection to form a farmer-led coalition focusing on water quality. The Upper Sugar River Producer Coalition is targeting the Headwaters Sugar River and West Branch Sugar River watersheds, which are both impaired due to excess phosphorus loading. The mission of the Producer Coalition is to "ensure the future of agriculture by being responsible stewards of the land and water quality in the Upper Sugar River Watershed." The coalition plans to promote and incentivize conservation practices among agricultural producers, in order to address the problem of agricultural runoff and its impact on water quality in the Sugar River Watershed. http://usrwa.org/farmers/
267	6	243/243.02	None	None	None	<p>The sandhill cranes have been observed to travel up and down the Sugar River valley daily, and this daily migration could bring the cranes directly into the path of the proposed transmission line. Possible destruction of the area's sandhill crane population in collisions with lines should also be considered when evaluating the impact of the proposed transmission line on wildlife. This is a particular concern in the Sugar River valley, where the sandhill cranes are a visible and much-beloved part of the natural environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagles have also been observed feeding in the Sugar River Valley in the winter months on a regular basis. • In addition to sandhill cranes and eagles, the area provides habitat to a great many other species of wild birds. On a single day in May, 2016, one Springdale resident counted a total of 18 bird species visiting his feeders. Migratory birds that travel through our town include ruby-throated hummingbirds, cedar waxwings, and several species of warblers. The presence of transmission lines presents a threat to this rich and varied bird population due to the impact of collisions with the lines.
267	7	232/232.03	241/241.03	None	None	<p>Construction of a transmission line may cause significant damage to the Sugar River wetlands, including the natural springs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction work is likely to introduce invasive species into the Sugar River wetlands.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
267	8	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	<p>We are concerned about the impact of the proposed transmission line on the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area, which is located immediately to the south of the proposed transmission line that runs through the Town of Springdale.</p> <p>http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Lands/grasslands/swgrassland.html http://swgsca.org/</p> <p>Southwestern Wisconsin has been recognized for many years as one of the best grassland conservation opportunities in the Upper Midwest. The area stands out for its distinctive combination of resources: exceptional populations of grassland birds, which are in serious decline across their range; many scattered remnants of the area's original prairie and savanna that once covered the region; concentrations of rare plants and animals, and spring-fed streams, all set within this expansive rural farming region of open fields, croplands, oak groves, and pastures. These disappearing habitats, bird populations, and varied natural assets merit protection and would be threatened by the proposed transmission line.</p>
267	9	245/245.02	280/280.02	None	None	<p>We are concerned about the impact of the proposed transmission line on the aesthetic appeal, popularity, and use of the Military Ridge State Trail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 40-mile Military Ridge State Trail is one of South Central Wisconsin's top tourist attractions, and is part of the Aldo Leopold Legacy Trail System. It also crosses the Ice Age National Scenic Trail. The trail passes by agricultural lands, woods, wetlands, and prairies. Several observation platforms are available adjacent to the trail for viewing wildlife, natural springs, and other natural features. • The Military Ridge State Trail is used by more than 200,000 people per year (Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 2004). Every Chamber of Commerce along the trail, including Mount Horeb, features the Trail prominently in literature for visitors. The Military Ridge State Trail is also featured in numerous recreational guide books and Web sites, and is widely recognized as a haven for recreational bicyclists. All of these mentions extol the trail for its environmental virtues. • The economic impact of the Military Ridge State Trail on the stores, restaurants, lodging and other businesses along its path is likely to be considerable. • The Trail provides visitors with an opportunity to experience the rural landscape, including the asset-rich Sugar River Valley—an experience that will be forever altered by the presence of the 345kV transmission line. We believe that the proposed power line would lessen the appeal of the Military Ridge State Trail as a destination. This, in turn, is likely to have a negative economic impact on the communities along the Trail, all of which serve Trail visitors with shopping, restaurants, lodging, and other services
267	10	280/280.02	244/244.01	260/260	None	<p>In summary, we believe that the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line would do irreversible damage to the environmental, economic, and culturally significant assets within and adjacent to the Town of Springdale. This extraordinary collection of diverse assets should be preserved, for the benefit of our economy, our agricultural producers, our citizens, and the visitors who come here to appreciate the aesthetic beauty of rural lands.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
268	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	We oppose the lines in general – in our view, ATC and the power industry as a whole have failed to establish the need for the massive lines being built across the upper Midwest – but if a line ultimately is built in this region, we feel it should be built in an area already scarred by a massive infrastructure undertaking, i.e., the Highway 18-151 corridor. The power industry has exhibited an unwillingness to think outside the box to create a power grid that is LESS centralized and as such less vulnerable to seismic and climatic events, not to mention terrorism.
268	2	122/122.01	120/121.03	None	None	The figure we have seen is that these lines are designed to last roughly 40 years: Who knows what technological advances will occur with respect to power consumption and distribution over the next four decades? Will homes have their own battery and generation systems? Almost assuredly. Just think of what has happened to technology in general over the past four decades. In 1977, computers barely existed: now we carry computers around in our pockets that are a million times more powerful than those first desktop models. It appears to us that the power industry in building these lines is essentially locking us all into technology that could very soon be obsolete, all in the name of shareholder profits. In so doing, it will essentially stifle innovation, which is already in short supply thanks to a profit-driven power industry. In our opinion, this money would be much better spent on creating solar and wind systems and other alternative technologies that would supplement conventional power generation, as well as improving our current distribution system.
268	3	243/243.02	243/243.01	None	None	more and more, eagles are nesting in our area. We now see them year-round in the Black Earth and Vermont valleys. I wonder what an endless column of ridiculously large power lines would mean to these birds, or to the elegant sandhill cranes that have also rebounded here in recent years. These are just examples; countless other species are re-establishing to join our existing flora and fauna in western Dane County and along the protected riverway.
268	4	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	This area relies to a great extent on tourism, and a line of massive power towers will do nothing to enhance its natural beauty.
268	5	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	We ask that alternatives be thoroughly explored.
268	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	If this thing goes through, especially through an area that currently is rural and essentially pristine, the entire region will face declining property values and a damaged tourism industry, not to mention higher monthly bills for ratepayers for decades to come. All this would be despite the fact that supply currently exceeds demand in Wisconsin, thanks to improved efficiency and individual generation systems. It makes no sense, and appears to benefit only those who want to build it.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
269	1	280/280.05	243/243.01	241/241	None	My friends-Gary and Nancy Cox- bought their family's property in rural Vermont Township W1 21 years ago. Their 40 acres - which includes the only upland nesting cover for the wetland below them- lie within the Driftless Area. They have been stewarding it very carefully; establishing native prairie, using organic methods as they garden, doing all they can - as they respect and honor this beautiful and pristine area. Gary and Nancy are unique among our friends in their commitment to maintaining the native ecosystems and working within those systems to create a sustainable lifestyle that is fully integrated with their natural resources and surroundings. They are seeking to "leave no trace" in as much of their daily living as possible while maintaining successful careers as independent and locally known artisans.
269	2	235/235	None	None	None	They live in an area of our geographic region that has remained untouched by three ice ages. It is considered a Driftless area, and ecologically critical to the history of the land. While on one of our many hikes there over the years I have had the opportunity to discover samples of unglaciated rocks and plant life that cannot be found in any other region of this country. As a teacher of earth sciences, this rich source of still living land history is a valuable resource when teaching children about the land history of the Midwest region.
269	3	280/280.05	284/284	None	None	When companies such as ATC consider the mass removal of and/or intrusion upon these areas, they impact the education of countless generations of children who will not be able to experience the natural richness of the land they live on. In fact, they will only be driven further inside to seek a two-dimensional, computer generated image of what they once could have experienced firsthand. Ironically, they would be at less risk inside at that point due to the radiowave transmissions and noise pollution they would be exposed to in a region overtaken by a proposition such as yours.
269	4	245/245.04	None	None	None	Bikers use these roads as their routes.
269	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism is growing, it's becoming an increasingly important driver of economic growth. Transmission towers and lines that disrupt the scenic landscapes and parks will negatively impact the desirability of this area as a tourist destination. The ability to "escape to Wisconsin" so touted by the state board of tourism will be negatively impacted and those who seek the quiet and uniqueness of areas such as the one you are considering will be forced to take their tourism dollars, as well as their stories, elsewhere.
269	6	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	I am concerned about the impact the construction and maintenance of the power line will have on the cold water fisheries and surrounding wetlands of the proposed route. East Branch of Blue Mounds, Elvers Creek and Vermont Creek and other small tributaries would be affected. Wisconsin DNR has put in a considerable amount of time and taxpayer money improving these streams in recent years which shows the state's valuation of this resource. Native brook trout and planted rainbows and browns depend on these sensitive cold water streams for survival.
269	7	243/243.02	232/232.03	None	None	The surrounding wetlands are extensive and home to a variety of birds like wood ducks, mallards, sandhill cranes, shorebirds, kingfisher, yellow warbler.
269	8	243/243	None	None	None	Mammals like mink, beaver, muskrats, fox and weasels are frequently seen here.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
269	9	243/243.01	None	None	None	Clearing a path for the powerline through the nearby upland woods could easily cause excessive runoff to these streams and be detrimental to the fish that live there and the fish in Black Earth Creek that are fed by these smaller tributaries.
269	10	245/245.05	None	None	None	Black Earth Creek is a major tourist draw for the area bringing in anglers from the Midwest, Montana, California, Pennsylvania and New York. Growing up in a fishing, hiking, and hunting family, I cannot express enough how those experiences enriched and formed me as a child. To take these opportunities away from children and adults alike for the sake of capital convenience is highly irresponsible and unnecessary.
269	11	120/121.03	None	None	None	There are other less ecologically sensitive areas under consideration for your route which should be considered as wiser and more responsible choices for your proposal.
269	12	243/243.04	None	None	None	In addition to the concerns listed above, let me share with the different examples of native wildlife Gary has been able to share with us during our many visits to their land. While fishing these creeks Gary often sees insects like Karner Blue and Regal Fritillary that are an endangered species. The surrounding open meadows host Least Flycatcher, Red-tailed Hawk, turkey, pheasant, and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Reptiles like endangered frogs and turtles are likely present here also.
269	13	243/243.02	None	None	None	Surrounding woods are home to Great Horned Owl, grey owls, pileated woodpecker, grouse Red-headed Woodpecker, Loggerhead Shrike and American Woodcock. Migrating birds that use this area on their way through include scarlet tanager, cerulean warbler, orioles, grosbeak, Prothonotary Warbler, and indigo bunting.
269	14	241/241.03	243/243	None	None	Another area of concern to these fragile ecosystems is the possibility of the introduction of invasive species during the construction phase and subsequent maintenance work. Although this may seem insignificant, I ask you to consider the significant impact of recent non-native species that have traveled into our regions including, zebra mussels, Asian carp, certain species of bees, and plant life such as glossy and common buckthorn, loosestrife, garlic mustard, and giant hogweed that aggressively overtake the land, destroying the natural flora and fauna of the region.
269	15	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I ask that an analysis be completed to determine 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. In a day and age where it is becoming increasingly important to sustain, rather than breakdown local habitats, I ask that you would please consider less damaging alternatives such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines or routing lines outside the Driftless Area to satisfy any genuine energy demand.
269	16	280/ 281.0101	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	Your current proposals have the following immediate and long-lasting effect on the area you are considering for your power lines: decreased property value, higher monthly bills for rate payers for years to come, lack of need-supply exceeds demand in the WI electrical power market and the fact that your proposed routes conflict with WI Siting Standards.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
271	1	511/511	122/122	None	None	During the 1950's and 1960's a significant amount of research was done in the Wisconsin, Iowa County, Town of Arena concerning the understanding of the impact of environment on diseases of humans and animals and the role of insects in transmitting diseases. It was there that basic understanding of the role of mosquitos in the perpetuation of the La Crosse virus (the cause of encephalitis in humans and animals) was determined. It is clear that the natural habitat of that region provided the "laboratory" for the significant studies that lead to the understanding of the mechanisms for the maintenance and spread of the La Crosse virus. While similar studies have not been done in that area in recent years, it remains that it has the potential for helping to understand the mechanisms for the maintenance and spread of emerging diseases such as those that are caused by Zika and West Nile viruses. The University of Wisconsin Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine and other university units have ongoing research on those and similar viruses and the diseases that they cause. It seems likely that the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project would have a negative impact on the environment of the area for the potential for future studies on how do environmental factors affect the host-virus relationship and the resulting human and animal diseases.
272	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We live at 7725 Sweeney Rd Barneveld WI and we're very concerned about the possibility of having a powerline placed on our 250 acre family property. Our family has owned the property since 1964 and it is the central homestead for two families and our decedents. My father was Aldo Leopold's last PHD graduate student and a Professor of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. When he purchased the property in 1964, his vision was to turn a run-down over grazed and eroded dairy farm back into a vibrant productive ecosystem. That vision has succeeded immensely. Before Dad passed in 1993, he taught our family and so many others how important it is to nurture land back to its predevelopment state so future generations can experience nature. He was extremely proud of its natural biodiverse condition just as we are. Over the years, our family has worked many thousands of hours to maintain the health and biodiversity of our property.
272	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	We manage the property for timber production under the forest crop program and for biodiversity. The property was awarded the Tree Farmer of the Year award by the Iowa County Land Conservation Committee in 2002. The property includes two restored prairies on our ridge tops that we burn on an annual basis to maintain them.
272	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	The area located between the timber and prairie is managed for oak opening and Red-headed Woodpecker habitat. We have been very successful in attracting and re-establishing a resident Red-headed Woodpecker population. We are very concerned with the thought of a 150' wide swath of mowed vegetation going through our property that we have managed for timber, prairie propagation, and oak savanna restoration along with successful Red-headed Woodpecker habitat restoration.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
272	4	243/243.04	243/243.01	None	None	The DNR has identified our property as home to the Blanding's Turtle, Blanchard's Cricket Frog, Ornate Box Turtle, Bull snakes and endangered Purple Milkweed. We have four young men in the family that have all gone to UW Stevens Point majoring in the natural sciences and two of them are currently employed by the DNR in Dane and Iowa Counties. They are also very concerned about the environmental impact of the mowing and de-vegetating for a powerline in a known habitat for endanger or threatened species.
272	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	We strongly endorse the idea holding off on the line and if it must be placed doing so in existing utility corridors.
272	6	241/241	241/241.02	None	None	<p>Below is a partial list of trees, shrubs, vines, ferns, prairie wildflowers and woodland wildflower species found on our property.</p> <p>Trees: Red oak, White oak, Black oak, Burr oak, American elm, Red elm, Black cherry, Choke cherry, Black walnut, Butternut, Shagbark hickory, Cottonwood, Trembling aspen, Large-toothed aspen, Balsam poplar, Silver maple, Box elder, Mulberry, White pine, Red pine, White spruce, Junipers, Green ash, Apple trees, Wild plum, Juneberry, White birch, Sycamore, Tamarack, Red maple, Basswood, Willow and Honey locust.</p> <p>Shrubs & Vines: American hazel, Prickly ash, Grey dogwood, Silky dogwood, Elderberry, Buckthorn, New Jersey tea, Willow, Blackberry, Black raspberry, Red raspberry, Smooth sumac, Nannyberry, Witch hazel, Wild grape and Virginia creeper.</p> <p>Ferns: Interrupted fern, Virginia grape fern, Cut leaf fern, Leather leafed grape fern, Maidenhair fern, Polypody fern, Florists fern and Lady fern.</p> <p>Prairie Wildflowers and Grasses: Blazing star, Rough blazing star, Hoary puccoon, Smooth vervain, Oldfield thistle, 5 varieties of Aster, Prairie bush clover, Bluebonnets, Pink Prairie phlox, Cup plant, Compass plant, Rosinweed, Prairie dock, Ironweed, Purple prairie clover, White prairie clover, Showy and stiff goldenrods, Dwyers weed, Rattlesnake master, Indian Paintbrush, Purple milkweed, Birdsfoot violet, Seneca snakeroot, Turks cap lily and Large white flowered false indigo. Little bluestem grass, Big bluestem grass, Prairie drop seed, Switchgrass, Indian grass, Cord grass and Pennsylvania sedge.</p> <p>Woodland Wildflowers: Jacob's ladder, Rue anemone, Jack-in-the-pulpit, Common blue violet, Yellow violet, May apple, Red baneberry, White baneberry, Wild leek, Wild geranium, Bellwort, Trilliums (6 species), Spring beauty, Bloodroot, Hepatica, Indian pipe, Trout lily, Wild phlox, Large yellow lady slipper, Rattlesnake plantain, Adam and Eve orchid, and Showy orchis [sic].</p>
273	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	The CHC project, and others like it, jeopardize energy security by narrowing power supply to fewer and fewer "players". Likewise consumer choice and diversity is restricted. There is no tangible benefit to residents along the line, and indeed, we will probably bear much of the cost for CHC. And worse still is the environmental destruction of our unique region and the deflated property values that will accompany.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
274	1	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • In the past seven years Wisconsin electric rates have gone from the 2nd lowest in the Midwest to the highest. • 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." • 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. • 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.
274	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	<p>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.</p>
274	3	280/280.02	245/245.03	None	None	<p>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.</p>
274	4	260/260	None	None	None	<p>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.</p>
274	5	241/241	None	None	None	<p>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.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
274	6	122/122.01	None	None	None	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.
274	7	235/235	None	None	None	The Driftless Area is a unique landscape, having escaped the glaciers. Its bedrock is 480 million years old; it's [sic] deep ravines and high bluff cut by wind and water.
274	8	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	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.
274	9	120/121.03	None	None	None	There are better and cheaper alternatives.
274	10	120/120.01	None	None	None	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 backup, 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.
274	11	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
275	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	We live in the area that will be effected by this project. It may even want to cross our property. We do not want this on our property.
275	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	We farm the land and this would disrupt everything, besides ruining the view our [sic] beautiful countryside.
275	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	We do not see the need for this and we have solar panels that work wonderful and do not spoil the countryside. Study that and wind power. All the states around us are using windmills and are increasing usage of them. Clean energy!!!
275	4	280/280	None	None	None	This could affect us financially also.
276	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	Deer Valley Lodge and Golf sits on nearly 400 acres and includes a 62 room hotel, 12,000 square foot indoor waterpark, large banquet facility, business meeting space, 27-hole golf course, golf practice range and 18 hole foot golf course. The golf course has been in operation since 1999 and the hotel complex since 2006. We have spent over 18 years building this business. Our main calling card is definitely the beautiful landscape of SW Wisconsin and the breathtaking views are what we are known for. With over 60,000 visitors annually (hotel guests, wedding events, business meetings, golfers and footgolfers), our concern is the negative impact on our business due to the visual impact of the lines as well as the loss of a certain level of serenity that draws our guests to the property
276	2	260/260	284/284	None	None	We are also concerned that many families and children would not want to play on our foot golf course, which would lie in the shadow of the towers and experience the "hum" of the lines.
277	1	235/235	None	None	None	I wish to state my opposition to the proposed transmission lines. I live in the Driftless area and am constantly aware of how unique this area is geologically.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
277	2	120/120.02	280/280.05	None	None	This proposal would destroy so many elements of this special place. Others have written to you and stated the detailed reasons that we feel this is totally unnecessary and destructive.
278	1	280/280.05	120/120.02	None	None	I am writing as a property owner in both Iowa and Dane Counties to encourage you to drop your plans for a new power line in the Midwest's most bio-diverse region. They are not wanted or needed. Instead, they threaten the very essence of the most important natural features and cultural elements that make the Driftless Area so important.
278	2	260/260	243/243	241/241	None	I specifically purchased land in Iowa County because of its natural beauty, the biological diversity of the flora, fauna and animals who dwell there, in addition to the rich cultural heritage of the area. Your power lines are not wanted by those of us whom it would most impact, and we beg of you to reconsider.
278	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	As you are fully aware, there is not a demonstrated need for what you propose, there are much better alternatives for energy sources should we need them, and simply put, there is little interest in having ATC transmission lines wreck the land we are all trying to protect.
278	4	260/260	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	I am an avid cyclist who spends hours riding the roads in arguably the country's best landscape. There is no better place to hike, ride or explore nature than right here in the unspoiled beauty of the Driftless Region. Aside from the many reasons your proposal is unsound at best environmentally, I am very much interested in preserving the natural beauty and character of the area, which believe it or not, is what helps make the region attractive to tourists! Yes, your proposal will definitely damage the economy in ways you haven't even predicted. There is a thriving cultural community of artists, woodworkers and craftspeople, who work in this area BECAUSE of the natural beauty. There is a very strong cultural scene which is known throughout the midwest, but which would be permanently damaged because of your proposed project, which will be UGLY and uninviting, and will permanently mar the landscape that we need for our work.
278	5	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	I am also an avid gardner [sic], farmer and beekeeper, and I have major concerns about the way your proposals will permanently change the dynamic bioregion that fuels the local economy, and upset the natural balance of diversity we're fortunate enough to have in Iowa County. There have been recent marten sightings on our land, and black bear sightings just down the street, not to mention the vast array of plants and animals that call our land home.
278	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	For those of us who have chosen to settle in Iowa County, it is because of its strong environmental legacy, just a stone's throw from Aldo Leopold's Shack, and the amazing microclimates within the midwest.
279	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	We own a parcel of 80 acres of mostly wooded property on 5555 Korbback Road, Spring Green, WI 53588, and we have built our retirement home at this location. Our property is close to the Pleasant Ridge area, and adjacent to one of the possible corridors for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) transmission line project.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
279	2	235/235	241/241.01	243/243	None	We are deeply concerned about the CHC project, not just because it would directly and negatively affect our property, but because the project is proposed to be installed in an environmentally particularly sensitive region in the Midwest, the “Driftless Region” between Madison and the Mississippi river. This region is unique because it was bypassed by the last Ice Age, and hence, is characterized by many geographical and biological features that cannot be found elsewhere: These include sandstone and lime rock formations or even “mini-canyons”, unique vegetation with remainders of oak-savannah and a few native stands of white pine, and a variety of native fauna, some unique to the area.
279	3	282/282.02	None	None	None	The area also is dotted with pre-Columbian remainders of the native Indian population, such as rock-paintings and burial mounds.
279	4	260/260	None	None	None	Needless to say, the land has substantial aesthetic and touristic appeal.
279	5	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	It appears that the economic justification for the CHC line is not convincingly documented, and that the preliminary plans for CHC corridors do violate the irreplaceable environmental values of the Driftless Region in Southwestern Wisconsin. We hope that permission to proceed with the current CHC plans will be denied.
280	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	The power lines you propose are not wanted by those of us whom it would most impact. We ask that you please reconsider. There is no demonstrated need for what you propose and there are far better alternatives for energy sources should we need them. Simply put, there is little interest in having ATC transmission lines wreck the land we are all trying to protect.
280	2	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	Aside from the many reasons your proposal is unsound at best environmentally, I am very much interested in preserving the natural beauty and character of the area, which believe it or not, is what helps make the region attractive to tourists! Yes, your proposal will definitely damage the economy in ways you haven't even predicted. There is a thriving cultural community of artists, woodworkers, and craftspeople, who work in this area BECAUSE of the natural beauty. There is a very strong cultural scene which is known throughout the midwest, but which would be permanently damaged because of your proposed project, which will be UGLY and uninviting, and will permanently mar the landscape that we need for our work.
280	3	241/241	243/243	None	None	As an avid gardener, farmer and beekeeper, and I have major concerns about the way your proposals will permanently change the dynamic bioregion that fuels the local economy, and upset the natural balance of diversity we're fortunate enough to have in Iowa County. There have been recent marten sightings on our land, and black bear sightings just down the street, not to mention the vast array of plants and animals that call our land home. For those of us who have chosen to settle in Iowa County, it is because of its strong environmental legacy, just a stone's throw from Aldo Leopold's shack, and because of the amazing microclimates within the Driftless region, that are the envy of the entire midwest. Please stop what you are doing, reconsider your plans and consider the lives of every species who will be forever impacted by this horrendous option. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
281	1	260/260	None	None	None	If you look at the proposed corridor, the Springdale Lutheran Church is located at the end our driveway, which is 70 ft. from our property. We cannot even think of having this powerline within viewing sight of this church. This historical church along with our house which was built in 1904 cannot and should not be subject to powerline polls which can reach 150 ft. or greater.
281	2	244/244.02	None	None	None	Throughout the existence of this property, a dairy operation has been present. Based on conversation with other dairy operations, your proposed transmission line is their biggest fear. At no time, is it a positive to have this type of electric power system be an everyday burden on animals, the family living and working on the farm along with the potential for decreased production or increased health issues.
281	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	Opposition is very strong, not only with Windy Ridge Farm Inc. but also all property owners within or remotely close to the proposed corridor. You have stated this project is considered a "Multi-Value Project" for delivering multiple benefits to electric customers across the Midwest Region. Our question is who's benefit are you really speaking of? Energy sources will be increasing from additional coal, gas and oil production, which will benefit our area. This line will only benefit consumers outside of our region!!
281	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Finally, based on conversations with other property owners, we have yet to hear anyone feel they have been fully compensated for their land, view, and future value of the land. It has been documented, once the lines are in place, value of your property decreased 13 to 20%. In the case of Windy Ridge Farm Inc. the decrease in value is greater than 13 to 20% based on the historical site of the house and church. We all agree, if there is a new business venture or possible sale of the property, we would suffer a substantial decrease in the value of land and buildings. At present, Windy Ridge Farm Inc. has 5 additional building site splits available for sale. If this powerline would be built, there is a very strong possibility none of these sites would be purchased.
282	1	283/283	244/244.02	None	None	I want to stand for the heart and soul of this special piece of the country, how the original land calls artists, writers, musicians to create and thrive. Yes, there is the worry of electric towers causing cancer, the possibility of stray voltage disturbing livestock, but I ask, "What of the heart and soul of the peace and natural beauty of our home?"
282	2	260/260	None	None	None	If you live in Iowa County, Wisconsin, unless you have stock in Cardinal Hickory Creek, how does this project benefit you? Ugly towers scarring the beautiful hills, valleys, woods, prairies, pastures, lush crop rows; will we lose our hearts to wires?
282	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	You will not receive power from these giant towers, but you will pay, for many years, to the power company to have them here. Why? So a few will be paid by us, we who will not use the power, for many years.
282	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	At the original meeting at the Dodgeville Bowl, over two years ago, I asked a dapper representative of the company how one or two of these towers on my 22 acres would affect the value of my property. He turned away with a wry smile and shrugged.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
283	1	241/241	232/232	243/243.01	None	Thank you for this opportunity to submit comments on the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Power Transmission Line as SWCA prepares its EIS. The Nature Conservancy in Wisconsin has concerns with the potential impact the infrastructure of a new power line could have on important conservation lands in Southwest Wisconsin. Since 1964, the Conservancy's Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA), located in Dane, Iowa and Green counties, and has ensured the protection of high value conservation lands and their corresponding plant and animal species. The area contains more than 100 small prairie remnants on ridgetops too rocky to plow, representing one of the highest concentrations of native grasslands in the Midwest. It also contains the headwaters of the Pecatonica and Sugar rivers and many high-quality trout streams. Military Ridge is one of three focus areas in a larger project called the Southwest Wisconsin Grassland and Stream Conservation Area (SWGSCA).
283	2	243/243.04	243/243.02	None	None	The agricultural history of this area made it possible for plants and animals like the regal fritillary butterfly, or grassland birds such as the bobolink, upland sandpiper and grasshopper sparrow which have disappeared in more developed parts of the Midwest, to survive.
283	3	241/241	None	None	None	Residential development, especially on ridge tops; invasive species and incompatible land management have taken a toll on grasslands and streams in the SWGSCA.
284	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	There are potential environmental and economic impacts to the future of our community, and thus we propose limiting the route being built within the Village as well as in areas of planned future growth.
284	2	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	Our largest economic concern is the potential route on the southwest side of the Village, creeping into the area recently added to our comprehensive plan for a future business park. We are already in negotiations with landowners to develop the area. The proposed lines would affect property values and market values as well as interest from developers. Not only could the physical location of the poles and wires affect how the business park can be developed, but the aesthetic degradation would be detrimental.
284	3	232/232	243/243.02	244/244.01	None	Mount Horeb sits within the Upper Sugar River Watershed. This watershed is an important resource for wildlife (Sandhill cranes and eagles), agriculture, and recreational activities (trout fishing and Military Ridge Bike Trail). Disruptions to the watershed would have a negative impact on a pristine area. The diverse and sensitive nature of this area should be protected.
285	1	507/507.02	None	None	None	You may use my email address to notify me when the draft statement is available.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
285	2	120/121.0301	None	None	None	I examined the letter to EIS staff at Rural Utility Service from local governments and environmental groups requesting that non-transmission alternatives be thoroughly studied to including energy efficiency, modern load management and use of community solar to prolong the life span of transmission facilities. I take this opportunity to reinforce this request, personally, because I am 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.
286	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	I am a farmer in Iowa County, and our family farm and home is near the route of the proposed transmission line.
286	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	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?
286	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	How would such a line impact property values, especially those less than 5 miles from the proposed route?
286	4	244/244.02	None	None	None	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.
286	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	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.
286	6	243/243.04	243/243.01	None	None	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?
286	7	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	I would like to see details on alternatives such as local power generation or upgrading existing lines considered
286	8	120/120.02	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
287	1	120/120.01	None	None	None	<p>The Cardinal Hickory Creek Project is part of a portfolio of multi-value projects (“MVPs”) in the Midcontinent Independent Transmission System Operator (“MISO”) footprint, which includes Iowa and Wisconsin. MVPs were identified by MISO to, among other things, accommodate the Renewable Energy Standards (“RESs”) adopted by many states, including 11 MISO states in the upper Midwest. 1 MISO’s 2014 analysis of the MVP portfolio found that “the MVP Portfolio enables a total of 43 million [megawatt hours] of renewable energy to meet the renewable energy mandates through 2028.” 2 Many resources in the MISO footprint require adequate transmission facilities to deliver energy to where it is needed. Some of the best wind resources are located in more sparsely populated areas that require sufficient transmission facilities, such as the Cardinal Hickory Creek Project, to deliver that wind power. The MISO interconnection queue currently includes thousands of megawatts (“MW”) of proposed wind projects that are in various stages of development and many of them are in the region that the Cardinal Hickory Creek Project will serve. As of April 2016, 1,031 MWs of wind in the MISO interconnection queue had a requirement of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line in their Generator Interconnection Agreements. A significant amount of new wind and solar projects have entered the MISO queue since mid-2016. Subsequent interconnection studies assume the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line is in service and 1 The MISO portfolio of MVP transmission lines by their very definition, provide multiple benefits including enhancing regional reliability, reducing congestion, interconnecting and delivering renewable energy to satisfy state public policy goals and requirements, and providing access to cost effective resources creating an efficient wholesale energy market across the MISO footprint. 2 MISO MTEP 2014 MVP Triennial Review (September 2014) at 24, available at: https://www.misoenergy.org/_layouts/MISO/ECM/Redirect.aspx?ID=185222 2 include it in the MISO study model. Therefore, the Cardinal Hickory Creek Project will allow needed wind projects like those currently in MISO’s queue to move forward and will increase the amount of wind energy available for states to meet existing RESs. Without the Cardinal Hickory Creek line, alternative transmission upgrades would be needed to accommodate the interconnection of the growing amount of new renewables that are in the MISO queue.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
287	2	233/233.02	233/233.03	122/122.03	None	<p>Using larger amounts of wind energy results in direct reductions in coal and natural gas use and corresponding reductions in power plant air emissions, water use, and various environmental impacts associated with producing and transporting those fuels. Air emissions associated with fossil fuel production and consumption include the greenhouse gases carbon dioxide (“CO2”) and methane, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, mercury and other hazardous air pollutants. The direct and indirect reduction of these emissions should be included in the RUS’ NEPA analysis. On August 1, 2016 the Council on Environmental Quality (“CEQ”) issued Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews. This guidance is attached for inclusion in the record. In sum, the guidance states: Consistent with NEPA, Federal agencies should consider the extent to which a proposed action and its reasonable alternatives would contribute to climate change, through GHG emissions, and take into account the ways in which a changing climate may impact the proposed action and any alternative actions, change the action’s environmental effects over the lifetime of those effects, and alter the overall environmental implications of such actions.³ MISO’s MVP Report⁴ quantified the CO2 emissions reductions associated with the full MVP Portfolio. That report found the increased use of wind energy would reduce MISO’s CO2 emissions by between 8.3 million and 17.8 million tons annually, depending on the scenario analyzed. Wind also plays an important role in offsetting water consumption of other forms of electricity generation. Wind energy requires virtually zero water, while most conventional forms of electricity generation consume hundreds of gallons of water per megawatt-hour produced. A Department of Energy (“DOE”) report concluded that a U.S. energy portfolio that derives 20% 3 At 9. 4 MISO MVP Report at 78, available at: https://www.misoenergy.org/Library/Repository/Study/Candidate%20MVP%20Analysis/MVP%20Portfolio%20Analysis%20Full%20Report.pdf. 3 of its energy from wind would save 4 trillion gallons of water through 2030.⁵ As such, reducing the use of fossil fuel generation in Iowa, Wisconsin, and surrounding states by increasing wind energy will provide cleaner air and water and mitigate climate change. These environmental improvements will benefit the Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge as well as the full corridor of the Cardinal Hickory Creek project. The undersigned organizations submit these comments to respectfully request that the Rural Utility Service to include these environmental benefits when analyzing the impact of the Project in the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Statements (“EIS”). The EIS should consider the direct benefits to human health and the environment due to the reduction in greenhouse gas and harmful air emissions that will result from the Project; and the EIS should also consider the economic benefits that flow from these emission reductions</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
287	3	233/233.02	280/280	None	None	In addition to the CEQ guidance, there are tools used by the federal government to quantify these benefits, such as the federal Social Cost of Carbon ⁶ and the Environmental Protection Agency’s Avoided Emissions and Generation Tool (“AVERT”) ⁷ that allow the economic benefits of emissions reductions to be readily calculated. In order to fully capture and evaluate the full suite of impacts of the Cardinal Hickory Creek Project, the environmental and economic benefits of the increased wind energy that will be developed due to the Project must be included in the scope of the EIS.
287	4	510/510	None	None	None	U.S. Dep’t of Energy, “Impacts of a 15-Percent Renewable Portfolio Standard” at v (June 2007), available at: ftp://ftp.eia.doe.gov/service/sroiaf%282007%2903.pdf . 6 Most recently updated figures available at: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/inforeg/technical-update-social-cost-of-carbon-for-regulator-impact-analysis.pdf . 7 Available at: http://epa.gov/statelocalclimate/resources/avert/index.html .
288	1	507/507.05	None	None	None	Please confirm that you received these Comments. The Driftless Area Land Conservancy and its attorneys would be pleased to meet with you and other RUS officials to discuss questions or suggestions involving these Comments.
288	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The RUS’s EIS must “[r]igorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives,” including no-build and robust non-transmission alternatives. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.2, 1502.14(a), 1508.25(b).
288	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	The RUS must evaluate claims of “need” for these proposed costly transmission line based on the current factual data showing flat demand for electricity in Wisconsin. RUS must evaluate whether any purported need can be met through alternatives that result in less harmful environmental impacts. 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321, 4331, 4332(2)(C)&(E).
288	4	122/122.02	122/122.01	None	None	The RUS must consider all reasonable direct environmental effects and indirect environmental effects of the proposed large Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, and cumulative environment impacts in light of the nearby Badger-Coulee transmission line. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1508.7, 1508.8, 1508.25.
288	5	243/243.01	None	None	None	The Driftless Area is recognized internationally and by the Departments of Natural Resources in four states as a region of vital conservation opportunity and concern. This region contains multiple rare habitats, and it is the largest contiguous area of fish and wildlife habitat in the Upper Mississippi River basin area.
288	6	235/235	241/241	None	None	Because this area was untouched by glaciers – they didn’t “drift” – during the last Ice Age, the landscape was not scraped and flattened, and many unique natural communities remain. The special and beautiful Driftless Area topography thus contains hundreds of rolling hills with deep river valleys nestled in woodland, prairie and riparian habitats.
288	7	232/232.01	243/243.01	243/243.02	None	More than 1,200 streams, including world-class trout fishing streams, traverse more than 4,000 river miles and create a network of 600 spring-fed creeks that flow through porous limestone bedrock, sustaining many uncommon species and serving as a rest stop for more than half of North America’s migratory bird species.
288	8	120/120.02	None	None	None	This huge transmission line is not needed for electricity reliability in Wisconsin,

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	9	260/260	232/232.01	None	None	it would harm beautiful scenic rural landscapes, and degrade clean rivers and streams.
288	10	280/281.01	None	None	None	The Driftless Area is a region deeply valued by its residents and tourists alike. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recognizes that the Driftless Area's "diversity of habitat provides critical habitat for dozens of species of concern in the State Wildlife Action Plans, and has been cited as one of North America's most important resources."
288	11	260/260	244/244.04	245/245.04	None	DALC has serious concerns about the significant adverse environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and very tall towers in the Driftless Area. DALC's members and volunteers live in, own property in, and use and enjoy the Driftless Area near the proposed transmission line corridors. DALC members hike, fish, camp, hunt, bike, swim, boat, ski, picnic and otherwise enjoy the state parks, natural areas, recreation areas, scenic landscapes and other resources that would be harmed by the proposed transmission line and very tall towers.
288	12	280/281.02	None	None	None	American Transmission Company's, ITC's and Dairyland Power Cooperative's ("Dairyland") proposed transmission line is estimated to cost at least \$500 million to build, plus financing costs and then the annual "rate of return" (i.e., profit) that would be charged to consumers.
288	13	245/245.03	None	None	None	The proposed huge Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would start in Dubuque County, Iowa, cross the Mississippi River at Cassville, cut through the protected Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, and then run through various proposed corridors, cutting a swath through designated conservation areas and some of Wisconsin's most scenic landscapes before terminating in Middleton just west of Madison. This proposed transmission line and towers would run by and through parklands and conservation areas such as the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, which the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources identifies as the highest priority for landscape-scale grassland protection and management in Wisconsin, and the continentally significant Dodgeville and Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area.
288	14	120/120	None	None	None	RUS's scoping of the EIS must fully and fairly consider a number of key issues and alternatives under the governing law. The National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA"), Council on Environmental Quality regulations and guidance, RUS's own NEPA implementing regulations, and the applicable case law include many specific requirements for the EIS.
288	15	122/122	122/122.02	110/ 110.0401	None	See Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizens Council, 490 U.S. 332, 349 (1989) ("[NEPA] ensures that the agency, in reaching its decision, will have available, and will carefully consider, detailed information concerning significant environmental impacts; it also guarantees that the relevant information will be made available to the larger audience that may also play a role in both the decision-making process and the implementation of that decision."). 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1 ("The information [in NEPA documents] must be of high quality. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA.").

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	16	120/120.02	110/ 110.0401	None	None	1. The "purpose and need" section of the EIS must in broad terms describe the overall purpose and need to which RUS is responding in deciding whether or not to provide financing for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. It cannot foreclose the requirement that RUS "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives," including both no-build alternatives and non-transmission alternatives, respectively. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. If RUS's purpose and need statement was limited to analyzing only different corridors for this proposed transmission line that would violate NEPA. See, e.g., <i>Simmons v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i> , 120 F.3d 664, 667 (7th Cir. 1997) (agency violated NEPA by defining impermissibly narrow purpose for project and failing to consider a full range of alternatives). 2. The EIS must fully and fairly analyze current objective, factual data in determining the purported "need" for the proposed new transmission line to import power into the Madison area for electricity reliability. As shown below, electricity demand in Wisconsin (and northern Illinois) is actually flat and potentially declining.
288	17	120/ 121.0301	110/ 110.0404	None	None	3. The EIS must "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate" a full range of "all reasonable alternatives." The EIS must analyze the significant environmental impacts of the proposed transmission line and tall towers, and also all reasonable alternatives, including both: (1) a no-build alternative, and (2) non-transmission alternatives. These non-transmission alternatives should include a combination of implementing energy efficiency, demand response, new wind power and solar energy development, and other distributed generation in Wisconsin, batteries and other energy storage development in Wisconsin, and local reliability improvements. 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C) & (E); 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.2, 1502.14, 1502.16.
288	18	122/122	122/122.01	None	None	4. The EIS must address the full range of all significant direct, indirect and cumulative environmental impacts, including all of the topics that the RUS outlined at its scoping meetings.
288	19	245/245.03	243/243.01	None	None	It would run by and through parklands and conservation areas such as the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, the continentally-significant Dodgeville and Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area, and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. It would impact the Pecatonica State Trail, Military Ridge State Trail, Blue Mound State Park, and Governor Dodge State Park, and cause habitat destruction that would impact many species. It would harm many trout streams, and exceptional and outstanding water resources.
288	20	244/244.06	None	None	None	The transmission line would also negatively impact and impair the value of privately-held conservation easements, including several held by DALC.
288	21	122/122.01	511/511	110/ 110.0404	None	Moreover, RUS must examine the "cumulative impacts" of the new Badger-Coulee transmission line and the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in the Driftless Area. These and additional impacts of the proposed project must be thoroughly analyzed in the EIS, and compared to the impacts of all reasonable alternatives. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.14, 1502.16, 1508.7, 1508.8, 1508.25.
288	22	110/110.0407	None	None	None	5. The EIS must address conflicts with Wisconsin's siting law for proposed new high-voltage transmission lines.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	23	120/120.02	110/ 110.0401	110/ 110.0402	None	<p>I. RUS MUST DEFINE THE PURPOSE AND NEED TO BE SUFFICIENTLY BROAD IN ORDER TO ENABLE FULL CONSIDERATION OF ALL REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES, AND IT CANNOT BE NARROWLY DEFINED IN WAYS THAT FORECLOSE REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES. The purpose and need statement is a key part of the National Environmental Policy Act environmental review process. It frames the issue that needs solving and the realm of possible alternatives. The purpose and need must therefore be written broadly enough not to foreclose reasonable alternatives. As explained in <i>Simmons v. United States Army Corps of Engineers</i>, 120 F.3d 664, 666 (7th Cir. 1997), a federal agency must consider “all reasonable alternatives” in an Environmental Impact Statement, and “[n]o decision is more important than delimiting what these ‘reasonable alternatives’ are. . . . To make that decision, the first thing an agency must define is the project’s purpose. . . . The broader the purpose, the wider the range of alternatives; and vice versa.” In this case, the EIS cannot be limited to simply considering and selecting which route and corridors the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, as proposed, will take. The EIS must include a true “hard look” analysis of all reasonable alternatives, including non-transmission alternatives and the no-build alternative. The goal of NEPA and its EIS requirement is “to insist that no major federal project should be undertaken without intense consideration of other more ecologically sound courses of action, including shelving the entire project, or of accomplishing the same result by entirely different means.” <i>Environmental Defense Fund, Inc. v. United States Army Corps of Engineers</i>, 492 F.2d 1123, 1135 (5th Cir. 1974). The key to accomplishing that goal is to make sure at the outset that the “purpose and need” of the “major federal action” under review is not defined too narrowly to preclude a genuine analysis of a range of reasonable alternatives: [A]n agency may not define the objectives of its action in terms so unreasonably narrow that only one alternative from among the environmentally benign ones in the agency’s power would accomplish the goals of the agency’s action, and the EIS would become a foreordained formality. Nor may an agency frame its goals in terms so unreasonably broad that an infinite number of alternatives would accomplish these goals and the project would collapse under the weight of the possibilities. <i>Citizens Against Burlington, Inc. v. Busey</i>, 938 F.2d 190, 198 (D.C. Cir. 1991) (internal citations omitted); see e.g., <i>Simmons</i>, 120 F.3d at 666 (“[I]f the agency constricts the definition of the project’s purpose and thereby excludes what truly are reasonable alternatives, the EIS cannot fulfill its role.”); <i>Van Abbema v. Fornell</i>, 807 F.2d 633 (7th Cir. 1986) (“[T]he evaluation of ‘alternatives’ mandated by NEPA is to be an evaluation of alternative means to accomplish the general goal of an action; it is not an evaluation of the alternative means by which a particular applicant can reach his goals.”) (emphasis in original). An agency like RUS would therefore violate NEPA if it simply adopts as its own the developer’s purpose in seeking approval for its particular project. <i>National Parks & Conservation Ass’n v. Bureau of Land Management</i>, 606 F.3d 1058 (9th Cir. 2010). RUS’s NEPA implementing regulations state: Applicants’ proposals must, whenever practicable, avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts; avoid or minimize conversion of wetlands or important farmlands . . . when practicable alternatives exist to meet development needs; [and] avoid</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>unwarranted alterations or encroachment on floodplains when practicable alternatives exist to meet development needs.... The Agency shall not fund the proposal unless there is a demonstrated, significant need for the proposal and no practicable alternative exists to the proposed conversion of the above resources. 7 C.F.R. § 1970.4(a). This scope of the RUS EIS in this case must independently assess whether there is a genuine “demonstrated, significant need” for this particular high-voltage transmission line proposal, and whether any “practicable alternative exists” that will better “avoid or minimize adverse environmental impacts.” Consequently, the purpose and need in this EIS cannot simply reiterate the same purpose and need statement in Dairyland’s constricted Alternatives Evaluation Study (“AES”), because that would impermissibly restrict the range of alternatives to be considered. The elements in the AES purpose and need statement all assume the need for this proposed large transmission line between the Hickory Creek substation in Iowa and the Cardinal substation in Middleton, Wisconsin. In other words, the AES defines the purpose and need in such a narrow way that only the construction of this particular transmission line can satisfy the purpose and need, necessarily ruling out a variety of reasonable alternatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “address[] reliability issues on the regional bulk transmission system” instead of “address reliability issues for Wisconsin customers.” • “cost-effectively increase[] transfer capacity to enable additional renewable generation needed to meet state renewable portfolio standards and support the nation’s changing energy mix” instead of “help meet Wisconsin’s renewable portfolio standards.” • “alleviate congestion on the transmission grid to reduce the overall cost of delivering energy” instead of “reduce the overall cost of energy in Wisconsin.” • “respond[] to public policy objectives aimed at enhancing the nation’s transmission system and reducing carbon dioxide emissions” instead of “reduce greenhouse gas emissions.” AES at 6. The AES’s narrow focus eliminates reasonable non-transmission alternatives that could meet the broader underlying needs just as well, such as sensible combinations of building more local renewable energy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implementing more energy efficiency to reduce energy costs. If RUS’s EIS does not rigorously explore and objectively evaluate both non-transmission alternatives and a no-build alternative to the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, then it will not comply with NEPA’s requirements. RUS cannot adopt a limited purpose and need that acts as a “self-fulfilling prophecy” for this particular proposed large transmission line and tall towers and effectively precludes full and fair consideration of all reasonable alternatives. <i>Simmons v. United States Army Corps of Engineers</i>, 120 F.3d 664, 666 (7th Cir. 1997). Furthermore, the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line’s purpose and need is to enable some unspecified out-of-state private business generating electricity in North Dakota, for example, to sell electricity over this privately-owned transmission line through Wisconsin to another party somewhere outside of Wisconsin, there are serious constitutional questions whether there is sufficient “public use” under the Takings Clause of the Fifth Amendment and the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to justify eminent domain to be

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						applied in Wisconsin for the largely private purposes. Cf. Kelo v. City of New London, 545 U.S. 469 (2005).
288	24	120/120.02	120/120.01	None	None	<p>II. RUS MUST CONDUCT ITS NEED ANALYSIS AND OBJECTIVE EVALUATION BASED ON CURRENT FACTUAL DATA REGARDING THE FLAT AND POTENTIALLY DECLINING ELECTRICITY DEMAND AND SALES IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would, if built, import more electricity from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota to Middleton (adjacent to Madison), Wisconsin. The RUS must address whether there is an the [sic] actual “demonstrated, significant need” for this additional electricity supply in central and southwest Wisconsin when the current factual data shows that electricity demand and sales are flat and potentially declining. RUS’s analysis of whether there is a need for more power cannot just rely on the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s (“MISO”) multi-value project portfolio (“MVP”) analysis conducted more than five years ago even though the Wisconsin and Midwest energy market has since significantly changed. 40 C.F.R. § 1970.4(a). First, the MISO MVP data is outdated. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory transmission line is the last and most expensive of the 17 lines in the MVP portfolio designated by MISO in 2011. The Midwest electricity market, especially in Illinois, Minnesota and Wisconsin, however, has greatly changed since 2011. Electricity demand and sales have flattened or declined because of energy efficiency, demand response, distributed generation, and due to the continued overall economic transition from energy-intensive heavy manufacturing to information technology and service-focused businesses. MISO based its MVP transmission lines analysis on forecasts that energy demand would increase by about 0.78% – 1.28% annually from 2012 – 2021. What has actually happened is quite different in the Madison Gas and Electric (“MGE”) and Wisconsin Power and Light (“WP&L”) service areas, and in Illinois and Minnesota, too. Both MGE’s and WP&L’s electricity sales have decreased since hitting their previous highest levels in 2011 and 2007, respectively, even as the utilities gained additional customers. MGE’s highest retail electricity sales were in 2007 (pre-economic recession) and in 2011 (post-economic recession). Its retail electricity sales have decreased by about 2.0% (-0.5% per year) since 2011. MGE’s total sales have decreased since 2007 over the past five years and have been flat over the past decade, notwithstanding a growing economy and an 8% increase in the number of customers. WP&L’s highest retail electricity sales were in 2007 (pre-economic recession) and have since decreased by about 2.3% (-0.3% per year), notwithstanding economic growth and a 2.25% increase in the number of customers. Therefore, there are much lower electricity sales and demand in MGE’s and WP&L’s service areas than in MISO’s regional forecast when it included the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in its overall project portfolio. The Wisconsin economy has grown, but more energy efficiently. The delta between actual electricity sales and MISO’s projected electricity sales is substantial. The declining/flat electricity sales trend line is clear. The charts below provide MGE’s and WP&L’s self-reported data in their filings with the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission: These overall flat or lower demand trends (and the consequent surplus electric generating supply)</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>are not isolated to Wisconsin, but are occurring throughout most of the Midwest. For example, across the state border in Illinois, Commonwealth Edison's electricity sales are decreasing 1.0% annually while it has gained 100,000 additional customers over the past three years and the Chicago region's economy is growing. Likewise, Xcel-Northern States Power's electricity sales in Minnesota decreased by about 1.5% over the past year due to lower energy use per customer even though the utility gained additional customers. American Electric Power, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio, projects that demand for its electricity in Ohio will likewise decline. Second, MISO analyzed the benefits of the MVP portfolio as a whole. It specifically did not examine the benefits and value of individual transmission lines. MISO never found a separate need for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line in 2011 or, needless to say, in today's electricity market. Nor did MISO conduct a cost-benefit analysis of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line or analyze non-transmission alternatives. Moreover, the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line is the last of the MVP lines, and, therefore, the question of whether this last line is still needed today must be objectively evaluated in the EIS. The AES' analysis of need is entirely insufficient as a practical and legal matter. In discussing supposed "need," the AES relies heavily on transmission-building buzzwords like "reliability" and "congestion" without backing up those concerns. In determining now whether there is actually a need for importing additional electricity supply into the Driftless Area in central and southwest Wisconsin, the RUS must consider new generation that is already planned and being built in the area, including among others:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WP&L is building a large 700-megawatt new natural gas-fired power plant and a 2-megawatt solar energy generating facility in Beloit. • WP&L is also eligible to purchase up to 200 megawatts of a new natural gas-fired plant to be built by either We Energies or Wisconsin Public Service Corporation starting around 2020. • Two new wind farms totaling 200 megawatts are being developed just east of Platteville in Seymour and in the Town of Forest in St. Croix County, which will supply Dairyland and WP&L customers. In June 2016, Dairyland announced a power purchase agreement with EDP Renewables for 98 MW of wind energy from the Quilt Block Wind Farm in Seymour that is expected to be operational in late 2017. • WPPI Energy, which provides electricity to 51 not-for-profit utilities, issued a request for proposals for 100 megawatts of wind power or other renewable energy resource supplies that will meet its "need for additional energy supply beginning in 2021 . . . in a manner that eases compliance with future environmental regulations such as the Clean Power Plan." • At least three more Wisconsin wind farms are planned in Rock County (150 megawatts), Monroe County (150 megawatts) and Green County (60 megawatts). • Dairyland Power is now buying 15 megawatts of new solar power, and WP&L and MGE have indicated possible interest in developing more new solar energy projects. • Xcel Energy has estimated that it will add approximately 700 MW of capacity

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>by 2019, including: 73 MW of hydroelectric, 60 MW of wind, 170 MW of solar, and 480 MW of natural gas-fired generation, of which 16% will be provided to serve electricity demand in Wisconsin. RUS must also consider the “cumulative impacts” on purported need of other new transmission lines for the area. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.7, 1508.25. For example, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin approved a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the new Badger-Coulee 345 kV high-voltage transmission line – connecting Minnesota and La Crosse to Middleton, Wisconsin – that will likewise import out-of-state electricity supply from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota into the Wisconsin power market. This is in addition to the out-of-state electricity supply to be imported by the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line from Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota into Middleton, Madison and central and southwest Wisconsin. The arguments made in the AES regarding the need for the proposed transmission line miss the mark. The AES states that there is a capacity import limit into Wisconsin from Iowa, that some wind farms have only been able to get conditional interconnection agreements and that “the development of additional wind generation in Iowa is dependent on increasing transfer capability.” AES at 26-27. However, a limit on bringing more power from Iowa into southwest Wisconsin could only be a problem if there were a need for more power in southwest Wisconsin, and only if that need could not be met from local sources. As explained above, there is not a “demonstrated, significant need” for more electricity supply in Wisconsin, and even if there were, the RUS must “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives” – including non-transmission alternatives involving local clean distribution generation and energy efficiency and demand response – for meeting any such “demonstrated, significant need.” The AES also states that a NERC report found that even in the absence of the Clean Power Plan, more transmission will be needed “to maintain the bulk power system’s reliability.” AES at 32. However, this overly generalized statement of the United States’ overall transmission system is not relevant to RUS’s more focused analysis here regarding the need, if any, for this specific proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line to achieve reliability in Wisconsin.</p>
288	25	120/ 121.0301	110/ 110.0404	110/ 110.0401	None	<p>III. RUS MUST “RIGOROUSLY EXPLORE AND OBJECTIVELY EVALUATE ALL REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES” INCLUDING NON-TRANSMISSION ALTERNATIVES AND THE NO-BUILD ALTERNATIVE. The “[s]cope consists of the range of actions, alternatives, and impacts to be considered in an environmental impact statement.... [A]gencies shall consider 3 types of actions, 3 types of alternatives, and 3 types of impacts.” 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25 (emphasis added). The three types of actions are connected actions, cumulative actions (such as the Badger-Coulee transmission line) and similar actions. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(a). The three types of “[a]lternatives ... include: (1) No action alternative. (2) Other reasonable courses of actions. (3) Mitigation measures (not in the proposed action).” 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(b). Under NEPA, the RUS must “rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(a). The choice of what alternatives to include in an EIS “and the ensuing analysis, forms ‘the heart of the environmental impact statement.’” <i>Simmons v. United States Army Corps of Eng’rs</i>, 120 F.3d 664, 666 (7th Cir.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>1997) (citing 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14); 42 U.S.C. § 4332(2)(C)(iii). To accomplish this required analysis in the EIS process, the RUS must: (a) Rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives, and for alternatives which were eliminated from detailed study, briefly discuss the reasons for their having been eliminated. (b) Devote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits. (c) Include reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency. (d) Include the alternative of no action. (e) Identify the agency's preferred alternative or alternatives, if one or more exists, in the draft statement and identify such alternative in the final statement unless another law prohibits the expression of such a preference. (f) Include appropriate mitigation measures not already included in the proposed action or alternatives. 40 C.F.R § 1502.14. A. RUS Must Consider "No-Build" Alternatives. The scope of RUS's EIS must include a full and fair analysis of "the alternative of no action" – namely, the "no-build" alternative. 40 C.F.R §§ 1502.14(d), 1502.16, 1508.25(b)(1). The RUS cannot just "go through the motions" on this required no-build alternative. That would violate NEPA. For example, as the District Court held in Sierra Club, Illinois Chapter v. U.S. Department of Transportation, 962 F. Supp. 1037, 1043 (N.D. Ill. 1997): However, the final impact statement in this case relies on the implausible assumption that the same level of transportation needs will exist whether or not the tollroad is constructed. In particular, the final impact statement contains a socioeconomic forecast that assumes the construction of a highway such as the tollroad and then applies that forecast to both the build and no-build alternatives. The result is a forecast of future needs that only the proposed tollroad can satisfy. As a result, the final impact statement creates a self-fulfilling prophecy that makes a reasoned analysis of how different alternatives satisfy future needs impossible. B. RUS Must Analyze Other Courses Of Action – The Reasonable Alternatives Cannot Be Limited to Choosing Only Between The Proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line and No-Build Alternative. RUS's alternatives analysis cannot be limited to simply comparing a particular transmission line's corridors and a no-build alternative. The agency must robustly analyze "[o]ther reasonable courses of actions." 40 C.F.R § 1508.25(b)(2). In this case, therefore, RUS must analyze non-transmission alternatives, as NEPA requires federal agencies to "rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives." 40 C.F.R § 1502.14(a). An EIS must "[i]nclude reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(c). C. EIS Must Consider a Range of Reasonable Alternatives, Including Non-Transmission Alternatives. The scope of RUS's EIS for the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line must consider and analyze a variety of reasonable alternatives, including non-transmission alternatives. The cursory and dismissive approach taken in the AES to non-transmission alternatives is not permissible. An EIS must "[d]evote substantial treatment to each alternative considered in detail including the proposed action so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(b). The EIS must consider reasonable non-transmission alternatives including a combination of both Wisconsin utility-scale renewable energy</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>generation and distributed solar energy and wind power generation with energy storage technologies, energy efficiency and demand response, as well as local distribution and transmission upgrades if needed. The AES improperly stacks the deck and dismisses several of these alternatives by claiming that each alternative individually cannot satisfy the alleged need. For example, the AES rejects energy efficiency by arguing that “an increase in energy efficiency” to levels necessary to replace the transmission line entirely with energy efficiency “is simply not possible.” AES at 47. That each-standing-alone-in-isolation approach is not a reasonable or sensible consideration of alternatives under NEPA. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1502.14, 1502.16, 1508.25. The scope of RUS’s EIS must rigorously explore and objectively evaluate non-Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line alternatives. The AES’s blanket rejection of non-transmission alternatives is impermissible. For example, the AES states that demand response is not an acceptable alternative because it would not “increase the transfer capability between Iowa and Wisconsin.” AES at 47. The EIS must include a solution-neutral purpose and need statement, so that alternatives are not eliminated simply because they are different than the proposed project. <i>Simmons v. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>, 120 F.3d 664 (7th Cir. 1997). Reframing the purpose and need in the EIS, as discussed above, should help to address this problem. The AES also fails to discuss the benefits of the alternatives. The EIS must include information about the alternatives “so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.” 1502.14(b). For example, non-transmission alternatives often offer significant flexibility and can be deployed where (and sometimes even when) they are needed most. A Public Service Commission of Wisconsin report showed that for every dollar invested in energy efficiency in 2015 through its Focus on Energy program, \$3.51 in economic and non-economic benefits were created. This cost-to-benefit ratio is even higher in 2014 when the program created \$756 million in economic benefits and \$6.66 in benefits for every \$1 in costs, because some of the 2015 programs were pilot efforts designed to try new technologies and program approaches, instead of maximizing savings achievement. Lazard’s Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis and many other studies have found that energy efficiency and demand response (such as interruptible rates) are by far the least costly way to meet overall energy needs. Demand response can be deployed in a targeted way when it is needed. Distributed renewable energy generation is less reliant on expensive large new transmission lines and is more flexible in meeting localized power needs. The EIS should also consider that the costs of many non-transmission alternatives, including renewable energy and energy storage technologies, are decreasing rapidly and will likely continue to do so. The EIS should also consider alternatives based on changes to the electricity system and markets. A U.S. Department of Energy Report (2015) explains: Changes to power system operations and markets can provide significant existing flexibility, often at lower economic costs than building new transmission infrastructure. Operations examples include more frequent dispatch (which reduces the time frame over which a generator must follow a specified output level), smart network technologies, and increased plant cycling. Moreover: “In market structures that more comprehensively value services provided to the</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>grid, demand-side resources and storage could provide low-cost grid services, allowing more efficient grid operations and avoiding generation or transmission investments.” Id. at 3-12. RUS’s EIS must consider whether the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would actually meet the claimed needs. For example, the AES includes only a cursory discussion of the proposed transmission line’s ability to actually help states meet their renewable portfolio standards (“RPS”). The developers and the AES have not provided any assurance or analysis of exactly how much wind power or other renewable energy generation versus fossil fuel-generated electricity will actually be carried on this proposed open access transmission line. The AES claims that increased transfer capacity from Iowa to Wisconsin will allow more wind farms to be built, yet ignores the possibility that the transmission line might also act as a lifeline for economically struggling fossil fuel plants. RUS’s EIS must also analyze whether reasonable alternatives, such as building wind power and solar energy generation in Wisconsin, would better meet the needs of increased renewable energy generation and decreased greenhouse gas emissions. The AES also makes several questionable assumptions that more renewable energy generated in states in Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota will be both eligible to meet RPSs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin and that it is needed for these states to achieve their RPSs. For example, Illinois’ new energy legislation includes an RPS of 25% by 2025, but it has a strong preference for the development of in-state renewable energy resources. Indiana does not have a mandatory RPS at all. Michigan’s RPS generally requires renewable energy to be generated either in-state or within the service territory of a utility to which the RPS applies. Wisconsin already met its RPS of 10% by 2015. The scope of the RUS’s EIS must include an analysis of whether the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would achieve economic benefits itself, and in comparison to other alternatives. The AES acknowledges that MISO “did not evaluate the economic benefits of each component of the [MVP] Portfolio.” AES at 24 (emphasis added). Moreover, the scope of RUS’s EIS should consider upgrades to existing grid infrastructure, and alternative transmission line corridors outside of the Driftless Area that has special ecological and wildlife values and special scenic landscapes.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	26	122/122	110/ 110.0404	None	None	IV. RUS MUST FULLY AND FAIRLY ANALYZE ALL DIRECT, INDIRECT, AND CUMULATIVE IMPACTS FOR THE PROPOSED CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK TRANSMISSION LINE AND ALL REASONABLE ALTERNATIVES. The scope of an EIS must include consideration of all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.25(c). The EIS “should present the environmental impacts of the proposal and the alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options by the decision maker and the public.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14. In addition, “[t]he information [in NEPA documents] must be of high quality. Accurate scientific analysis, expert agency comments, and public scrutiny are essential to implementing NEPA.” 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1(b). It is important that the EIS consider the impacts of the proposed project both during the construction and operation phases, as those impacts may be very different. The EIS must also analyze and compare the environmental and other impacts of reasonable alternatives to the proposal. Federal regulations require that each alternative be discussed in enough detail “so that reviewers may evaluate their comparative merits.” 40 C.F.R. § 1502.14(b). It would not be permissible for RUS to do only a “qualitative” analysis of non-transmission alternatives that only generally describes the types of impacts that might be expected. The EIS must include a quantitative and detailed analysis of all reasonable alternatives, in addition to the analysis of the proposed action and the no-build alternative.
288	27	122/122	None	None	None	A. Environmental Impacts The EIS must include a thorough discussion of environmental impacts, including impacts to geology and soils, vegetation, surface water, groundwater, floodplains, wetlands, wildlife, endangered and threatened species, woodlands, agricultural lands, aesthetics, noise, cultural resources, air quality, land use, archeological and historical sites, conservation areas, recreation areas and health and safety. The Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would cut directly through the Driftless Area and damage important natural and historical resources, adversely impact endangered species, and disrupt scenic landscapes.
288	28	243/243.01	243/243.02	None	None	The Driftless Area is recognized internationally and by the Departments of Natural Resources in four states as a region of vital conservation opportunity and concern. This region contains multiple rare habitats, and it is the largest contiguous area of fish and wildlife habitat in the Upper Mississippi River basin area. Because this area was untouched by glaciers during the last Ice Age, the landscape was not scraped and flattened; an ancient landscape shaped by wind and water erosion with unique natural communities remains. The unique and beautiful Driftless Area topography thus contains hundreds of rolling hills with deep river valleys nestled in woodland, prairie and riparian habitats. More than 1,200 streams, including world-class trout fishing streams, traverse more than 4,000 river miles and create a network of 600 spring-fed creeks that flow through porous limestone bedrock, sustaining many uncommon species and serving as a rest stop for more than half of North America’s migratory bird species.
288	29	243/243.01	243/243.03	241/241.03	None	There are a number of concerns raised by large transmission line projects generally, and those should be considered. For example, transmission lines cause not only the destruction of habitat, but also fragment remaining habitat and create an avenue for invasive species.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	30	241/241	None	None	None	Maintenance of the rights-of-way may include spraying chemicals that damage the ecosystem and surrounding vegetation.
288	31	260/260	None	None	None	Of course, aesthetic impacts are also a significant concern.
288	32	243/243.04	243/243.01	None	None	Threatened and Endangered Species The proposed transmission line and tall towers would impact many high-quality habitats that are home to threatened, endangered and other species of concern. The area's southern sedge meadows, oak openings and barrens, pine relicts, dry prairies, mesic and dry-mesic forests, fast and cold streams, dry and moist cliffs, and forested seeps shelter and nurture diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants. If the proposed transmission line were to be built through these special areas, many species could be put at risk. For example, Henslow's Sparrow is a Wisconsin threatened species and a federal species of concern. According to Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory, Henslow's Sparrow is found in 12 of the 16 townships or ranges that the proposed transmission line would impact in Dane and Iowa Counties. The Loggerhead Shrike is a state endangered species and a federal species of concern, and it is found in 2 of the 16 townships or ranges in Dane and Iowa Counties. Other threatened bird species in the area include the Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler and Upland Sandpiper. The rare Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee has been identified in 8 of the 11 townships or ranges in Iowa County that would be impacted by the proposed transmission line, and Regal Fritillary butterfly populations, which are state endangered, are found in four townships or ranges that the proposed transmission line would cross. Of the impacted townships and ranges in Iowa and Dane Counties, Blanchard's Cricket Frog populations (state endangered) are found in eight; Pickerel Frog populations have been identified in 8; Blanding's Turtle populations (fully protected) have been recorded in six, and Ornate Box Turtle populations (state endangered) have been found in six. The fish species Lake Sturgeon, Lake Chubsucker and Pugnosed Shiner (state threatened) have all been identified in at least one township or range that the proposed transmission line would impact.
288	33	243/243.02	None	None	None	The transmission line could also impact whooping cranes, which according to sightings [sic] and satellite telemetry data, have a range that includes areas in Clayton and Dubuque Counties in Iowa and in Grant, Iowa, Sauk and Dane Counties in Wisconsin. Many of the data points are very close to the proposed transmission line corridors. "[C]ollision mortality from power lines is considered biologically significant" for whooping cranes, and one study found that "in the migratory Wisconsin population, 3 out of 18 mortalities (17%) were from collisions with power lines."
288	34	243/243.01	243/243.04	None	None	There are also many remnants of savanna, pine relict, oak forest, and wetland in and around the proposed corridors, which are likely not catalogued. Many of these remnants are likely home to rare species, which similarly may not be documented. RUS should work with local consultants and experts to inventory these remnant habitats and rare species so that the impacts to them from the proposed transmission line can be included in the EIS. The EIS must compare the impacts on threatened and endangered species from the proposed transmission line and the impacts (if any) from the alternatives described above.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	35	245/245.03	245/245.04	None	None	<p>2. Conservation and Recreation Areas The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would also harm a large number of lands of great conservation, ecological and scenic importance, and these impacts must be fully considered in the EIS. For example, one of the proposed corridors for this transmission line would cut through the northern edge of the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, which is the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' "highest priority for landscape-scale grassland protection and management in Wisconsin," as the Nature Conservancy explains: The Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area (MRPHA) is a 95,000+ acre grassland landscape in Dane and Iowa counties in southwest Wisconsin. The area provides habitat for 14 rare and declining grassland bird species and contains more than 60 prairie remnants, representing one of the highest concentrations of native grasslands in the Midwest. The agricultural history of the area has helped keep the landscape much as it was when the first settlers saw it and has made it possible for plants and animals like grassland birds, which have disappeared in more developed parts of the Midwest, to survive... [It] represents one of the best opportunities in the Midwest to protect prairie remnants and area sensitive species, such as grassland birds. The Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area is also part of a larger 490,000-acre protected "Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area" macrosite established by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of this conservation area is to protect grassland birds and trout streams. The proposed transmission line corridor would run along the northern border of the Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area, and it would cut through the savannah ecosystem and would provide an optimal opportunity for owls and raptors to perch and locate rare grasslands birds to hunt and kill. The northern proposed route would also cut through the Dodgeville and Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area as it runs along the steep and winding County Roads ZZ and Z. The Wisconsin Wildlife Action Plan states that this Conservation Opportunity Area has "continental significance" and notes that parts of the Driftless Area have high biodiversity and a significant number of rare species. The proposed transmission line would also impact state recreational trails. One of the proposed transmission line corridors would impact a significant part of the Pecatonica State Trail, which has wildlife and scenic significance; it is an important recreational area enjoyed by hikers and bikers. Another of the proposed corridors for the huge transmission line and tall towers would run along and cross over the Military Ridge State Trail. About 25 miles of this 40-mile biking and hiking trail, which passes by state parks, forested areas, wetlands and grasslands, would be impacted by the transmission line. Because the trail runs along the top of Military Ridge, around the highest elevation in the area, transmission lines built there would be very visible. There is also a proposed recreation/hiking trail from Blue Mounds to Spring Green, which would be adversely impacted by the proposed line.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	36	245/245.01	None	None	None	The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and tall towers would also disrupt and harm a large section of the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, which is “unmatched” for its scenic and wildlife value. This National Wildlife Refuge has wooded bluffs hundreds of feet high and is a crucial migratory pathway and breeding location for birds, such as bald eagles and great blue herons, and is home for many additional species of wildlife, fish and plants. Id. The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is a Ramsar Convention Wetland of National Importance and Globally Important Bird Area, specifically for waterfowl. Id. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, “during peak fall migration...hundreds of thousands of canvasbacks, common mergansers, goldeneyes, mallards, shovelers, blue-winged teal, and coots gather on the refuge.” Even if the proposed transmission line would replace an existing line crossing the Mississippi River and the total number of crossings of the Mississippi River would not increase, that should not be the end of the inquiry. The EIS may not simply assume that if the number of transmission lines crossing the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is the same, there is no impact on the refuge. First, there will undoubtedly be impacts from the construction activity itself. Second, the EIS should consider whether the existing line that the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line would “replace” would be decommissioned soon anyway. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, a consulting agency for this EIS, should act not only maintain the status quo, but also to “conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people.”
288	37	243/243.02	None	None	None	Transmission lines have also been shown to be lethal to birds. Millions of birds die each year in the United States due to collisions with or electrocution by power lines. Based on multiple studies in the northern United States and Canada, waterfowl are the bird group most vulnerable to death by transmission lines. This presents a significant danger to the thousands of waterfowl congregating on the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge each year. The proposed transmission line might impact bald eagles. Bald eagles are protected under the federal Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and are listed as a species of Special Concern in Wisconsin. There are 51 active bald eagle nests in the four Wisconsin counties where the proposed transmission line would run, and 26 of the nests are within townships in the transmission corridors.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	38	245/245.03	232/232	243/243.01	None	In addition to the impacts on the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area, the Southwest Wisconsin Grasslands and Stream Conservation Area, the Dodgeville and Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity Area, the Pecatonica State Trail, the Military Ridge State Trail, and the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge summarized above, the proposed huge Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and tall towers will impact: Governor Dodge State Park, Black Hawk Lake State Park and Blue Mounds State Park; state natural areas and preserves; scenic and recreational rivers such as Black Earth Creek, Grant River and the Platte River; wetlands including those adjoining Black Earth Creek and Pecatonica River; the Black Earth Creek Watershed Area; numerous trout streams and exceptional and outstanding resource waters; and numerous other critical natural resources and wildlife habitat along the proposed transmission line corridors.
288	39	244/244.06	282/282.01	None	None	RUS should also consider privately protected conservation easements and restoration efforts. For example, the EIS should analyze impacts on DALC's conservation easements and property included in the Wisconsin DNR's Landowner Incentive Program. Several DALC easements are either directly in or close to a proposed corridor. For example, DALC holds a conservation easement on part of the Thomas Farm on US 18/151 just west of Barneveld within one of the proposed corridors. The easement was purchased with funds from both the USDA Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program and the Wisconsin Knowles-Nelson Stewardship Program, and the stone barn on the property is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
288	40	282/282.02	110/ 110.0404	None	None	RUS must analyze what impacts the proposed transmission line and alternatives would have on cultural and historical resources in the area. 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16 (requiring discussion of environmental consequences to include discussion of impacts on "historic and cultural resources"). The Driftless Area includes many important cultural and historical sites that could be adversely affected by the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. The area contains the rich history of over 11,500 years of Paleo-Indian peoples, and many Native American tribes have sacred sites and cultural resources across the Driftless Area. There are archeological sites located within the region that date back to the Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian periods, and many include pottery, arrowheads, and artificial mounds, among other important historical relics. Wisconsin "has the highest concentration of prehistoric mounds in the country, and is the epicenter for effigy mounds." Transmission line construction in or around archeological sites is of particular concern. As the Public Service Commission stated: "Transmission line construction and maintenance can damage sites by digging, crushing artifacts with heavy equipment, uprooting trees, exposing sites to erosion or the elements, or by making the sites more accessible to vandals." Rock art is common throughout the region, and fragile carved rock formations would be especially vulnerable to vibrations from pile driving.
288	41	233/233.03	None	None	None	The EIS must also include a discussion of greenhouse gas and climate change impacts from the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line or that might affect the proposed line, and must compare these impacts to those related to the non-transmission alternatives discussed above. As explained in the

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>Council on Environmental Quality’s (“CEQ”) recently released guidance document on greenhouse gases, “[c]limate change is a fundamental environmental issue, and its effects fall squarely within NEPA’s purview.” CEQ GHG Guidance at 2. The guidance document elaborates: “[c]onsistent with NEPA, Federal agencies should consider the extent to which a proposed action and its reasonable alternatives would contribute to climate change, through GHG emissions, and take into account the ways in which a changing climate may impact the proposed action and any alternative actions.” Id. at 9. First, the EIS must include a cradle-to-grave analysis of the greenhouse gas emissions from the construction of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, from mining the iron ore to make the steel to make the towers, to clearing the rights-of-way corridors, to erecting the towers, to manufacturing and installing the transmission line, to operation and maintenance, to eventual decommission. CEQ guidance acknowledges that “[s]ome proposed actions will have to consider effects at different stages to ensure the direct effects and reasonably foreseeable indirect effects are appropriately assessed; for example, the effects of construction are different from the effects of the operations and maintenance of a facility.” Id. at 18. The EIS must also include an analysis of the decrease in greenhouse gas sequestration from cutting down trees and converting agricultural areas, wetlands, etc. As explained in the CEQ guidance, “emissions’ includes release of stored [greenhouse gases] as a result of land management activities affecting terrestrial [greenhouse gas] pools such as, but not limited to, carbon stocks in forests and soils, as well as actions that affect the future changes in carbon stocks.” Id. at 1, n.1. Projected greenhouse gas emissions from the full lifetime of the transmission line can then be used as a proxy for determining climate change impacts from the project. Id. at 10. Second, RUS must consider indirect greenhouse gas emissions and activities that “have a reasonably close causal relationship” and may occur “as a consequence” of a proposed action. Id. at 16, 13. Therefore, the EIS must analyze the greenhouse gas emissions related to the electricity generation mix carried on the line and ways in which the proposed line would impact the electricity market. For example, if the proposed transmission line is built, it will be “open access” under Federal Energy Regulatory Commission rules and will likely be used by a mix of fossil fuel and renewable generation. The line may provide access to new markets to existing coal and gas plants in the western MISO states, and thereby make these plants economical when otherwise they would shut down. The environmental consequences of these circumstances, including greenhouse gas impacts, would need to be addressed in the EIS. Third, the EIS must consider the impacts and interplay between climate change and the proposed project looking forward. CEQ guidance “[c]ounsels agencies to use the information developed during the NEPA review to consider alternatives that would make the actions and affected communities more resilient to the effects of a changing climate.” Id. at 5. For example, climate change will lead to more frequent and intense weather events across the country, including the MISO region, which may lead to increased risk of damage to transmission infrastructure, downed lines, and blackouts. RUS must consider the resiliency of the proposed action in comparison to the resiliency offered by reasonable alternatives: “Investments in</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						energy efficiency, smart grid technologies, storage, and distributed generation can contribute to enhanced resiliency and reduced pollution, as well as provide operational flexibility for grid operators.” These resiliency benefits must be disclosed and discussed. Climate change will also make some of the resources in the Driftless Area more vulnerable. This will increase the stress on ecosystems already negatively impacted by the proposed transmission line.
288	42	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	The EIS must also include an analysis and discussion of economic impacts and other impacts to communities and property owners. To begin with, RUS must analyze negative impacts on property values and conservation easements from the construction and operation of the proposed high-voltage transmission line. High-voltage transmission lines have a statistically significant negative impact on property values. A valuation guidance report by Appraisal Group One, which included a review of many empirical studies, including several from Wisconsin, concludes that “it can be stated with a high degree of certainty that there is a significant negative effect ranging from -10% to -30% of property value due to the presence of the high-voltage electric transmission line.” A well-regarded study from Montana analyzing the effects of large transmission lines on property values found properties up to 1,000 feet from a transmission line had values fall by 15%. There are also detrimental impacts on the quality of life of people whose scenic views are disrupted and who sometimes report being bothered by buzzing and crackling sounds produced by transmission lines.
288	43	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	None	Transmission lines can interfere not only with property owners’ enjoyment of their property, but also with their practical use of their land. Many DALC members are involved in agriculture on some scale. Transmission towers and lines can interfere with farming operations by limiting movement of farm vehicles and irrigation equipment, preventing or limiting the use of planes for spraying, interfering with rotational grazing, and by causing the removal of wind breaks. The actual erection of the towers and placement of the line requires the use of heavy machinery, which can compact dirt, leave ruts in fields, and introduce contaminated soils. The spraying of chemicals to manage a transmission line corridor can interfere with nearby organic farming operations. Some local organic farmers have expressed concerns that this spraying could potentially result in loss of their organic certification. High-voltage transmission lines can also cause disruptions to animal herds due to stray voltage issues.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	44	280/280.02	245/245.04	260/260	None	DALC members and other local businesses are located on the proposed corridor. DALC member Uplands Cheese, which produces award-winning cheeses from grass-fed cows and sells to international markets, is especially environmentally sensitive. DALC member Botham Vineyards is a destination winery because of the quality of the produce and its setting in the beautiful Driftless Area. The Deer Valley Lodge and Golf Course has fairways built around natural native prairies and woodlands. It provides habitat to several threatened and endangered species, including the federally-listed Regal Fritillary butterfly, and attracts golfers because of its natural setting. These and other businesses would be severely negatively impacted by the proposed transmission line. Impacts on property values have subsequent impacts on the amount of revenue local governments bring in through property taxes. The EIS should consider that decreased property values will mean local governments in the area will have less money to spend on schools, roads, and other important infrastructure. The EIS must also consider effects on recreation and tourism. The harmful visual impacts are magnified in the Driftless Area where many people choose to live, buy properties, recreate, and visit in part because of the scenic landscape views. Tourism is growing in the Driftless Area and is an important driver of economic growth. The proposed huge new transmission line and very tall towers will disrupt the scenic landscapes and park areas that attract visitors to the special Driftless Area. The proposed transmission line would be especially visible if it is built along a ridge, as is indicated in one of the proposed corridors.
288	45	280/281.02	None	None	None	The EIS must also consider the economic cost of actually building the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, and compare this to the cost of reasonable alternatives. The analysis should also discuss how that cost will be distributed and the effects on ratepayers' utility bills. This analysis must include the economic benefits from alternatives, such as local energy resource development, energy efficiency, and demand response.
288	46	122/122.01	511/511	110/ 110.0404	None	The scope of the EIS must also include cumulative actions and cumulative impacts. 40 C.F.R. §§ 1508.25(a)(2) and (c)(3). This means that the EIS must discuss past, present and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area and explain how these projects and other circumstances may, in combination with the proposed transmission line, cause cumulative impacts in the region. For example, RUS must consider the new Badger-Coulee transmission line, a high-voltage line that would run from Minnesota to La Crosse, Wisconsin and then to the same Cardinal substation in Middleton, Wisconsin. The EIS should also consider the planned conversion of 28 miles of US 18/151 from Dodgeville to Verona to a freeway and the new Vortex Optics industrial park in Barneveld. The freeway conversion/expansion will be a significant project – including “four new interchanges, seven grade-separated crossings . . . , 21 miles of new and altered local roads and one pair auxiliary lanes” – and will impact areas that would also be directly impacted by one of the proposed corridors for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line. As with every type of impact, RUS must compare the cumulative impacts from the proposed transmission line with the impacts from all reasonable alternatives.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	47	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	<p>RUS'S EIS MUST ANALYZE CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE PROPOSED CARDINAL-HICKORY CREEK TRANSMISSION LINE CORRIDORS AND THE WISCONSIN SITING LAWS. RUS must also analyze Wisconsin state laws when comparing alternatives. An EIS must include a discussion of "[p]ossible conflicts between the proposed action and the objectives of Federal, regional, State, and local . . . land use plans, policies and controls for the area concerned." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.16. The Wisconsin Energy Priorities Law establishes a clear, specific priority order for siting all new transmission lines and related facilities: In the siting of new electric transmission facilities, including high-voltage transmission lines, . . . it is the policy of this state that, to the greatest extent feasible that is consistent with economic and engineering considerations, reliability of the electric system, and protection of the environment, the following corridors should be utilized in the following order of priority: (a) Existing utility corridors. (b) Highway and railroad corridors. (c) Recreational trails, to the extent that the facilities may be constructed below ground and that the facilities do not significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas. (d) New corridors. Wis. Stat. § 1.12(6). The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin recognizes that "this statute prefers corridor sharing because it imposes only an incremental addition of impacts to an area that is already affected by a cleared corridor, instead of the larger burdens caused by siting a transmission line in a new corridor." Application of American Transmission Company, 2006 Wisc. PUC LEXIS 309, *40 (June 30, 2006). Many segments of the proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line corridors do not comply with these Wisconsin statutory requirements. When running through recreational trail areas such as the Military Ridge State Trail and Pecatonica State Trail, transmission lines should be placed underground – not overhead – and should not significantly harm environmentally-sensitive areas. The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin has explained: The plain wording of the priorities in that subsection are intended to protect recreational corridors from being used as routes for overhead transmission lines. The statute requires any transmission line located in a recreational trail corridor to be placed underground, if the corridor is to be used in the identified priority list. Further, a transmission line in a recreational trail corridor cannot significantly impact environmentally sensitive areas. . . . If an overhead segment is proposed, it should be designed to minimize the impact on the trail corridor and then it may be considered among the lowest priority of all the options listed, including new corridors. Application of American Transmission Company, 2006 Wisc. PUC LEXIS 384, *29-30 (August 10, 2006). Siting overhead new transmission lines along recreational trails should "among the lowest priority of all the options listed." These conflicts with the state siting laws must be analyzed by RUS in the scope of its EIS in this case.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
288	48	120/120	122/122	110/ 110.0407	None	The Driftless Area Land Conservancy appreciates the Rural Utilities Service's consideration of these comments on the lawful and appropriate scope for the Environmental Impact Statement in this case. DALC and its attorneys would be pleased to meet with RUS officials to discuss questions or suggestions involving any of the above comments, including: (1) a properly defined purpose and need statement; (2) the current available factual data on Wisconsin electricity demand and the availability of renewable energy generation, other energy supply, energy efficiency and demand response resources; (3) the NEPA requirements for an EIS that "rigorously explores and objectively evaluates all reasonable alternatives" including non-transmission line alternatives and no-build alternatives; (4) the significant direct impacts, indirect impacts, and cumulative impacts on the environment in the Driftless Area in southwest and central Wisconsin where the proposed large Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and tall towers are proposed to be sited; and (5) conflicts with Wisconsin siting laws.
289	1	235/235	243/243.01	241/241.03	None	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
289	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	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.
289	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	We need to find alternative ways to genuinely serve the electric energy needs of this area.
289	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	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.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
290	1	120/121.03	280/281.02	None	None	My opinion is that this line is unnecessary and that a full cost-benefit analysis evaluating increased distributed energy production, energy conservation and improved energy efficiency initiatives is an essential step needed in the evaluation process that will almost certainly obviate the need for the transmission line. This project guarantees returns to investors who live outside the region while saddling local residents with 40 years of fixed-cost payments. And for what? A similar investment in distributed energy installations, conservation efforts and energy efficiency programs would clearly save money for local residents and make the project unnecessary.
290	2	234/234	None	None	None	The soil itself is a treasure, having remained unglaciated for the last 500,000 years. That covers the last three glacial advances, all of which left the Driftless unscarred.
290	3	241/241.03	None	None	None	Vegetation: Because of the rugged nature of the Driftless area (there are NO natural lakes in the Driftless - they have all drained away over time) the area is relatively undeveloped. Along with the unique soils, this has left the Driftless with a large share of still-native grasslands and forests, unmatched in quality in the Midwest. Invasive plant and animal corridors would be established with the proposed power line project.
290	4	260/260	None	None	None	Visual Resources: With its rugged topography, there are vistas in the Driftless area where you can see more than 50 miles. With 4-5 towers per mile, what is now a beautiful, rolling countryside would be marred with literally hundreds of towers in view that would loom twice the height of the tree line or any other manmade object in the entire region of the project. The visual transformation would be a permanent travesty unlike anything else in existence or on the drawing board.
291	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	As landowners in the Town of Vermont between Mt. Horeb and Black Earth, WI, I, along with my brothers Jonathan and Timothy Ford, are the owners of 147 acres of beautiful rolling hills in what is called the Driftless Area of Wisconsin, so named because the landscape was untouched by glaciers in the most recent Ice Age. We are third generation owners having inherited the land following the death of our mother in 2006 and have taken great care to preserve the land in its most natural state.
291	2	241/241	None	None	None	Located at 10261 Bell Road, Black Earth in the Town of Vermont, our property is made up of beautiful rolling hills filled with hundreds of oak, walnut, ash, elm and aspen trees.
291	3	243/243	None	None	None	A multitude of wild animals and plants, including whitetail deer, wild turkey, ruffed grouse and a whole chorus of songbirds make their home here.
291	4	244/244.01	None	None	None	Through great effort, we have cleared 40 acres of the land for farming, which provides a small income to help pay the taxes and other projects we undertake each year.
291	5	245/245.05	None	None	None	We have also spent many seasons hunting wild game, enjoying time spent outdoors with friends & family and meals of venison and turkey throughout the year.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
291	6	232/232.01	243/243.01	None	None	Surrounded by majestic bluffs to the south and east, our property is situated in the Black Earth Creek Watershed. Underground springs bubble to the surface, marking the beginning of one of the many small streams that eventually flow to the Black Earth Creek, a revered, class 1 cold-water trout-fishing stream enjoyed by fisherman of all ages. Intensive effort has been made by various groups throughout the watershed area to improve habitat, limit storm water and limit farm field runoff that might otherwise have negative impact.
291	7	260/260	None	None	None	Our township has tried to carefully balance the desires of private landowners with a desire to protect and preserve the natural scenic beauty of this special place. The township codes prohibit ridge top building--structures that might be seen for miles both night and day--and has height and color restrictions for homes and buildings that are approved so they will blend with the landscape as much as possible.
291	8	244/244.04	None	None	None	Though our acreage remains undeveloped, it includes rights for up to five residential building sites. While plans for our property don't currently include subdividing for purposes of residential building, this project would make it nearly impossible to develop in the future, drastically reducing the property value in the process.
291	9	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I feel that the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Project would have a devastating and irreversible effect on our property and much of the surrounding area if it were approved. With the potential to bisect our property, any reimbursement for easement will not offset the remarkable loss in property value and the negative impact on natural beauty of the area.
291	10	260/260	243/243	None	None	Careful planning of dozens of groups as well as individuals spanning generations to limit man-made visual pollution and preserve the biodiversity of the area would be gone forever.
291	11	260/260	None	None	None	If you have never been to Brigham County Park near Blue Mounds, WI, I strongly suggest you do so. It is a relatively small park—about 250 acres—but it feels much, much larger. There are a couple of shelters with picnic tables, playground equipment including swings and slides for kids, campsites and paths for hiking. In many ways, it is a very average county park, but the view it there is breathtaking. Located atop a bluff, the area to the north of Brigham Park provides a beautiful, sweeping panoramic view that encompasses nearly the entire northernmost route of the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Project. Instead of rolling countryside intermixed with farm fields and wooded hilltops for as far as the eye can see, the most prominent feature would be towering steel power poles and transmission lines across the entire horizon if this project is approved.
291	12	260/260	None	None	None	Putting power lines across the township will forever spoil the very nature of the area, destroying a natural beauty that future generations may never know.
291	13	280/ 281.0101	120/120.02	260/260	None	It's certainly valid to discuss the negative impact this project would have financially for landowners, whether there is a need for more electrical power, alternate sources of energy—including wind and solar or on the negative impact on global climate change, but most often, the first issue raised was how this project would have a negative visual impact on an area so many care about.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
292	1	507/507.05	None	None	None	If you could please confirm with me that you have received our comment, I would greatly appreciate it.
292	2	244/244.06	None	None	None	TPE is concerned that all land conserved by non-profit land conservation organizations are included in the scope of the EIS. Our organization was very concerned when the American Transmission Company had their original public sessions in 2016. Even though many areas of their maps noted "conserved land" one of our highest quality sites, Pleasant Valley Conservancy in Vermont Township, Dane County, WI which we own part of and hold conservation easement on was not included, and the proposed northern route includes 100% of this property. Not only is this site owned by TPE, but it is a dedicated State Natural Area and is enrolled in the WI Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program. These omissions are very concerning to our organization and its members. We are asking for all conserved land be included within the scope of the EIS being initiated. This includes all lands owned and all private conservation easements held by non-profit land conservation organizations. In addition that all State Natural Areas and land enrolled into the WI Knowles Nelson Stewardship Program be included in the scope of the EIS. This would be in addition to federal, state, county, or municipally owned conservation or public recreation land.
293	1	280/280	None	None	None	Iowa has an abundant wind energy resource and accessing this resource is a major option to improve the economy and environment in Iowa, including much of rural Iowa. We recognize that utilizing Iowa's wind resource will require the development of high voltage transmission lines. We appreciate the substantial economic and environmental benefits that wind energy offers and recognize that additional transmission lines will enable more wind and more of these benefits. We believe there must be a balance between the environmental benefits of wind generation and the environmental impacts of needed transmission lines. With a proactive and inclusive transmission planning, siting, routing, and mitigation process, we can achieve this balance.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
293	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	<p>We have worked closely with utilities and transmission developers on the siting and routing of transmission lines in Iowa, including the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project. We appreciate ITC Midwest’s willingness to engage with our organization, as well as our partner organizations and other stakeholders, on siting, routing, and potential mitigation needed for the Iowa portion of CHC over the past several years. During this process, ITC Midwest provided a number of Iowa environmental and conservation organizations, including the Council, with study area maps highlighting identified potential crossing options for the Mississippi River as well as the relevant substations in Iowa and Wisconsin that must be connected by the transmission project. In addition to reviewing maps, our organizations had the opportunity to visit potential crossing locations in-person, to submit written comments on siting and routing options to ITC Midwest, and to meet with ITC Midwest staff on multiple occasions to discuss the project. The Alternatives Crossing Analysis (ACA) prepared in April 2016 and the Macro-Corridor Study (MCS) prepared in September 2016 notes or documents some of this involvement. During the Council’s review process, we have indicated support for the two identified Mississippi River crossing options near Cassville, Wisconsin. In the ACA and MCS, these are referred to as the Nelson-Dewey and Stoneman crossing options. Our support for these crossing options recognized several benefits. These benefits include the use of existing transmission right-of-way and infrastructure for the Mississippi River crossing itself as well as the use of existing transmission right-of-way and infrastructure for significant stretches of the transmission line outside of the River crossing, but not available if other crossing locations were used. We agree with the major conclusion of the ACA and MCS that the preferred crossing locations are the Nelson-Dewey and Stoneman options. We appreciate the thorough and detailed review that was involved in producing both the ACA and MCS. We recognize that an expanded infrastructure project, such as this transmission line, in the Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge is a serious undertaking. Given the thorough siting and routing analysis, the limited options for crossing outside of the Refuge, and the broader economic and environmental benefits from expanded access to wind generation, we are supportive of the use of the Refuge for the Nelson-Dewey and Stoneman crossing options.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
293	3	280/280.02	280/280.01	None	None	For the scoping of the EIS, we strongly encourage USDA RUS to include and evaluate the positive relationships between the CHC transmission project, an expansion of wind generation in the footprint of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), and the economic and environmental benefits from this increase in wind generation. The CHC project is one of a number of Multi-Value Project (MVP) transmission lines that were identified by MISO to meet reliability, economic, and renewable energy needs. According to MISO, the full portfolio of MVP lines would enable significant wind generation (41 million megawatt-hours according to MISO's Multi Value Project Portfolio, January 2012). The CHC project, also known as MVP 5, would improve the flow of wind energy in the region, including from Iowa into Wisconsin. The CHC project, similar to the whole portfolio of MVP lines, is a critical step in the process of increasing use of wind energy in the region. Wind energy's economic benefits in Iowa are both clear and substantial and include jobs, benefits to rural landowners and rural parts of Iowa, and consumer savings. Expanding wind generation will increase and expand these benefits in Iowa. Currently, up to 7,000 Iowans are employed in the wind industry, including manufacturing, operations and maintenance, construction, engineering, and many other sectors. Land lease payments currently total nearly \$20 million annually and are expected to double to approximately \$40 million annually by 2020, once several planned wind projects are completed. Most or all of these land lease payments are made to farmers and rural landowners in rural Iowa. Wind is becoming a leading source of property tax revenue in counties with significant wind energy construction, which are again Iowa's rural counties. In such counties, property tax revenue from wind helps counties pay for schools, roads and bridges, and critical health services. Finally, wind energy is saving consumers' money. A recent report from the American Wind Energy Association found that adding an additional 10,000 MW of wind energy, beyond what is already built and planned, would save consumers \$12.6 billion on net over twenty-five years (The Consumer Benefits of Wind Energy in Iowa, October 2016). These savings are due in part to the low cost of wind generation, particularly in the Midwest, compared to other sources of generation. According to Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis (version 10.0, released December 2016), wind energy has the lowest levelized cost of new electric generation, even without federal tax incentives, compared to other alternatives (e.g., new coal, nuclear, natural gas combined cycle, etc.). Lazard's regional analysis further indicates that the Midwest is the lowest cost region for new wind energy.
293	4	233/233	233/233.03	None	None	In addition to direct economic benefits, wind energy is a zero-emissions source of electric generation that will improve Iowa's and the region's environment. While Iowa has made significant progress on wind energy and now generates over 30% of its electricity from wind, coal still accounts for over 50% of electricity generation. All coal is imported and is a major source of air pollutants in Iowa, including nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide, and carbon dioxide. Further reducing the use of fossil fuel generation in Iowa and surrounding states by increasing wind energy will provide cleaner air and water and mitigate climate change.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
293	5	245/245.01	283/283	None	None	These environmental improvements will benefit the Mississippi River National Wildlife Refuge as well as the full corridor of the CHC project, including both environment and public health benefits.
293	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	In our review of the CHC project to date, we believe that the economic and environmental benefits from wind generation that is associated with CHC balance any local environmental impacts from the CHC project.
293	7	120/121.03	122/122.04	None	None	We are also assured by ITC Midwest's due diligence in evaluating siting and routing options and working with environment and conservation stakeholders to date as well as the opportunity to work with ITC Midwest in the future to mitigate any impacts that cannot be avoided in the siting and routing process.
294	1	241/241	243/243	None	None	The Driftless area is a unique and internationally recognized land containing rare habitats for fish and wildlife. This power line puts the health, beauty, and eco-diversity of this area at risk for a venture of unproved need. What herbicides will be used in the construction and maintenance of these lines and towers, and what might be the unintended consequences for public, agricultural, and wildlife futures if lands and waters are poisoned?
294	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	The economy of our community could be compromised if others choose not to move to or visit this area because of a spoiled environment. The economy of this area relies significantly on tourism, and any diminishment of those tourist dollars would seriously damage a local economy still struggling with the recession.
294	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	High voltage transmission lines have a negative effect on property values. Loss of property tax revenue could have devastating consequences for our area.
295	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	The Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) line is one component of this so-called Multi-Value Project (MVP) portfolio. Analyses show the line will provide considerable environmental and rural economic benefits by supporting wind energy use in the region.
295	2	233/233	232/232.04	None	None	Wind development also translates to significant emissions and water savings. Increased use of renewable energy leads to decreased dependence on fossil fuel resources responsible for harmful emissions including carbon dioxide, methane, sulfur dioxide, particulates, and others. MISO's Multi Value Project Results and Analysis report estimates that renewable energy enabled by the MVP portfolio will save between 8.3 and 17.8 million tons of carbon dioxide each year. Additionally, in 2015, wind energy replaced enough fossil fuel energy to save ~73 billion gallons of water. Wind energy enabled by CHC will result in further conservation of water resources.
295	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	The Center applauds the decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the CHC Mississippi river crossing. We believe the study will provide the information necessary to limit environmental impacts as much as possible.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
295	4	283/283	232/232.04	233/233.03	None	We encourage the Rural Utility Service and SWCA Environmental Consultants to include analysis on broader environmental and public health benefits of the emissions and water savings resulting from renewable energy enabled by CHC. This analysis should consider climate benefits resulting from existing and potential renewable energy projects associated with the line, as outlined in the Final Guidance for Federal Departments and Agencies on Consideration of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and the Effects of Climate Change in National Environmental Policy Act Reviews, released in August, 2016.
296	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	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.
296	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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?
296	3	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	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 affect the local economies.
296	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	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?
297	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	I am concerned about the multitude of negative impacts that introducing high tension power lines throughout this area would have - the negative economic impact on the many area businesses that rely on visitors and tourism
297	2	241/241	243/243	None	None	the negative environment impacts on this unique geological area and its diverse species of plants and animals
297	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	and finally the property values of the farms and other residents of the area.
297	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	These consequences in themselves should be enough to disqualify this effort, but I could possibly come to terms with these disruptions, if it were not for the case that there does not appear to be any legitimate economic rationale for the project in the first place. As citizens, we are supposed to be prepared to sacrifice personal interests for the betterment of all. But in this case, there is no evidence that this project would bring any positive value to the people of Wisconsin or the surrounding areas. All data suggests that electricity usage has been flat for several years and projected to remain that way into the future.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
297	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	The project boasts of its use of alternative energy sources, but when pressed it becomes clear that there is no guarantee of any but minimal use of solar or wind resources and that under any circumstances the vast majority of electricity will come from coal. We don't need more power, and we certainly don't need to encourage more depletion of fossil fuels. On top of that, the people of WI will foot the bill for this project in the form of increased energy rates. As far as I have been able to determine, the only people who stand to profit from this project are the stakeholders and investors in the power companies themselves.
297	6	260/260	None	None	None	not to mention the blight on the landscape that these towers will represent
298	1	283/283	None	None	None	My understanding is the new line is much larger and carries much more voltage and current. Therefore, my concerns are for the safety of my family and kids as they play in the yard with their dog and in the tree house. My concern is for my other animals that are housed around the silo area. My concerns are for the metal structures below these new and powerful lines. These properties have been in the family for generations. I want my kids and future family to be able to use and enjoy the property for years to come without worry and fear. At the same open house, representatives there explained that the study area is quite wide and that the new line can be shifted to avoid conflicts. I hope that what I have presented and explained here is realized as a conflict worthy of shifting the new line's location.
299	1	260/260	280/280.02	282/282	None	We are concerned about the negative impacts that the proposed large high-voltage Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line and towers would have on our businesses, on the environment and scenic landscapes, and on the overall natural and cultural resources of the Driftless Area. The Rural Utilities Service should evaluate the adverse direct, indirect, and cumulative environmental impacts on our and other dairy farms, organic farms, and other farm-related businesses in the Driftless Area.
300	1	102/102	None	None	None	Please see attached...Thank you!
302	1	260/260	None	None	None	Visual Resources and Environmental Justice. This ravine is a place of beauty, wonder, and awe which becomes even more special when a seasonal waterfall is created by snow melt or heavy rains that cascade over the rock bluff. The proposed transmission lines will become the backdrop of this viewscape. No longer will it be a place of beauty and wonder that soothes the human spirit. Instead it will be a torment, constantly providing an example of how human beings care more about making money than they do about preserving natural places, that they think only of themselves in the moment and do not consider the future and what kind of environment they are leaving to their children and grandchildren.
302	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Nothing I read proves to me that the transmission lines are needed to provide my fellow citizens with energy, so how can anyone justify destroying the Driftless Area with unsightly and noisy transmission lines? The topography of the Driftless constantly reveals hidden gems like my ravine. This unglaciated land deserves to be revered and protected, and future generations deserve to benefit from having natural places that will give them joy and refresh their spirit.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
302	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I could not possibly live here, driving under transmission lines to get to my house and then looking at them day and night from my house and deck. It will make me crazy, seeing the land I love come to this fate after my late husband and I nurtured and enjoyed it for 36 years. In addition to the heartbreak of leaving my home and land, my retirement income will be seriously compromised because the sale price will be diminished due to the transmission lines. What gives a private company the right to take my land and reduce the value of my property when it is providing nothing for the common good?
302	4	243/243.04	241/241.02	243/243.02	None	My land shelters important species. The ravine provides the perfect habitat for the Ornate Box Turtle, Terrapene ornata, which is an endangered reptile. Walking ferns, which are an unusual fern, grow in the ravine. Bald eagles sometimes feed just over the horizon in my fields that border County Road ZZ.
302	5	241/241	234/234.01	243/243	None	The green area between the trees and the horizon was seeded this Spring in Pollinator Friendly Habitat. The seed had not even germinated when I received the letter announcing the proposal to build the transmission line on my land. Even with the help of cost share from CRP, seeding 21 acres was a major investment on my part. A lot of the money I spent will be wasted because native plants will be killed by the herbicides that will be used to maintain the ROWs. I now have a total of 30 acres planted in prairie. Among other tools, I use fire to manage them. Representatives at the ATC Open House knew nothing about prairie fires or how to manage a prairie under the lines. I am doing my best to prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, and improve water and air quality. The transmission lines do not go hand-in-hand with those objectives
302	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	If you look closely at this picture you see trees that are battered and trees with their tops twisted off. That's because an EF2 force tornado roared through here on June 29, 2014 and destroyed 80% of the trees in my woods and around my house. County Road ZZ, which used to be heavily wooded, is now almost devoid of trees. Power poles were down for miles. I am extremely frightened of what would happen to transmission towers and lines during a tornado. It is also extremely demoralizing for myself and my neighbors, who for over two years have been rebuilding structures and cleaning up tornado debris, to discover the final reward for our hard work and perseverance will be to look at massive steel poles planted on our land and deal with the decline in our property value.
302	7	280/280.02	None	None	None	The transmission lines are proposed to come down County ZZ, which borders Governor Dodge State Park, and runs along the top of a ridge aptly named Pleasant Ridge. From the park when you look north toward ZZ the view is of the beautiful, towering rock bluffs that border ZZ. Gov Dodge is one of the most popular parks in the state. People visiting it will not want nor do they deserve to see transmission lines running across the top of those beautiful bluffs. Tourism will be negatively impacted when the area loses its beauty. The consequence will be that businesses and our economy will suffer.
302	8	280/ 281.0101	280/281.02	None	None	My own personal finances will suffer because the property I own along ZZ will significantly decline in value. In addition, we are forced to pay for the transmission lines as part of our inflated energy bills while the investors in the lines will be making 10.2% profit. Once again, is there no justice?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
303	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	Suffice to say that my commitment to the driftless area is directly relatable to my commitment to what is good for humans, animals, and natural processes in general.
303	2	244/244.04	None	None	None	I own a 3-acre piece of land near Highland that is completely within the proposed Northern corridor of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line.
303	3	280/ 281.0101	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	The construction of this line will most certainly degrade the landscape, property value, natural habitats, and the livelihood for myself and farming neighbors. One neighbor breeds horses and cattle (as do several others), another has restored a 5 acre prairie by hand as he has also built his dream home.
303	4	244/244.04	None	None	None	My land is part of an enclave of small plots that consist of nine properties, some of which will be completely ruined by the proposed corridor, while others that will be degraded in their presence. An easement for this transmission line through my property would effectively eviscerate it, end my own use and plans for it, and render my investment null - stolen by a for profit company (ATC).
303	5	241/241	None	None	None	1. My plans for this land are to restore it to a fully native ecosystem. 2. The transmission line will both negate my plans and instead do the opposite via clearcutting and herbicidal control of the corridor.
303	6	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	3. The transmission line will negatively affect the visual environment and likely dissuade tourism in the area accordingly.
303	7	232/232.01	None	None	None	The easement will continue just due West of my land and then loom directly over Otter Creek as it makes its way South toward Blackhawk Lake. I expect similar chemical corruption in the corridor to negatively impact this wonderful trout stream.
303	8	122/122.01	None	None	None	5. The bigger issue pertains to the onslaught of this and so many other energy "infrastructure" projects in the state - 7 already existing transmission line corridors in the last decade spiraling from Madison in all directions, oil pipelines and high-capacity additions to existing pipelines, Frac sand mines literally destroying the driftless area (pumping our hills deep underground in other states and then burning the product of into nothing), increased transport of oil and sand throughout the state exposing risks of contamination and public health. And these are just the energy projects (I also reference CAFO's and their groundwater depleting/poisoning results).
303	9	280/281.02	None	None	None	I am not an "environmentalist" per se but am not stupid. Energy corporations are running roughshod over people's very existences, homes, communities, and so on. At what point was it decided that common Americans are relegated to live and sacrifice their well-being to live underneath the armature of corporate profit taking?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
303	10	120/121.03	None	None	None	There are other means to an energy future that is clean, responsive to, and employing of local communities - renewable distributed energy. We are now at a point in technology where we can actually prosper at the local level provided we say "No" to a dirty energy infrastructure that is heavy handedly forcing a fossil fuel based infrastructure paid for by the people who live amongst the pipelines and towers but are not direct recipients of its "beauty". The beauty of profits for some at the expense of others who will lose their lands and environment. Let's believe in America once again and let hard working people keep what they have worked for. But moreso [sic], employ American tenacity and ingenuity and build infrastructure that takes a longer view that preserves vital resources (water, land, flora, and fauna) rather than reward the special interest suggestion that we can't.
304	1	244/244.04	260/260	None	None	I am writing about the high voltage transmission lines proposed in SW Wisconsin. I own a house on County Highway ZZ in Iowa County, Wisconsin, that is on one of the two proposed routes, and in fact if the land were to be taken by eminent domain, the house would likely come down as it is close to the road and would come within the sweep of the area taken 90 feet from the placement of the lines. My personal loss would be considerable as this is my retirement setting, and I have groomed it for ten years to include an orchard, a garden, a prairie and a diverse woodlot. It abuts and overlooks Governor Dodge State Park, a 5000 acre park with three lakes and some spectacular geologic landscapes. My property, only 5.35 acres, slopes steeply down to the park boundary line where the long term campsites are located. This is part of a larger parcel that was subdivided for building since the terrain is rocky and unsuitable for farming. We are up on the lip of the ridge, named Pleasant Ridge that boasts prize-winning cheese named for it.
304	2	243/243	243/243.02	None	None	Birds and other wildlife don't recognize the property lines and drift through our yard at will.
304	3	260/260	None	None	None	Outcroppings of ancient rock formations look from the edge of ours into this magnificent 5000 acre valley. It is said that native peoples gathered here. You can feel the special beauty of land that has not been run over by glaciers for 3.5 million years. Dramatic peaks and outcroppings look familiar from their use in movies and pictures even postcards. This is an area of distinctly American beauty. It holds a reservoir of calm and joy through nature. The American upper Midwest is at its best in this landscape.
304	4	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	Now comes a proposal to cut a swath through this land and to install horizon defacing transmission towers the height of skyscrapers in my front yard. Now if the power was needed and being sent to a place where it would improve the lot of the people living there, it would be harder to object. However, all indications are that this is a last ditch money making attempt in the face of a declining demand for power and a decentralization of power sources.
304	5	244/244.01	None	None	None	The driftless area relies heavily on farming and an industrial project such as this would devastate the character of the community.
304	6	280/280.02	None	None	None	Additionally, we rely heavily on tourism, artists, and retirees to survive-- all of these sources of income would be adversely impacted by this transmission line destroying the views and the entire identity of this valley.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
305	1	243/243.04	260/260	None	None	The proposed towers for the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line will pass through a unique natural area—the Driftless Region of the Upper Midwest [sic], a four state area the glaciers missed when they scoured the rest of the region. Not only do we have unique and endangered species, we are an area of outstanding natural beauty that will be forever destroyed the erection of the giant towers proposed.
305	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Further there is no need for the lines—electrical usage is flat or declining.
305	3	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The proponents have not examined alternatives. There are many that can produce the energy needed without an impact on the environment
306	1	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Endangered or threatened species and habitat on my 89 acres that would be negatively impacted by the construction of CHC -Little Brown Bat -Henslow's sparrow -Bull snake -Bob' O Link -Eastern Bluebird -Purple Milkweed -Prairie Milkweed -Pale Purple Coneflower
306	2	243/243	243/243.02	None	None	We also have: -Bald Eagle -Harrier Hawk -Red Tail Hawk -Broadwinged Hawk - Kestrel -Merlin -Shrike -Sharp-shinned Hawk -Cooper's Hawk -Black Bear - Bobcat -Flying squirrel -Migratory tundra swans -Sandhill cranes -Wild turkey - White tail deer -coyote -Badger
307	1	244/244.04	280/ 281.0101	None	None	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.
307	2	280/280.02	260/260	245/245.04	None	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.
308	1	245/245.03	120/121.03	None	None	I am the volunteer "steward" of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area (Pine Relict SNA). All the concerns you have heard about the Driftless Area are amplified many times over when considering the 546 acres within the Pine Relict SNA. And either route now proposed would impact this Pine Relict SNA. Many people assume that the transmission line route that follows 18/151 next to Ridgeway would be the less disruptive of natural ecology as to the two options. Actually, that route would come within 1/6 of a mile of some parts of the Pine Relict SNA.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
308	2	241/241.01	None	None	None	<p>Most naturalists know what a Driftless Area is. Many fewer know what a Pine Relict is. After the Ice Age, the first trees in Wisconsin and Northern Illinois were the pines. Under the pines developed an alpine eco-system. As it got warmer and warmer, prairie fires crossed over Wisconsin from the West. Pines die when burned by fire. So virtually all of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois lost their Pines. I said virtually. The parts of SW Wisconsin that were not scraped smooth by the big glaciers still had deep gulches, shallow caves and high rock outcrops. There these huge rock barriers protected the pines from the fires, especially on the North sides of the rock. Often the rock was tough Dolomite. It is the descendants of these pines who were protected from the fires that now make up a Pine Relict.</p> <p>With the fires, both oak savanna and prairies surrounded the clumps of Pine Relict. This is what created a site unique in the world.</p> <p>The remaining Pine Relict are not just like the pine forests of Northern Wisconsin that are solid pines. Here in the Pine Relict we see pine and oak growing right next to each other... something you would never naturally see up North. But as fire was suppressed by Europeans, the pine cones and oak acorns scattered around some and very soon they were growing near each other.</p>
309	1	241/241	243/243.01	None	None	<p>The Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area is also unique because it is the largest and most pristine protected area of Pine Relict that still has maintained the unusual mix of ground flora. Its plants include both alpine Northern forest plants like Canada mayflower, wintergreen and pipsissewa, but also shows spring ephemerals and oak savanna wildflowers typical in the rest of Southern WI. Neither unwise logging nor intensive agriculture were much used within these steep gulches and rocky acres. This rare ecosystem deserves continued protection. Now bobcats and black bears with their cubs are seen here.</p>
310	1	245/245.03	232/232.03	None	None	<p>Wetlands are not real common in Driftless areas. But the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area includes a major wetland. Existing wetlands are subject to great pressure and need preservation for their unique habitat and for their water cleansing qualities. This wetland would be less than a mile North of the from the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek High Voltage lines that would follow 18/151.</p>
311	1	245/245.03	241/241.01	280/280.05	None	<p>Ridgeway Pine Relicts State Natural Area is owned by the DNR and was designated a State Natural Area in 1998. As recently as 2016, Wisconsin has been fulfilling its plan to add more acreage to this State Natural Area by buying additional properties. And local volunteers, young and old, pull the Garlic mustard and remove the woody invasives that have drifted in from its edges. It is a source of pride in the township of Ridgeway. Photos of scenes in the Pine Relict SNA hang in the town hall. Retired farmers from the area are collecting seeds from the prairie edges and helping to sow them in the compromised open edges that were once native grasses like Indian Grass. With all this work and effort and expenditure, it would be a shame for people to feel their decades of conserving as farmers and as neighbors were for naught.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
312	1	245/245.03	243/243.02	None	None	With the addition of the Creme de Creme of the Marclan unit in 2016, the highest ridges with the tallest pine trees were added. Unbeknownst to the former owners, this newest part of the Ridgeway Pine Relict State Natural Area was found to have a rookery of Great Blue Heron. Nine nests on the tallest pine trees had eggs and young birds. The photos attached show a Great Blue Heron guarding all the nests from predators as other herons went out to feed in nearby waters. The Rosy Lane Creek runs close by as does the large wetland. Rookeries are abandoned by Great Blue Heron when there is too much disturbance nearby.
313	1	280/280.05	260/260	120/120.02	None	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 grandchildren who love and appreciate this land and they deserve the right to enjoy it as well.
313	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	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, anaerobic 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.
315	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I have, along with my wife, spent almost 70 years acquiring economic and environmental security. The economic security, which includes stocks in many utility and energy corporations, is certainly not of Trump proportions; but we have operated a small 50 year old family business, educated our children, and we are comfortable... An environmental security has been obtained through purchasing and living on 350 + acres of land: lands in two parcels: one in the remote mountains of interior/coastal British Columbia, where we have just build a home, and the other in the unglaciated hills of southwestern Wisconsin where 30 + years ago we had a stone and slate house constructed. Both of these properties are my love objects. I intimately know these properties; these lands are my secret hideaway: they are my sanctuary: these lands are my religion. In return for offering me a sanctuary, I have cared for these lands. Here in Wisconsin the old farm garbage dumps from the original homesteading family have been removed, old fences have been taken out, trees have been planted, wildlife habitat has been enhanced, invasive species were (and are) removed, and a sustainable forestry plan was created - by a professional forester - for our 150 acre woodlot. Here, two selective timber cuts have almost paid for our land purchase.
315	2	244/244.04	241/241	None	None	But now the rug is being from under me with the proposed Cardinal/Hickory Creek transmission line that will cross 3/4 of a mile over our Wisconsin acreage. From my estimation, we may lose up to 17 acres of our managed hardwood forest along with a small stand of relict red pine.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
315	3	235/235	282/282.02	282/282	None	This line will run in front of a cave on our land that features, according to the Wisconsin Historical Society, aboriginal wall paintings. This line will run through my - and generations past - sacred temple
315	4	232/232.04	None	None	None	Also, I have great concerns about our watershed: The watershed, from which our well water is pumped, does not encompass any land that is treated with agricultural chemicals. Sapling trees are prolific here, and the land under this powerline, which does not have road access, will undoubtedly be treated with herbicide. I do not want herbicide in my well water or in the water springs that this line will pass over.
315	5	260/260	120/121.03	None	None	This mostly forested neighborhood where we live is relatively pristine. This is different than a major highway corridor nine miles south of our home; a highway decorated with billboards, and lined with communities begging for industrial development. Not to wish bad on other people, but maybe an industrial zone is where this industrial appearing line should be sited.
316	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	1. It is not needed and would be waste of resources. Demand for electricity in Wisconsin has been flat or declining in recent years. Even the inadequate planning documents submitted to the Wisconsin Public Service Commission projected no or minimum growth, and any future needs can be met through increased energy efficiency, proper load management on the grid, and local renewable power options. 2. As federal and Wisconsin taxpayers we strongly oppose government money being wasted on this unneeded and destructive project. There are plenty of REAL needs in this country. 3. As stockholders in Madison Gas and Electric, one of the owners of the American Transmission Company, we strongly oppose MGE funds being wasted on this unneeded and destructive project. We believe the stockholders in all of ATC's owning companies would also oppose this project if they knew how unnecessary it is, and how much it would cost stockholders.
316	2	232/232	243/243.01	243/243.03	None	As property owners of Managed Forest acreage in Vermont Township of Dane County, WI, we strongly oppose the destructive construction of ATC's monstrous transmission towers, damaging the watersheds, the animal and bird habitats including those of declining species, fragmenting the forests, and forever despoiling and degrading the magnificent and fragile Driftless Area of Dane County and the surrounding countryside.
316	3	280/ 281.0101	283/283	None	None	As property owners in Vermont Township of Dane County, we also strongly oppose the ATC high voltage project because it would greatly threaten property values throughout the area and add to residents health concerns. Just the construction alone would do permanent damage to the land, and there would be further harm because of ongoing vegetation control under the lines by cutting and herbicides, resulting in herbicide drift. This is not an acceptable risk.
316	4	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Law, regulations and the good of the planet call for serious consideration of alternatives to this environmentally destructive project. The utilities that own the American Transmission Company should be required to do much better at conservation, better management of the grid, and supporting energy efficiency and renewable options like solar and wind power generation before being allowed to go ahead with the Cardinal-Hickory Creek project

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
316	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	XCELL Energy is pushing hardest for this project, probably to expand their territory and meet their renewable portfolio by pumping in wind farm energy from western states (instead of meeting the intention of the EPA rules for utilities' creating renewables locally). Their corporate goals should not drive the construction of this ATC project to the serious disadvantage of Wisconsin's beautiful Driftless Area and the included watersheds and wildlife. If XCELL chooses to enlarge their Hickory Creek Substation, and build an unneeded new substation near Montfort, they should not be allowed to do it on the backs of the residents and property owners along the proposed routes.
316	6	283/283	None	None	None	Safety issues loom as well. We have heard that some possible routings include individual right angle turns or a succession of right angle turns, and that such turns are less stable. 9. We're also concerned that in our age of terrorist threats, a huge interconnected regional/national grid is much more subject to wide-reaching sabotage. As well as being safer, decentralized energy generation would better support local economies, provide local employment, and minimize the size, scale, voltage and environmental impacts.
317	1	280/280.05	120/121.03	None	None	Please do not build through the driftless region land. This is sacred space, and it needs to be preserved. Too much already ruined. There must be a better way. Please consider other solutions. Thank you.
318	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	With energy use in Wisconsin flat and even diminishing, there is no need for this line.
318	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	A long-distance 320,000 kV line is an inefficient way of moving electricity. Locally-produced power from renewable resources is much more efficient.
318	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	Money expenditures, estimated at an initial cost of \$500,000,000 to ratepayers, are expected to balloon to 8 to 10 times as much in the long run. This powerline won't even deliver power to us local customers, who will foot the bill. Wouldn't that money be better spent on more efficient, local, renewable energy?
318	4	243/243.01	243/243.04	241/241.03	None	We and many of our neighbors have spent years revitalizing our land for threatened and disappearing species, including nesting dickcissels, bobolinks, red-headed woodpeckers, pileated woodpeckers; monarch and checkerspot butterflies, luna and cecropia moths, walking stick insects, little brown bats, various woodland orchids, and native prairie plants. The 150-foot-wide swath required for construction and maintenance of this powerline will introduce invasive and non-native species, disrupt nesting birds and other creatures. We have seen badgers on our land, an otter across the road where Blue Mounds Creek runs, and a bobcat on the land next to ours. The wetland right across Highway K from us is a US Fish and Wildlife protected land. A mile north on Highway K is a pond with active beavers and mink. If this powerline follows Highway 18/151, it will cut through a very large, internationally important land, The Nature Conservancy's Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area. Many species of threatened and even endangered species are protected on this land.
318	5	282/282	None	None	None	If this powerline follows the proposed western route that follows the border of Dodgeville State Park and Wyoming Valley, it ruins land of international cultural importance, notably Frank Lloyd Wright's (an internationally-acclaimed architect) land and school. The Driftless Area is an important cultural- and nature-based tourism area and many local incomes depend on these visitors.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
318	6	233/233.03	120/ 121.0301	None	None	Climate change is real. The majority of the power that this ATC line is carrying is produced by non-renewable energy (in spite of the graphic illustration depicting energy coming from windpower only.) It is time to act responsibly, stop using non-renewables as our energy sources, and support cleaner local energy now and for future generations.
319	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	My family has owned and operated a livestock grazing/farming business since 1967 in the Town of Wyoming, Iowa County, WI. Our son, Eric, and his wife, Kiley, are continuing the business. One of the proposed corridors for the Cardinal- Hickory Creek (CHC) high voltage transmission line crosses the east/west extent of our farmland.
319	2	241/241	None	None	None	The Town of Wyoming is a region of critical oak woodlands/savanna opportunity and concern; a construction project of this scale would be significantly larger and more invasive on the landscape than any other in place or ever considered.
319	3	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	Energy usage in our state is not increasing, nor projected to increase. But this construction will increase our costs as ratepayers.
319	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property values across all impacted Townships will undoubtedly decline significantly.
319	5	244/244.02	None	None	None	From a family perspective, operating our livestock grazing business with a high voltage transmission line across our valley (there is no road running east/west where the proposed corridor is drawn) is not fathomable.
319	6	280/281.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	What is the cost-benefit of this proposal as compared to other approaches to secure our energy future, such as a local distributed renewable energy approach?
319	7	244/244.02	None	None	None	What might be the impact on our livestock grazing under/next to the line?
319	8	233/233.02	None	None	None	What are the carbon emission impacts of this project?
319	9	122/122.01	None	None	None	What are the potential cumulative negative environmental and economic impacts of this project?
320	1	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	None	It will be a burden financially on all of Wisconsin and residents of the Counties it goes through and has not proven that it is even needed. The concern seems to only be for them to create a larger profit margin for themselves with no regard to land owners.
320	2	280/ 281.0101	244/244.04	None	None	We own 100 acres in the Town of Arena on Sweeney Road. We strongly oppose the power lines going in the vicinity let alone on our property. We lived on this property for 19 years with the plan of it being our ability to retire on the value of the land. We have established values of the different parcels we have already sold. As such 002-0763.A home and 20 acre lot sold for \$725,000, neighboring lot of 12.4 acres sold for \$220,000, both of which resold in 2015 together for \$950,000. We also sold a neighboring parcel for \$120,000, 14 acres without a building site. In a few weeks we will be selling the northern 31 acres along Sweeney Road at a price of \$350,000.
320	3	235/235	None	None	None	This 100 acres of land is at this value because of the beauty and varied features it holds. There are bluffs and rock formations though out the whole property.
320	4	241/241	None	None	None	It has pine trees of various varieties one of which I have only seen on this land.
320	5	232/232.01	None	None	None	There are springs, several ponds and water gardens.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
320	6	260/260	None	None	None	The view from the lots and home are not to be compared. We have panoramic views from Mt Horeb and across to Dodgeville. Placing power poles across the whole viewable area would be a devastation and monetary hardship for not only us but all the owners of these lots and home.
320	7	280/280.05	None	None	None	We have spent the last 23 years maintaining this land. To keep the natural beauty available to us and any future owners to enjoy as we have.
320	8	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We have two parcels on the market now, both priced in the \$300,000 range. If these power lines go even in view of any of these lots it will devastate [sic] the values of our lots and the lots already sold.
320	9	244/244.02	None	None	None	We also graze all 100 acres which would create a possible health hazard for the cattle.
320	10	120/121.03	None	None	None	In addition to how it will affect us personally we are strongly against the lines crossing all of our countryside in Iowa County and east towards Middleton. The corridor along 18/151 is open already and would not leave such a destructive path ruining the countryside of so many land owners. I can't comprehend why going the northern route would even be a viable solution compared to the open corridor of 18/151 if this line even needs to go through at all.
321	1	235/235	245/245.03	None	None	I currently live in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin where the proposed route of the powerline route is projected to pass through. There are many reasons why these lines and towers should not become part of the landscape in the Driftless Area of Wisconsin. The Driftless Area is unique due to the fact that the glaciers that came through this state bypassed this area and instead of bulldozing the land flat, it left beautiful limestone bluffs with natural lakes and springwater streams in deep cut valleys. The beauty of Governor Dodge State Park is proof of that.
321	2	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	This is a rural culture that works with the landscape that surrounds us. People here rely on the beauty of this area to bring tourists that support our communities. This includes farmers, wine makers, local artisans, campers, hunters, fisherman, House on the Rock, boaters, and hikers just to name a few. Tourists come to this area to do all these activities because of the unique beauty of the area. The towers and powerlines will be a very unattractive sight for tourists and visitors.
321	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	This project will lower land values and hurt our economy.
321	4	243/243.02	None	None	None	We now have nesting eagles in the area for the first time in quite a while.
321	5	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	I don't believe there is any economic justification for the use of this power transported across the area. The demands for energy are dropping as we continue to use energy saving alternatives and ideas. I urge you to perform an environmental and/or economic impact study to prove that there is indeed a need for this project to happen.
321	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please consider other alternatives so that this unique area continues to remain a place that many people want to visit and enjoy.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
322	1	280/281.01	122/122.04	None	None	A. Real Estate Division North: The Project may have impacts to Government parcels of Corps-administered land. The Rock Island District's Real Estate Division has confirmed that as of November 30, 2016, the Proponent has not submitted the required real estate outgrant application. It is essential to contact the Real Estate Division and submit all required information for the action to be considered. The point of contact for real estate requirements is Jeff Nelson, 309-794-5833. Please note that only the Real Estate Division within either District has the authority to authorize the use of federally-controlled land. Please note: Prior to issuing real estate instruments for this project, policy identifies that an approved mitigation plan would be needed for statutory and non-statutory mitigation and has different options for mitigation possibly including acquisition of lands turned over to the government. A mitigation plan would need to include mitigation for both real property loss (timber) and habitat loss. A coordinated site restoration plan would also be required.
322	2	232/232.01	110/110.01	None	None	Regulatory Offices: In the State of Wisconsin, authority to review and authorize work regulated pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 (Section 10) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404) rests with the St. Paul District. In the State of Iowa, this same authority is vested with the Rock Island District. The proposed project includes a crossing of the Mississippi River, a Section 10 navigable water of the United States. Section 10 prohibits the construction, excavation, or deposition of materials in, over, or under navigable waters of the United States, or any work that would affect the course, location, condition, or capacity of those waters, unless the work has been authorized by a Department of the Army permit. In addition to Section 10 authorization, the Proponent is required to obtain Section 404 authorization for any proposed placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States, including jurisdictional wetlands, in advance of completing regulated work. Finally, it is common for project proponents to complete additional design after the NEPA process is concluded. This information will be required by both Districts to evaluate regulated portions of the project pursuant to both Section 10 and Section 404. It is the responsibility of the Proponent to provide a complete application with this information to both the St. Paul District and the Rock Island District to begin this process.
322	3	110/110.01	None	None	None	The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Rock Island District and the St. Paul District (Corps) have participated in early Agency Scoping meetings for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek 345-kV Transmission Line (Project) proposed by the Dairyland Power Cooperative (Proponent). The US Department of Agriculture - Rural Utilities Service has identified itself as the Lead Agency and will be preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as stated in the Federal Register, Notice of Intent on October 18, 2016. Corps representatives attended meetings held at the Dubuque Grand River Center on May 17, 2016 and at the Cobblestone Suites on September 21, 2016. We have received your most recent meeting invitation dated October 14, 2016. The Corps will continue to participate in the environmental review process as a cooperating agency. As mentioned above, this project involves two Corps Districts. Corps civil works boundaries differ from its regulatory boundaries. District staff reviewed the information provided thus far and have the following consolidated comments:

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
322	4	120/120	110/110.01	None	None	Environmental Compliance Planning Division North: Environmental Compliance for granting a real estate instrument will be needed in order to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. The USDA-RUS Service has identified itself as the Lead Agency and intends to prepare an EIS. The Rock Island District Commander, per Engineering Regulation 200- 2-2 paragraph 21, will normally adopt another Federal agency's EIS and consider it to be adequate unless the Commander finds substantial doubt as to technical or procedural adequacy or omission of factors important to the Corps' decision.
322	5	232/232.05	110/110.01	None	None	Emergency Management Office: The Rock Island District is responsible for operating and maintaining the Mississippi River for safe and effective navigation. In order to ensure the Rock Island District will be able to fulfill its authorized mission on the Mississippi River, permission under Section 408 may be required for the proposed project. Engineer Circular 1165-2-216 provides policy and procedural guidance for processing requests to alter U.S. Army Corps of Engineers civil works projects pursuant to 33 USC 408.
322	6	110/110.04	None	None	None	Operations - Mississippi River Project Natural Resource Office: Procedures set forth in the Non-Recreation Outgrant Policy must be followed. If the proposal proceeds, there would need to be mitigation for both real property and forested habitat loss in order to make the project whole. This policy applies to all new non-recreation outgrant requests for use of Corps fee owned lands and waters at Civil Works water resource projects. The primary rationale for authorizing any future non-recreational outgrant request for use on Corps lands or waters will be one of two reasons: 1) there is no viable alternative to the activity or structure being located on Civil Works land or waters or 2) there is a direct benefit to the government.
322	7	111/111.02	None	None	None	Other Information: The Responsible Federal Agency should coordinate with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (both Refuge and Ecosystem Service Offices); the U.S. Coast Guard; State Historic Preservation Agencies; State Departments of Natural Resources; and State Emergency Management Agencies to determine other possible impacts.
323	1	245/245.03	245/245.01	None	None	Because of the permanent disturbance to the unique beauty and ecology of the Driftless Area that the Cardinal-Hickory Creek High Voltage Transmission Line will cause, I oppose the proposed routes that traverse this area. I also oppose this line because of the impact it will have on all sensitive areas along the routes, notably the Military Ridge Prairie Heritage Area and the Upper Mississippi National Wildlife Refuge.
323	2	280/280.05	260/260	None	None	I relate specifically to the Driftless Area because this is where we have had a cabin and property at 4952 Co Hwy ZZ for 52 years. It is inconceivable to me that high voltage lines are being proposed in this unique Driftless Area with its scenic ridges and deep valleys. It is this geological uniqueness and natural beauty that draws people to live here and others to visit. The Driftless Area is recognized as the most important ecological region in the Midwest. The urban visual impact of tall towers and lines will change its natural character forever. Once changed it can't be restored. It is incumbent upon us to see that future generations will also be able to enjoy this precious area just as it is now.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
323	3	244/244	243/243.01	None	None	My mother purchased our property In Upper Wyoming Valley in 1964 with the explicit purpose of preserving the land in its natural state for perpetuity. My life mission is the stewardship of this land. We have entered it in the MFL program and now have a grant from the Landowners Incentive Program (LIP) for restoring a parcel to savanna/ prairie and encouraging at-risk bird species. The visual intrusion of high voltage transmission lines will interrupt the tranquil quality of life we choose on this land.
323	4	241/241.03	None	None	None	Invasive species in the 150' right-of-way. During the construction of these lines the soil will be disturbed and invasive species will grow in the right-of-way even if the area is planted with grass or farmed. This will be especially true in natural areas where native species will be destroyed. We have now seen photos of right-of-ways below high voltage lines in Wisconsin that are full of invasive species. It takes persistent work to eradicate invasive species and a utility company has to use weekly maintenance in the growing season to stop each emerging species from dropping seeds, unlikely on a 125 mile route. The two most aggressive species along Hwy ZZ are Wild Parsnip and Garlic Mustard. Seeds from these and other invasive species will migrate down into our property where we have worked for 30 years to remove invasive plants and encourage the native plants that belong there. We know from past experience with local power line work how hard it is to prevent weeds from growing in disturbed soil. We do not support the use of strong herbicides to eradicate them. My concern about invasive species increases when I consider the entire Cardinal Hickory Creek Line. Wild Parsnip is out of control along many roads due to poor timing in cutting of these plants by various governmental units. Transmission line construction will only exacerbate this problem increasing the health risk to unknowing persons who walk into these plants and develop painful blisters. This has been a problem at Governor Dodge State Park. The EIS must assess the effects of high voltage transmission line construction on invasive species. How will this be done?
323	5	243/243.02	None	None	None	At-Risk Bird Species and Habitat Protection. On our property we have a unique habitat pocket for two threatened birds. The Acadian Flycatcher and Hooded Warbler have been found in this pocket as well as in one area in Governor Dodge State Park. They have been documented on ebird.org and the Acadian Flycatcher is listed in Range3W on the Wisconsin DNR Natural Heritage working list. We are setting aside a non-productive area in our MFL plan to protect their habitat. The CHC transmission line route is proposed between Governor Dodge State Park and our property. We do know that birds fly from Governor Dodge Park down into our valleys. Eagles fly from the park and perch on snag trees on our ridge. It is unknown what affect the transmission lines could have on these birds, as there is little documentation in our area on collision with wires. The EIS must thoroughly evaluate the impact of high voltage transmission lines on these at-risk birds. We are concerned about their colliding with the lines. How will this be done? The harmful effects on at-risk bird life and habitat from high voltage power lines will occur in many environmentally sensitive areas. I leave the impacts on birds in all these areas for other persons to address.
323	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	There is the loss of property values for all who live along these routes.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
323	7	245/245.03	260/260	None	None	For those who visit the Driftless area, there will be an impact on tourism. Governor Dodge State Park recreational activities and various organizational bike rides rely on scenic beauty. Gigantic towers dominating the landscape diminish these recreational activities.
323	8	280/281.02	None	None	None	There is no benefit to us, the ratepayers, who will pay for the transmission lines with higher rates and at a time that electrical demand is decreasing. We don't even benefit from the electricity that is being transmitted past us to other areas.
323	9	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	For these environmental and economic reasons, I believe that the CHC project should not be undertaken and that alternatives to large-scale transmission be created and implemented instead. This is the time to brainstorm different ways of meeting future and existing electricity needs, such as the use of local renewable energy sources, more efficiency and upgrading existing low-voltage lines. The EIS must include an independent analysis of non- transmission alternatives. Will this be done?
323	10	120/120.02	None	None	None	The EIS must answer whether questionable future energy demand requires high voltage transmission lines that cause permanent damage to our Wisconsin environment
324	1	260/260	None	None	None	My wife and I live at 5351 Drysen Rd., Dodgeville. We live here because of its unspoiled beauty. We will move elsewhere if forced to look at an ugly 120' high power line. Every day we walk or bike or drive around our home. Our community is based on valuing our natural beauty in the Driftless area. Please draft an EIS that doesn't force us to move away.
325	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We are proud new residents of Iowa County. We chose this area as the place of our retirement after nearly thirty years of visits with our three boys. We have grown to love this area for its nuanced balance of natural and American history, unique geography and geology, abundant nature and gorgeous vistas-coupled with its vibrant agricultural and artistic cultures. We have found nothing quite like it anywhere. The word "balance" is to be emphasized since it does truly seem that these qualities exist throughout the Driftless Area, if not in a true symbiosis, then surely at least in mutual admiration of each other.
325	2	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	But we have just learned of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line project that American Transmission Co. (ATC) has proposed to run from Dubuque to Madison, through 125 miles of our beautiful and unique Driftless Area, the jewel of the Midwest. The 17-story towers of this line, which studies have shown to be unnecessary, and which would ultimately be costly to us rate payers over 30-40 years,
325	3	232/232.05	243/243.02	None	None	would cross the Mississippi River through the Great Mississippi Waterfowl Flyway, climb the majestic river bluffs
325	4	244/244.01	241/241.01	232/232.03	None	stomp across the gorgeous rolling hills of upland farms and fields, mock the progressive and proud wind energy turbines at Montfort, and scar dairyland, wetland and woods through the hemt [sic] of our backyards.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
325	5	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	All for the 10.2% profit of ATC' s shareholders whether the power is needed or not. And the facts show that it's NOT needed: energy use throughout the Midwest is flat or in decline, partly the result of modern efficiencies. The only "benefits": take-it-or-leave-it offers to a handful of landowners in eminent domain seizures. The cost: I think you can clearly judge for yourselves. We understand that studies have shown that energy demand is flat or in decline across the Midwest, partly a result of new efficiencies in appliances and lighting. We also understand that as a result, this power is not destined for our area. Therefore, this entire project is not needed, apart from the fact that your shareholders expect it to be built. This transmission line would not benefit this community in any way. This transmission line would in fact cost us.
325	6	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	280/280.01	None	It would cost us in terms of expensive and long-term utility rate hikes, loss of property values, loss of businesses in the corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars,
325	7	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	loss of habitat for wide range of native plant and animal species (and therefore loss of species), loss of unspoiled natural landscape which has remained unspoiled for millennia.
325	8	280/281.02	280/280.01	None	None	No jobs are created. None of the energy comes to our community. None of the potential benefits are ours. They will be someone else's. We are being asked to pay all this for nothing. How can this be acceptable to us?
326	1	280/ 281.0101	260/260	244/244.03	None	My husband and I moved out to our beautiful rural property five and a half years ago. I am a teacher, he has worked for start-ups and has had no pension. This property represents the vast majority of our assets, and our plan is to convert it to a Bed and Breakfast when we retire, to supplement our insufficient retirement income. Alternatively or later we will have to sell to fund our later retirement years. If the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line is built, we will personally see our life savings dramatically diminished (value of our property) as well as losing a necessary source of income. A bed and breakfast in the beautiful Driftless with gorgeous unobstructed views will do a good business. A bed and breakfast with views of 160 foot tall transmission lines will not.
326	2	280/280.02	235/235	None	None	This spectacular region has irreplaceable value for the state of WI (tourism dollars), the residents, and any and all who care about preserving the last small remnants of a unique geological region.
326	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	This transmission line is both unnecessary and unjust. There are many, more affordable, sustainable and local ways of providing energy for Wisconsin, should we need more in the future, which is unlikely, given the downward trends of energy usage in recent years.
326	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	ATC has no justification for effectively robbing landowners of their potentially only assets in order to satisfy their shareholders "guarantee" of a 10% rate of return.
326	5	280/280.05	None	None	None	The RUS must act to prevent this patently unnecessary and unjust destruction of a unique and irreplaceable local, state and national treasure. The Driftless Region cannot be recreated elsewhere, and this transmission line will damage it and those of us who have chosen to live here, and invest here, beyond repair.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
327	1	232/232.01	245/245.05	245/245.04	None	The line will travel down the Black Earth Creek for several miles. This will affect the trout fishing experience and plans for a neighborhood bike trail planned to extend from Middleton to Mazomanie to Sauk City.
328	1	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	I oppose the lines in general and have not seen a needs assessment or environmental impact of the proposed new power lines. If the needs assessment and environmental impact review can justify the implementation, I would strongly urge that they are built along the Highway 18-151 corridor. This would minimize the impact to an already disrupted area and would allow for less environmental impact to service and maintain system.
329	1	280/281.01	243/243	None	None	Long term financial Environmental Impact on Forest Land + Wildlife
330	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	I write in opposition to all Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Projects. They are not needed thanks to increased efficiency; and conservation has the potential to reduce power needs even more.
330	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	I have reduced my electrical use from 600 kwh/mo to 200 kwh/mo. at here in the Town of Moscow over the last 25 years. This is a large, harmful project on a fragile landscape. Please knock-off this nonsense and join the efficiency and conservation movements. Do it for my grandchildren and yours. No to Cardinal-Hickory Creek. No-no-no.
331	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	Price of KWH will stay steady BUT service charges will sky rocket to pay stock holders contineous [sic] profits.
332	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	I have read studies that show the demand for energy has declined or is flat because of everyone's now buying energy efficient appliances and lighting. So this project is not needed so apart that is not needed.
332	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	There the fact that ATC's shareholders expect it to be built for the promise of 10.2% profit and this power line will not benefit our communities at all.
332	3	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	280/280.01	None	The damage to the Driftless [sic] Area will be awful: Our utility rates will increase, loss of property values, loss of business in this corridor, loss of jobs, loss of tourism dollars,
332	4	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	loss of habitat for native plant and animal species and possible loss of species, loss of unspoiled natural landscapes which has remained unsullied for millennia.
332	5	280/280.01	280/281.02	None	None	No jobs are created and none of the energy comes to our community and none of the energy benefits are ours. We are asked to pay all of this for nothing. No thank you.
335	1	110/110.01	111/111.02	None	None	The National Park Service (NPS) has reviewed the Rural Utility Service's Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) in connection with possible impacts related to the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project proposed by Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC).
335	2	245/245.02	260/260	284/284	None	The NPS is concerned that the proposed alternatives for the transmission lines would have visual and auditory impacts on the scenic and recreational resources of the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) and Trail Complex.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
335	3	120/120.01	None	None	None	The proposal consists of the construction of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated infrastructure connecting the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa, with the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin. The Project also includes construction of a new intermediate 345/138-kV substation near the Village of Montfort in either Grant County or Iowa County, Wisconsin and a new 345-kV terminal within the existing Cardinal Substation. The total length of the 345-kV transmission lines associated with the proposed project(s) will be approximately 125 miles.
335	4	120/121.03	245/245.02	None	None	Several alternative transmission line corridors have been identified between the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton, Wisconsin, and the Hickory Creek Substation in Dubuque County, Iowa for the Cardinal Hickory proposal. Our comments are specific to the eastern portion of the proposal, as the alternatives in this location would impact the Ice Age National Scenic Trail (NST) and Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains (Complex) -- the interpretive site for the Ice Age NST and a component of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
335	5	245/245.02	None	None	None	<p>Background: Ice Age National Scenic Trail</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authorized by Congress in 1980, the Ice Age Trail is one of eleven national scenic trails. When complete, it will be a continuous 1,200 mile premier recreational footpath that follows the line of the last glacial advance in Wisconsin. The trail is managed through strong partnerships between the NPS, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and the Ice Age Trail Alliance (IATA). The purpose of the NST is to ensure protection, preservation, and interpretation of nationally significant resources and values associated with continental glaciation in Wisconsin, and to provide outdoor recreational and educational opportunities that support and are compatible with the conservation and enjoyment of nationally significant scenic, historic, natural, and cultural resources along the Trail. • At this time, the Ice Age NST exists in segments within the eastern project area of the Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line proposal. The NST is located northwest of the Village of Cross Plains on the 433- acre Swamplovers property owned by the IATA, purchased with federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) dollars, as well as state, county, and private monies. The NST continues east of Swamplovers, passing over bluffs on the northern edge and through the Village of Cross Plains (Village). In 2017, IATA will be constructing a new section of the NST on the bluffs located on the southern edge of the Village as well. Other lands have been purchased with LWCF funds by the IATA on Stagecoach Road for addition to the NST in the future. • Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains This 1,700 acre site located on Old Sauk Pass, Town of Cross Plains, Dane County, Wisconsin, is the national interpretive site for the Ice Age NST. Located next to Wisconsin's second largest urban population, its future development and use will tell the story to thousands of visitors and school groups annually of how our lands were shaped and molded. Views from the site of the terminal moraine, the driftless area including Blue Mounds, and the glacial drainageway (Black Earth Trench) now occupied by State Highway 14, are very important in telling the unique story of the interface between the glaciated and unglaciated areas of the State. The NPS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, and Dane County Parks Department have all purchased lands within the project boundaries utilizing Federal LAWCON funds. A General Management Plan was developed for the Complex and received a Record of Decision in 2013. • Ice Age National Scientific Reserve The Complex is also a component of the Ice Age National Scientific Reserve (Reserve). Authorized by Congress in 1964, the Reserve is composed of nine units to protect and interpret collections of outstanding examples of features from continental glaciation, i.e. moraines, drumlins, kettles, kames, eskers, ice walled lake plains, outwash plains, erratics, etc.
335	6	111/111.01	111/111.02	None	None	<p>NST staff located in Madison, Wisconsin, have attended public meetings and directly communicated with representatives of the Rural Utility Service and American Transmission Company to express concerns about the proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project and its potential impact on the Ice Age NST and Complex. The following comments reflect those conversations:</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
335	7	120/121.03	245/245.02	260/260	None	<p>The proposed transmission line corridors cross the proposed route of the NST and lands purchased for addition to the trail. One alternative also lies directly adjacent to the northern boundary (State Highway 14) of the Ice Age Complex at Cross Plains, Wisconsin, the national interpretive site for the NST.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line's eastern terminus is located at the Cardinal Substation in the Town of Middleton. Here there is only one alternative proposed for the line route, which is proposed to travel west toward the Village of Cross Plains paralleling State Highway 14 until it reaches Stagecoach Road and continues to the Substation on County Trunk P. At the Substation it splits into two alternatives: (1) a southern route to Mount Horeb that parallels County Trunk P, and (2) a northern alternative, which continues west through the countryside to just south of State Highway 14, and IATA's Swamplovers property. Single Alternative in Eastern Dane County: The single alternative corridor on the eastern edge of the project area would create a serious visual intrusion and diminish the interpretative value of the Complex.
335	8	245/245.02	241/241	260/260	None	<p>This proposal, consisting of a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line located along State Highway 14, is adjacent to the northern boundary of the Complex. Currently, vegetation management is underway on the Complex to provide overlooks where expansive views of this significant glacial drainageway (Black Earth Trench) can occur.</p>
335	9	260/260	245/245.02	284/284	122/122.04	<p>Users of the Ice Age NST would also be negatively impacted by the sight and sounds of the transmission lines crossing or paralleling the trail corridor to the Village of Cross Plains. As stated above, additional lands for future Ice Age NST have been purchased by the IATA on Stagecoach Road, utilizing Federal LAWCON funds. The NPS encourages burying transmission lines underground along State Highway 14 and Stagecoach Road to reduce negative impacts on both the Complex and the NST.</p>
335	10	120/121.03	245/245.02	260/260	None	<p>Northern Alternative in Western Dane County The proposed northern alternative could produce severe visual impacts on the portion of the NST located on the bluffs north of the Village of Cross Plains and the Swamplovers property. If the northern alternative is chosen, the NPS also encourages burying transmission lines underground within the viewshed of the trail. Southern Alternative in Western Dane County</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The proposed southern alternative to Mt. Horeb could also visually impact both the Complex and Ice Age NST. NPS and IATA staff has completed field reconnaissance of this area. If this alternative is chosen, the NPS requests a formal viewshed analysis of this route to determine the visual impacts to the Complex and Ice Age NST, and identify mitigation measures that would minimize those effects.
336	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	<p>The demand for electricity in Wisconsin and most of the Midwest is flat or declining. Is another high-voltage transmission line needed at all? The project is relying on outdated industry forecasts of steadily increasing demand that have proven to be inaccurate. RUS should use current demand data and look at [sic] new electricity generation sources that are being built and planned.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
336	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Will the proposed open-access transmission line actually help move wind energy or help Midwest states meet Renewable P011folio Standards? We need alternatives to this project! What is wrong with new local wind and solar electricity, energy efficiency, storage, demand response in combination? We also need less damaging approaches to transmission. What is wrong with upgrading existing low voltage lines or routing this high voltage lines outside of the Driftless Area?
336	3	241/241	245/245.01	None	None	I am opposed to devastating animal and botanical habitat, pesticide management, and especially in critical and fragile Driftless Area and national wildlife refuges.
336	4	245/245.01	None	None	None	Impacts on Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge
336	5	245/245.03	None	None	None	Impacts on Militmy Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Oak Woodlands/Savanna Conservation Opportunity, Governor Dodge State Park, Pecos State Trail, and other special natural resource features in the area
336	6	260/260	245/245.04	None	None	Impacts on aesthetics and recreation values throughout the area
336	7	232/232.03	232/232.01	None	None	Impacts on waterways and wetlands
336	8	241/241.01	None	None	None	Impacts on forested areas
336	9	244/244.06	None	None	None	Impacts on conservation lands
336	10	282/282	None	None	None	Impacts on archaeological and historic sites
336	11	243/243.02	None	None	None	Impacts on eagles and other migratory birds
336	12	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Impacts on endangered, threatened, or protected species
336	13	122/122	120/121.03	122/122.04	None	Those impacts and others should be assessed, not just for the proposed project, but for any and all reasonable alternatives. And, in each case, the EIS should identify and fairly evaluate the effectiveness of possible mitigation efforts.
336	14	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	As a business owner, we are heavily reliant on tourism. People come to the area for recreation, theater, House on the Rock, State Parks and they do not want to come to a place with 170 ft high tension wires in their landscape. If we see a decline in tourism, our business will be seriously affected. Many businesses in Spring Green are successful as a result of supporting the tourist trade.
336	15	122/122.01	511/511	None	None	Under federal law, the EIS must assess the impacts of this proposed transmission line in combination with past and reasonably foreseeable projects in the area, including but not limited to the Badger-Coulee transmission line.
336	16	120/120.02	120/121.03	280/281.02	None	It seems to me and others that this transmission project is not needed given current projected power demands, that any needs could be met with non-transmission alternatives, and that the risk to the Driftless Area, its natural resource values, and its people exceeds any potential benefits.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
337	1	282/282	111/111.02	110/ 110.0404	None	In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800 (revised, effective August 5, 2004), the 30-day comment period under a formal review begins when the SHPO has received a submittal containing full documentation in support of an agency's finding and determination of effect. The SHPO is under no time restraints but will provide a technical assistance response when: A. 1The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's definition of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking OR B. 1The SHPO concludes that the project documentation provided does not support the agency's determination of a property's eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places OR C. 1The SHPO concludes that the documentation provided does not support the agency's finding of an undertaking's effects on a historic property OR D. 1The agency has determined that the undertaking will have "Adverse Effects" on historic properties and is actively consulting with SHPO on resolution of those effects. If the documentation submitted to the SHPO for review meets the basic standards set forth at 36 CFR Part 800.11 and the SHPO fails to respond within 30 days, then the SHPO has waived its opportunity to comment and the agency may either (1) proceed to the next step in the process based upon the agency's finding and determination, or (2) consult directly with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. In order to determine the next step in the process, we advise the agency to review the applicable sections of 36 CFR Part 800 or the programmatic agreement under which your undertaking is being reviewed. Be advised that the successful conclusion of consultation with the SHPO does not fulfill the agency's responsibility to consult with other parties who may have an interest in properties that may be affected by an undertaking. Nor does it override the sovereign status of federally recognized American Indian Tribes in the Section 106 consultation process. We have made these comments and recommendations according to our responsibilities defined by Federal law pertaining to the Section 106 process. The responsible federal agency does not have to follow our comments and recommendations to comply with the Section 106 process. It also remains the responsible federal agency's decision on how to proceed from this point for this undertaking. Should you have any questions please contact me at the email below, referencing the R&C# above. SHPO Review & Compliance Coordinator SHPO106@iowa.gov
338	1	280/281.02	None	None	None	The power lines are increasing the cost of electricity. We have already been notified of a residential base adjustment rate increase of 4.7% for the 2017-18 period. At the same time, the cost of installing solar panels and wind generators has been dropping steadily. I am a general contractor (Wood and Stone Works), and many of my clients are including solar power as part of their building project. As electric rates continue to increase, so will the incentive to shift away from reliance on the grid.
338	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Further, with the development of the newest generation of heat pumps, efficient LED lighting, and the newest hot water heaters, the per-capita demand for electricity is dropping dramatically. This lends weight to the argument that this transmission line is based on consumption data that no longer applies.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
338	3	280/281.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	We urge the USDA/RUS EIS to include a comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of non- transmission alternatives, including accelerated spending in energy efficiency, load management, and development of local, renewable energy.
339	1	282/282.02	111/111.02	None	None	Aya, kikwehsitoole – I show you respect. My name is Diane Hunter, and I am the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Federally Recognized Miami Tribe of Oklahoma. In this capacity, I am the Miami Tribe's point of contact for all Section 106 issues. The Miami Tribe offers no objection to the above-mentioned project at this time, as we are not currently aware of existing documentation directly linking a specific Miami cultural or historic site to the project site. However, as this site is within the aboriginal homelands of the Miami Tribe, if any human remains or Native American cultural items falling under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) or archaeological evidence is discovered during any phase of this project, the Miami Tribe requests immediate consultation with the entity of jurisdiction for the location of discovery. In such a case, please contact me at 918-541-8966, or by email at dhunter@miamination.com to initiate consultation. The Miami Tribe accepts the invitation to serve as a consulting party to the proposed project. In my capacity as Tribal Historic Preservation Officer I am the point of contact for consultation.
340	1	244/244.04	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	We are in opposition of this project being placed all together let alone going through our community. The northern line proposed would be a devastation of all of our Townships and properties. The impact on the private properties of all land owners will be devastating both visually and monetarily.
340	2	120/121.03	260/260	None	None	If this line is approved then it should go in the area least affected which would be 18/151 where a clear corridor already exists and people are accustomed to seeing power lines.
340	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We owned 147 acres in the Town of Arena on Sweeney Road. We have lived on this property for 19 years with the plan of someday being able to retire on the value of the land. That someday has come as we started selling in 2012. Our hilltop home parcel 002-0763.A sold, based mainly on the view of the valley and panoramic view from Mt. Horeb to Dodgeville out the living room windows. This property resold in late 2015 sold to John and Darla Patterson, for \$950,000. Your latest proposal would have a huge impact on the value of this property even without touching the borders of this parcel.
340	4	232/232.01	None	None	None	We still have 100 acres there with four remaining lots and have established values by the sales of a few parcels. We have several ponds there and springs throughout.
340	5	244/244.02	None	None	None	We have cattle that graze there and the impact could be very damaging.
340	6	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	Your proposal puts fear in buyers who want to move to the country for peace, quite, and serenity. There is no peace, quite, serenity in looking out your window or off your deck at a 170' power pole. We country land owners should not have to sacrifice our futures and the futures of our families for your company to make huge profits. When in these changing times, you and your company will be long gone as these poles become obsolete and eyesores to us all.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
340	7	120/121.03	244/244.04	None	None	Your northern proposal also affects two other family parcels we own in the Dodgeville Township and one along 18 / 151 in the Village of Ridgeway. The later would have the least impact on us which could be lived with. The northern route would be a total devastation to us and countless other land owners throughout the whole area.
341	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We have friends who have lived in Vermont Township, WI for 21 years. We know their place well and the beautiful countryside which they live in. One summer they hired our son to work on their property. So we know it well. Now they are telling us about the threat of a 345 kilovolt transmission line which has been proposed to run through their Driftless countryside. The thought of these 175 foot towers is atrocious to us.
341	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	And to add insult to injury - living in Madison - our electric rates would also rise.
341	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	Besides atrocious, this transmission line would also be senseless. Since energy usage is flat or declining. Not needed or wanted. We are opposed.
342	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I was born and raised in New Jersey and came to Wisconsin to attend graduate school at the University of Wisconsin in Madison in 1966. I discovered the Driftless Region in 1967 and instantly recognized its very special visual, ecological, and cultural value. It is a region defined by long gorgeous views of hills, valleys and even modest mountains. These special qualities caused me to spend time in the region every year since 1967. I have owned property, a 120 acre farm, since 1994 and am a permanent resident of - the Town of Wyoming.
342	2	244/244.04	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	My property is in the middle of the Northern Route of the proposed ATC high voltage transmission corridors. Given this reality, I would be devastated by the aesthetic and economic impact of the towers could have on my farm and the Driftless region. This swath of extremely tall towers and the surrounding right of way would dramatically and negatively impact the region.
342	3	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	The parts of the region that will be in regular or even intermittent view of the ATC transmission towers will discourage tourism.
342	4	241/241.01	280/281.01	None	None	In the sub-region of the towns of Arena, Wyoming and Dodgeville, the hilly terrain has proven less conducive to modern agricultural projects than other parts of the Driftless region, but has engendered other activities that have been increasing the ecological value of the region. A growing number of people and organizations have been working hard to restore former croplands and wooded pastures to a condition closer to the land's status prior to the agricultural expansion of the 1800s. This means working with the FSA, DNR and other agencies, public and private, to restore oak savannah and native grasslands (as well as fostering the development of woodlands that can be carefully harvested for commercial use). The ATC towers will directly impact a relatively small share of such efforts, but by making the area less attractive fewer will be motivated to work so hard to improve the ecological resources of the region and fewer will move to the region with such goals in mind.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
342	5	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	Since local people and communities have been faced with the possibility that a long corridor of tall towers might be cutting through the region they have engaged in a number of learning activities concerning the need, or lack of need, for such a corridor. I originally accepted the idea that such towers might be needed in order to strengthen the broader regional grid. Upon realizing that actual demand for power has not been increasing significantly over the past decade, my thinking began to change. The growth in local solar, wind and biomass electricity production along with great advances in power consumption efficiency has changed the power supply reality dramatically. It now appears that what might be needed is investment in local grids to facilitate distribution of new sources of power within the region. The legal structure that shapes the application process for major transmission projects, such as the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line, developed in an earlier era when major power outages were of greater concern because of the rapidly growing demand for power. Under those conditions many people were willing to trade off other values for what was considered to be improved power supplies. The response to earlier crises streamlined the governmental processes for gaining approval for new grid projects and have in many ways made it more difficult to resist such projects even when the need for them is hard to establish under current consumption and production conditions. In conclusion, I think that current conditions call into question the need for a major high voltage transmission corridor in the Driftless region. Should such a corridor actually gain approval it certainly should not go through the more pristine and rural parts of the Driftless region.
343	1	280/280.05	280/280.02	None	None	My husband and I chose to create a life and lifestyle in rural Iowa County that has included investing in solar and geothermal energy, creating organic gardens, building a home using recycled materials, and consciously choosing not to engage in activities that we believe are destructive to the environment or to people's health and well-being. Our children thrived. I taught art in local schools, sell my art in local galleries and have been involved in a wide spectrum of this community's educational and cultural activities. People come to our area of Wisconsin because of natural beauty, clean air, good water, parks and cultural richness. Our close neighbors own small dairy farms that do not have the negative impact that factory farms' unmanageable waste poses to our environment. Everything we try to do is based on a concept of sustainability. We, and many of our friends and neighbors, are not interested in making a lot of money or in "growth" for its own sake. We seek quality of life and champion fairness.
343	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	Your plan is unfair. The energy that will be transmitted goes elsewhere while we pay for it to be transmitted.
343	3	120/120.02	120/120.01	None	None	Wisconsin's energy consumption is in decline. The huge towers you wish to build will be obsolete by the time they are paid for.
343	4	283/283	243/243	232/232.04	280/ 281.0101	Danger from stray voltage, height and mass of the towers that impact wildlife, destruction of natural habitats, loss of water quality, and loss of property values make this a no brainer bad deal.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
343	5	283/283	None	None	None	There is no significant data on impact to health of humans and animals within constant range of extremely high voltage. However, plenty of negative observations are, quite literally, "hair-raising."
343	6	111/111.01	None	None	None	Meetings have been scheduled by you without time to get word out to enough people.
343	7	280/281.02	None	None	None	No real cost benefit analysis has been presented. Quite simply: the transmission companies - ATC, ITC, and Badgerland Cooperative - will make a lot of money at the expense of we the people if your plans are hatched.
343	8	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Why don't you invest in photo-voltaics, solar power, wind, geo-thermal? There are excellent examples of these clean, sustainable energies in European countries.
344	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I'm a Wisconsin native and have lived in rural Wisconsin for 90 percent of my 75 years. We built our south-facing house in Arena Township, Iowa County, in 1983 to include active solar hot water heating, R44 "super insulation," passive solar, and wood heat by convection. Two years ago we installed a geo-thermal heating and cooling system which has further reduced our electricity use. I'm the former long-time editor of the local weekly community newspaper. My journalism, including coverage of countless local municipalities for decades, reflected my life-long advocacy of renewable energy sources and conservation.
344	2	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	The growing use of local renewable energy, particularly solar, is a reason Wisconsin's energy use is flat or declining. The proposed Cardinal-Hickory Creek HY transmission line contradicts what is plainly evident. As ratepayers, we object to the debt we and our heirs will incur for unneeded electric transmission through Wisconsin.
344	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	CHC will have negative impacts on the local economy.
344	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	It will cause drastic reductions in land values within any visual distance of CHC
344	5	243/243	232/232.03	244/244.01	None	and will negatively affect the delicate and beautiful driftless area animals, creeks, woodlands, farms, cattle, wetlands, and rare species found here
344	6	283/283	None	None	None	The health concerns are very real,
344	7	280/280.02	None	None	None	as are lost or reduced business and economic opportunities
344	8	233/233	None	None	None	Very importantly, CHC is not designed to reduce carbon emissions.
344	9	508/508	None	None	None	Given the haste shown by RUS/USDA to hold the scoping meetings, we ask that an adequate extension (90 days or more) be given for citizens, municipalities, and organizations to express their questions and doubts, and that the responses given during the extended period become part of the official EIS.
344	10	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The EIS must include a study of non-transmission alternatives, not just utility-provided data.
344	11	120/120.02	None	None	None	The driftless area of Southwestern Wisconsin is a unique topographic phenomenon. Desecrating the driftless area from Iowa to Madison with 125 miles of 180-foot HY towers, which are obsolete before construction begins, is unnecessary, unwanted, and in opposition to careful consideration of non-transmission alternatives.
345	1	280/ 281.0101	280/280.02	None	None	I am concerned about the impact of the transmission line on us, our property, our businesses, and our Driftless region. These are some points of my concern

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
345	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	I am not convinced that there is a need for this transmission line. 1. The past 5 years have shown flat and declining demand and the future projects a greater decline] 2. Current actual and planned supply is more than adequate for our needs, and WI's local solar grow h doubles yearly. 3. This line does nothing to enhance the security of our grid; it is mere redundancy rather than a/ step toward a smart grid.
345	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	I do not want to pay for this line, either through my taxes or through electric rates, due to its economic impact on our area.
345	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism is a major industry in this area. Any negative impact on tourism makes it even harder on rural area.
345	5	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Lower property values would deliver the second hit on the area.
345	6	280/ 281.0102	None	None	None	People move to this area for one reason, the natural beauty of the Driftless area. These newcomers help support our schools and infrastructure through their taxes. This line will deter these people from coming.
345	7	244/244.06	None	None	None	1. harm to vital conservation areas
345	8	232/232.01	None	None	None	degradation of clean streams
345	9	243/243.01	None	None	None	degradation of wildlife habitat
345	10	260/260	None	None	None	disruption of unique and beautiful landscapes
345	11	244/244.06	None	None	None	impairment of conservation projects and easements
346	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	The following concerns have led me to these conclusions: Upgrades to transmission lines are not necessary. Loads are stabilizing. Energy conservation has slowed the rate of increase in demand. As this massive, consumer-funded energy conservation trend continues, electrical demands will crest. Ultimately, over-built transmission projects will not be fully utilized.
346	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	Wisconsin utility rates are already higher than other parts of the region. Investment in transmission line expenses billed to customers, be they residential, commercial, or industrial will have negative consequences on the residents of Wisconsin.
346	3	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	The proposed routes violate WI PSC guidelines.
346	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Existing transmission line corridors already exist between Middleton and Montfort, via Spring Green. Why was a route utilizing an existing transmission line corridor not explored and excluded from the study area?
346	5	111/111.01	120/121.03	None	None	ATC, ITC, and Dairyland Power were deceptive in the way they communicated to me prior to the May 2016 open houses. Their deceptive communications deprived me of the opportunity to understand their intent and voice my concerns. My property was outside of the "Preliminary Corridors". The meeting notice stated "area will be further defined". My expectation was that corridors would be narrowed, not relocated to involve additional properties. The notice claims that the corridors follow "existing utility corridors, highways, and other infrastructure". The "September 2016 Revised Preliminary Corridors" fail to follow any of these features through much of the proposed route through the Town of Arena.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
347	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	This intra-state power line is unnecessary because energy use is flat or declining in Wisconsin. Residents are conserving energy, using local power and installing solar panels and even wind generators on their own properties. We built a super-insulated house, installed energy-star efficient appliances, florescent and LED lights and provide supplement heat with a super-efficient woodstove. We are considering installing solar panels as well, if there are more incentives.
347	2	243/243.01	243/243.04	241/241.03	None	The Driftless Area is a unique environment; there is no other one like it in the world. We are fortunate to live in a beautiful place with unusual ecosystems of species that are of state and federal importance. The erection of giant towers will despoil the landscape and impair endangered and threatened species by introducing alien and invasive species in the construction and maintenance process. Many landowners have worked for decades to restore damaged land and ecosystems with native species and bring back unique habitats.
347	3	280/281.01	None	None	None	This work was accomplished with state and sometimes federal funds to restore the land and wetlands. ATC, a for-profit company, would wipe out their efforts and negate governmental support paid for by the taxpayers.
347	4	233/233.03	None	None	None	Global warming is real and isn't going to go away. Much of this energy generated for the ATC powerline is from the usual unsustainable sources like coal which only adds to climate change. This exacerbates climate change. CO2 increases with transmission expansion.
347	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	Transferring energy from vast distances is inefficient compared to producing energy locally.
347	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	Wisconsin ratepayers will be saddled with the \$500 million [sic] (or more) that this power line is projected to cost, with no benefit to the local households. Those who will benefit most from this power line are the energy executives and shareholders who are guaranteed a 10.2% profit on this egregious Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line.
348	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I oppose this line being built as proposed. There are better economic, environmental and aesthetic options to insure an adequate energy supply. Constructing a 125 mile, 345KV transmission line supported by 17-story tall towers through the heart of the Driftless Area, the Midwest's most unique eco-region, is not sound public policy.
348	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	Economically, there are serious questions if this line is even needed in the future. Supply currently exceeds demand in Wisconsin's electrical power market and demand looks to be flat or slightly declining recently. New wind and gas plants have already been approved locally that question the need to import out-of-state electrical supplies.
348	3	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Furthermore, there are better, more cost efficient alternatives including increased energy efficiencies, distributed energy demand response and solar energy.
348	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	Wisconsin's electricity rates are the highest in the Midwest and will only get higher if this line is constructed as proposed.
348	5	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	In addition economically, tourism and recreation (fishing, hunting, biking, hiking, etc.) are a large part of the Driftless economic base.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
348	6	260/260	None	None	None	Constructing this line will create an aesthetic eyesore that would be devastating to these vital sectors of the economy.
348	7	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Environmentally, proposed corridors running through Iowa and Dane counties' many high-quality habitats for threatened, endangered and Federal species of concern.
348	8	243/243	241/241	None	None	This area provides shelter and nurtures diverse populations of birds, insects, amphibians, reptiles and plants.
348	9	245/245.01	243/243.02	None	None	The line also runs through the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, part of the central United States waterfowl migration flyway that's recognized as a "Ramsar Convention Globally Important Bird Area".
348	10	120/120.02	120/ 121.0301	280/281.02	None	I seriously question the need for this line at all, and believe if it is determined that it is needed, that a thorough analysis be completed to determine 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.
348	11	120/121.03	None	None	None	If this analysis proves to require an additional line, which I think highly unlikely, I suggest that less damaging alternatives be seriously considered such as upgrading existing low-voltage transmission lines along existing corridors. Establishing a totally new corridor through pristine lands is the last possible alternative.
349	1	233/233	None	None	None	We value clean, pure air and surroundings uncluttered by unnecessary and unsustainable vestiges of obsolete and unsustainable technology.
349	2	280/281.02	120/120.02	260/260	None	The proposed American Transmission Line called Cardinal Hickory Creek appears to be costly, unsustainable, unattractive, and unnecessary.
349	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	It's appropriate for ATC to provide a cost benefit analysis on their proposal, and to demonstrate that they can't do better for less cost to yoga practicing rate payers and all other rate payers in the Driftless area of Southwest Wisconsin.
350	1	244/244.07	None	None	None	This letter introduces our concerns to the CHCTL project as part of the public comment period relative to the northern proposed route in Northern Iowa and Dane Counties (north of Governor Dodge State Park eastward). Forest Legacy Designation: The area of the proposed northern route has been designated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the State of Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources as the Upper Mississippi River Driftless Corridor (UMRDC) Forest Legacy Area. Wisconsin's Forest Legacy Program, as developed by the Forest Stewardship Committee, states that the goal of the program in Wisconsin is: "To minimize fragmentation and conversion of significant forested areas to non-forest uses, through the wise administration of conservation easements that focus on the sustainable use of forest resources." Under this goal, the Forest Stewardship Committee includes 14 points relative to preserving forests in the designated area. Point 11 states: "Generally prohibit improvements on the property including ...infrastructure or utilities...."
350	2	243/243.01	243/243.02	241/241	None	The UMRDC contains the majority of southern Wisconsin's forestland and includes the highest densities of various species of animals, supports a robust trout fishery, provides a critical corridor for migratory birds, and provides critical habitat for interior forest birds. Additionally, the area likely supports many species of rare plants, insects, and reptiles.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
350	3	244/244.07	241/241.01	None	None	Placement of a transmission line along the proposed northern route directly conflicts with the Forest Legacy Area designation and will negatively impact forestland habitat.
350	4	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	Rapid Ecological Assessment (REA) for Driftless Area Study Streams: Prepared by the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Endangered Resources, the Rapid Ecological Assessment identifies exceptional natural characteristics and opportunities to preserve and enhance these characteristics. As applied in Iowa County, by way of example, the REA identifies the Trout Creek Uplands as an area that may harbor rare species, contains rare natural communities, and when combined with areas outside of the Trout Creek Uplands creates a complex high-quality area that should be studied further to protect the high conservation value of the Driftless Area. While the proposed northern transmission line route may not directly affect the Trout Creek Uplands, disturbance of lands in the vicinity of the Trout Creek Uplands and in particular intense land uses, such as a transmission line, may negatively impact this exceptional area. For example, the Trout Creek Uplands and area properties provide an increasingly rare opportunity to protect a mosaic of natural communities and plants and animals that depend on large blocks of relatively undeveloped habitat that together maintain the area's biodiversity. The introduction of a transmission line corridor would disrupt this natural community through outright destruction along the corridor itself, but indirectly, by negatively impacting the area's natural community including the Trout Creek Uplands and Trout Creek itself.
350	5	510/510	None	None	None	(Attachment A: Information regarding the Forest Legacy Designation and the UMRDC)
350	6	510/510	None	None	None	(Attachment B: Rapid Ecological Assessment for Driftless Area Streams)
350	7	243/243.03	243/243.01	243/243.04	None	Forest Fragmentation and Habitat Degradation: The Driftless Area, within the proposed northern transmission line route, includes large contiguous blocks of forested land that are suitable for the survival and reproduction various species of animals. Fragmentation, and in particular extensive fragmentation, created by a transmission line corridor, could have several detrimental consequences and threatens biodiversity by disrupting sensitive species, edge-sensitive species, and sensitive species that do not disperse well between habitats. There are numerous studies that suggest the negative impacts forest fragmentation can have on habitat and the survival of both plant and animal species.
350	8	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please address these concerns related to the northern route proposed by the Cardinal-Hickory Transmission Line Project in the draft EIS
351	1	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Wouldnt [sic] we better of [sic] spending the money on local wind or solar power
351	2	243/243	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	Wildlife the health of animals have to be the same as humans or worst they can't get away from it endangered + plant life are in risk + animals
352	1	283/283	None	None	None	brain tumors (they cause them) + other parts of body other health issues They cause miscarriages/would you want this childhood leukemia/how would you like your child to get this causes cancer all different types
352	2	243/243	241/241.01	None	None	wildlife + plants are affected
352	3	244/244.02	283/283	None	None	domestic cattle + horse dog cats pigs etc are all affected in the same way cancers tumors miscarriages etc.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
353	1	250/250.08	245/245.04	None	None	interference landing my airplane kite flying drones
353	2	243/243.02	None	None	None	birds
353	3	232/232.04	None	None	None	will this hurt are well its 442 deep you pound around that and u will collapse it will u pay to fix it we live in a historic house
353	4	283/283	None	None	None	How about the electric shocks that they have been known for poor animals and people
354	1	241/241	None	None	None	Destruction of our environment spraying of herbicide
354	2	243/243.02	None	None	None	We just got eagles back and hawks Bob White Whisper Wills Red Wing black bird I haven't seen some of these bird for years around here
355	1	244/244.04	241/241	None	None	We have friends who live in the area. They have been stewarding their property for decades, which includes the only upland cover for adjacent wetlands.
355	2	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	They have shared with me that electric usage in their area is flat & declining. And we've talked about Public Funds for Private Gain
356	1	284/284	None	None	None	The Wind Noise on the lines this area is going to be very High so the Wind Noise is going to be constant. Hearing lost thanks
356	2	120/121.03	280/280.02	None	None	Put it by Taliesin where it's supposed to go. O it will ruin the beauty of Taliesin I don't give a shit about Taliesin it a burden on the taxpayers of Wis we don't get a dam thing from it put it there
357	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	It is vital that the real need for these lines, and this one in particular, be assessed fully.
357	2	280/281.02	120/ 121.0301	None	None	Data about future power demand using current data must be a part of this study. An examination of the effects of more local power production must be studied. My husband and I have invested \$30,000 in a solar system. We are fortunate that we could afford this. Others need financial help to undertake something like this that would help rather than harm the environment. A combination of non-transmission alternatives must be seriously looked at.
357	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	122/122	None	The EIS must address a broad range of questions in order to make this study complete: * Real need * Alternatives where need exists * Damage potential to our unique Driftless landscape and eco-system

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
358	1	111/111.01	280/281.02	120/ 121.0301	None	We have attached to this letter, questions for DPC and RUS that we went over about developing cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives in the EIS. We look forward to suggestions about points 1-4, soon. We believe that our discussion increased appreciation for the abilities of non-transmission alternatives (NTA's) to revive partnerships between the coop and rural economies while addressing the pressing need to confront the negative impacts of capital utility projects that are driving up the cost of electricity across Wisconsin and the Midwest. Including cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives in the EIS will also substantiate the basis of the applicants' reliability goals. Towards partnerships in developing rural economies, we noted that a good number of Dairyland's 15 ~1-1.5 MW solar projects will be removing load from older substations/lines prolonging their lifespans and avoiding capital expense passed onto electric customers. These facilities provide one example of the distributed generation leg of NTA's along with targeted energy efficiency, load management. We also noted in the meeting that three of these solar facilities are examples of investment partnership by allowing electric customers to lease solar panels at less than \$2 per watt lowering utility capital expense and saving DPC customers in the short and long term.
358	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	Thank you again for this opportunity to continue assisting with development of the EIS section concerning Non-Transmission Alternatives.
358	3	120/121.03	110/110.0407	None	None	The AES does not seem to have a Low Voltage Transmission Alternative at this point. Shortfalls: (a) Required by PSCW (b) Traditionally used to establish basis of reliability concerns (c) Needed to determine facilities/loads where Non-Transmission Alternatives (NTA's) based on energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation can be most effectively targeted.
358	4	509/509	None	None	None	Do the nine listed reliability projects on page 22 have relationship with a Low Voltage Alternative? The Triennial Review's identification of avoided-reliability projects in 2033 was based on MTEP-13 (MISO, 2014-1, § 3.3, page 18).7 A more recent industry assessment of system reliability during summer peak in the year 2020 demonstrates that this Project would eliminate projected reliability issues under a variety of contingencies (Reliability First, 2015).
358	5	120/121.03	120/120.01	None	None	Is it possible for RUS to evaluate Reliability Benefits for CHC without a Low Voltage Alternative? Primary info needed" (a) A list of identified "reliability" transmission facilities for CHC with estimated thermal overloading data. Can be located anywhere as the project is defined as regional with regional cost sharing. Also address any anticipated load shedding issues using reliability projects that are expected to be resolved by CHC. Include Dairyland owned Stoneman-Nelson Dewey 161 kV options in this process? (b) Estimated costs for above reliability projects. (c) Estimated west to east power transfer data for CHC. (d) Estimated west to east power transfer data with thermal over loading eliminated at reliability projects.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
358	6	280/281.02	None	None	None	The AES does not seem to state the comprehensive costs for CHC over 35-40 years including construction costs, other construction period related costs, maintenance, operation, possible security or hardening costs, depreciation and other financial related costs passed onto electric customers. (In this case all electric customers as the project would be cost shared). This cost is needed to create a budget by which NTA' generated benefits can be compared. (a) The need for this data in transmission expansion proposals is supported by more than 120 municipalities in WI. (b) How do we go about determining these comprehensive costs for CHC over 35-40 years?
358	7	111/111.01	None	None	None	Follow-up meeting with engineers?
358	8	111/111.01	280/281.02	None	None	How to go about organizing and paying for the EIS including cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives based on spending a comparable amount to that of 35-40 year Project costs on energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation. (a) Outside, Third Party such as Synapse? (b) Other options?
359	1	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	As stated in earlier correspondence, prudent analysis of the economic and environmental benefits created by non-transmission alternatives should be based on funding levels equal to the 40 year cost that would be assumed by electric customers for the HVT Project including construction, financing, operation, maintenance, depreciation and security hardening costs.
359	2	280/281.02	510/510	None	None	Our request that the EIS exercise conducted for transmission expansion proposals include comprehensive, cost-benefit analysis of NTA's is established in formal resolutions adopted by more than 120 municipal governments in Wisconsin since 2011. A sample resolution may be accessed on the PSC Cardinal Hickory Creek docket (#05-CE-146): http://bit.ly/TownResolution_05CE146 . We observe that information made available in the July 2016 AES, thus far, is insufficient to allow the RUS to comply with statutory EIS requirements to inform public officials, the public and electric customers across the Midwest both concerning a potential need for the proposed HVT Project and of low voltage and non-transmission alternatives. We greatly appreciate that managing staff at SWCA and RUS have determined ways to ensure that non-transmission alternatives are thoroughly considered with "in house" resources should funds to hire additional expertise fail to become available.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	3	120/120.02	120/120.01	120/ 121.0301	None	<p>More than 90% of the AES attempts to justify the HVT Project, not address the primary goal of an AES to evaluate alternatives to the Project. The AES provides only narrative introduction to NTA's. It makes no effort to describe available resources and programs that could be engaged or estimate economic and environmental benefits if the many millions required of electric customers for Cardinal Hickory Creek over 40 years were alternatively spent towards NTA's.</p> <p>II. The conclusions reached by the applicants in the AES are not based on evidence presented. For the most part, they are generalizations stemming from MISO, utility interest studies made previous to 2010. The applicants cite these pre-2010 studies in their Summary of Need but not the 2014 Triennial "update," which they attach. There are reasons to suspect the flow analysis behind the 2014 Triennial update is still based on pre- 2010 calculations made before the industry was aware of the historic flattening and decline of electricity use.</p> <p>III. With the abundant resources available to the organization, we do not understand why MISO has not provided a comprehensive update of planning for the remaining MVP projects using contemporary grid flow data. More than half of the 17 MVP expansion lines are now in service enabling calculations of potential benefits to be much more accurate. As noted by experts in the Badger-Coulee review, potential energy savings (from relieving congestion) are largely dependent on energy use increasing. Potential energy savings from that 345 kV line addition also to Wisconsin were razor thin, only 6-9 cents per month for residential customers under higher than experienced growth rates.</p> <p>IV. By no measure have the applicants studied NTA's with the goals defined by NEPA, to determine if any potential need for the HVT Project could be replaced with alternative investments such as NTA's. Any need for the HVT Project is "potential," because need cannot be established only through arguments from parties who profit from building transmission.</p>
359	4	110/ 110.0404	None	None	None	<p>The AES cites no FERC reliability violations that would be eliminated by the HVT Project. WI's 10% RPS or renewable energy requirements are being met with existing transmission and policy changes regarding renewable energy or CO2 requirements are in no way imminent as applicants suggest.</p>
359	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	<p>The prospect of providing savings from lowering congestion in the transmission system is very low as evidenced by decreasing electricity rates over the last few years. The cost of electricity service is rising in Wisconsin due to huge increases in fixed facility fees to recover the fixed costs billed to utilities for capital utility debt. Cardinal Hickory Creek would add to that burden and not lower the cost of electrical service in Wisconsin or in other states.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	6	120/ 121.0301	509/509	None	None	VII. Typically, NTA experts require a list of transmission facilities for the Low Voltage Alternative(s) to study applications of targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation to avoid all or most of the improvements at those facilities. This is is [sic] advisable and cost effective when energy use is flat and declining. Because LV Alternatives are designed to match the benefits claimed for the HVT project, any potential need for the HVT Project can thus be effectively evaluated using energy spending options preferred by electric customers. VIII. Should the applicants refuse to provide one or more LV Alternatives for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal, it creates grounds for the RUS to observe that since analysis of NTA's is not yet possible, only a compromised EIS can be produced. Another possibility is to use the 13 "reliability projects" in Table 2.1 on page 22 with applicants providing comprehensive, recent and historical load information for these 13 facilities.
359	7	110/110	280/281.02	None	None	IX. We know that SWCA and RUS experts appreciate that the central value of the EIS effort is to reflect the goals of elected and appointed decision makers who are held accountable to landowners, local economies, electric customers and utilities in their judgments. These individuals are under great pressure and deserve the most responsible EIS that can be produced. Utility interests are guaranteed returns when a state PSC approves one of their projects. It is the electric customers who are conscripted by the PSC to pay for the high interest capital utility expense over decades, whether it is needed or not.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	8	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	A. "Each alternative will be described in sufficient detail so that the public and other stakeholders can understand and assess each alternative. This AES will also explain which [transmission- only] alternative is best for fulfilling the need for the Project and why the other alternatives considered were rejected." (p7) NTA's IN GENERAL: "This section (3.4) introduces different types of non-transmission alternatives ("NTA") and evaluates whether they are feasible alternatives to the Cardinal- Hickory Creek Project. Typical NTAs include centralized generation, distributed generation, energy storage, energy efficiency, and demand response." (p44) Though holding the namesake of the, "Alternatives Evaluations Study," the applicants' consideration of NTA's is limited to 4 pages or 4% of total document wordage. Discussion of load management and energy efficiency, alternatives with proven cost-effectiveness and robust deployment in other states, is restricted to two paragraphs-- less than 1/2% of the applicants' efforts to meet the purpose of the document. No calculations of NTA potentials or modeling are attempted; no mention is made of any existing NTA resources in Wisconsin or Iowa. Conservation practices, which are known to follow after adoption of energy efficiency, load management and on site/community solar are roundly ignored by the applicant's study. Given the focus of NEPA on studying and developing NTA's, this shortfall is highly unfortunate. LOW VOLTAGE ALTERNATIVES: "MISO only studied an [low voltage transmission] alternative if it allowed the MISO states to meet their RPSs. [No] portfolio of low-voltage alternatives simply could not meet this fundamental requirement...therefore, MISO did not study an entire portfolio of low-voltage alternatives during the MVP process;" (p42). As best as we can tell, the applicants are relying on MISO-conducted, selective analysis of reliability projects based on pre 2010 conditions. Given that a significant percentage of system lines are 40-70 years old and will eventually require upgrading or NTA support at some point anyway, the relatively small number of "potential" reliability projects across the MISO footprint is an indication that the system is quite stable. (See pg 22)
359	9	120/120.02	None	None	None	To establish a reliability need for the HVT Project, applicants need to provide a contemporary list of reliability projects with and without the HVT Project taking into consideration the impacts of of [sic] the MVP expansion lines that are now in service. It is not prudent to ask Wisconsin decision makers to use conclusions applicants have reached based on pre 2010 MISO projections when actual data is accessible.
359	10	120/121.03	507/507.02	None	None	LOW VOLTAGE ALTERNATIVES: "While MISO did not consider an entire portfolio of low- voltage alternatives,...MISO considered whether rebuilding the overloaded 138 kV lines between northeastern Iowa and southwestern Wisconsin would be better than a 345 kV line (MISO, 2012, p. 29). MISO rejected this low-voltage alternative because the estimated cost was greater than the Project and it would not provide the same level of benefits." (p42) Ask the applicants to please provide the document name with link for "MISO, 2012." We cannot find it in the references list.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	11	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	The AES does include a Low Voltage Alternative(s). The EIS development team for Rochester-La Crosse CapX2020 were given at least four LV Alternatives from the outset. As the WI PSC requires LV Alternatives for all transmission proposals, it is unclear why the applicants are not providing this information, especially in a document addressing alternatives. The lack of contemporary LV Alternatives suggests that MISO could be hesitant to conduct updated, full analysis of flow characteristics in the impact area. This is concerning given the trend of flat and declining electricity use. Flat and declining energy use has significant impact on a transmission project's ability to deliver reliability and economic benefits. Potential savings are generally proportional to rate of growth in energy use and peak demand and reliability factors tend to stabilize. See page 5, Peter Lanzalotta Direct for Badger-Coulee http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=229027 Because stress on transmission facilities does not tend to increase under flat and declining electricity use, Non-Transmission Alternatives become more feasible.
359	12	511/511	None	None	None	The "No Wires*" study of NTA's conducted for the Badger-Coulee HVT review demonstrated that targeted load management, energy efficiency and community solar are far more cost-effective than making the physical improvements to transmission facilities. Powers Engineering discovered that \$190 million in reliability improvements on low voltage transmission facilities could be avoided with either \$4 million in targeted load management, \$9 million in energy efficiency and \$19 million in community solar. A very similar approach was approved in 2014 by the New York PSC Reforming Energy Vision program**. In that case, ComEd proposed spending \$1 billion to upgrade a substation but the cost of removing load from the facility with NTA's proved to be about \$200 million. *See http://bit.ly/Powers-Direct ** http://bit.ly/NYC-1-Billion-NWA-Solution
359	13	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	We are not familiar with high voltage transmission proposals that are not able to determine Low Voltage Alternatives which, by definition, duplicate the benefits estimated for the HVT Project. With this information, primary reliability benefits for the Project are documented. Only through analysis of this information can head to head comparisons of potential energy savings, CO2 reductions and other factors be made with the HVT Project and the other alternatives. Typically, NTA experts require a list of transmission facilities for at least one LV Alternative to study uses locally targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation to make all or most transmission facility improvements unnecessary. If the applicants do not provide at least one LV Alternative for Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal, it creates grounds for stating that an un-compromised EIS is not possible. LOW VOLTAGE ALTERNATIVES: "...as discussed above in Section 2.4.1.2, the recent development of Operating Guides for multiple element outages highlights the need for a new high-voltage connection into southwestern Wisconsin. If a new high-voltage connection is not built, multiple facility improvements would be required to avoid loss of load in addition to any combination of low- voltage lines." (p42) Traditionally, such, "multiple facility improvements" would be part of one or more studied and determined LV Alternatives.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	14	507/507.02	511/511	120/120.02	None	Ask the applicants: If building Cardinal Hickory Creek would result in continuing outage practices in SW WI, please discuss this necessity in relation to none of the reliability projects in Table 2.1 on page 22 being in the HVT Project study area. Ask the applicants to explain how the 2015, double circuit?, ~\$24 million upgrade of the Lore-Turkey River-Stoneman 161 kV transmission line as recommended by MISO has proven insufficient as connection into southwestern Wisconsin.
359	15	280/281.02	120/120.01	None	None	LOW VOLTAGE ALTERNATIVES: “ a low-voltage alternative was not defined as an MVP by MISO so it would not be cost-shared across the MISO footprint such that the costs to local ratepayers would be higher than this Project.” (p43) The applicants are overlooking that the total cost of one, potential “LV Alternative” in the AES, the 13 reliability projects in Table 2.1 on page 22 appears is about \$107 million. This amount is substantially lower than the constructions costs for HVT Project estimates at \$500 million. Ask DPC if one of their motivations for promoting the building of Cardinal Hickory Creek is because it is cost-shared? Ask DPC: Other than the 1 mile potential Stoneman-Nelson Dewey 161 kV upgrade, are there any other transmission facilities that DPC owns that might delay being upgraded if Cardinal Hickory Creek is built? Ask the applicants to discuss what they mean by “local ratepayers.” Ask the applicants to explain how making ratepayers in other states pay for a part of a much costlier expansion transmission line is somehow better than Wisconsin ratepayers/utilities being primarily responsible for our own transmission needs.
359	16	120/120.02	280/281.02	509/509	None	LOW VOLTAGE ALTERNATIVES: “Based on MISO’s information, eliminating the need for those projects would save approximately \$151,710,000 (2014 dollars)” (p25). Ask the applicants to confirm the list of reliability projects they are referring to in this statement and their source of the information. As the \$151,710,000 amount may conflict with the figures in the chart on page 22, ask the applicants to provide and explain the accounting used to achieve this amount.
359	17	120/121.03	511/511	None	None	We observe a concern about consistency in LV Alternatives. There were two, almost mutually exclusive LV Alternatives presented by applicants for the Badger-Coulee proposal. The first LV Alternative was created under fairly high energy and demand growth rates and featured a good number of reliability projects in Southwest Wisconsin. The second, requested by PSC staff to account for more contemporary, lower energy and growth rates, shifted geographically northward with no reliability projects in SW WI. Two of the “reliability projects” which applicants now claim would be avoided by Cardinal Hickory Creek were listed in September 2014 as “not avoided” from building Cardinal Hickory Creek or Badger-Coulee and from building both projects. The projects involved are the Portage - Columbia 138 kV Ckt 2 and Portage - Columbia 138 kV Ckt 1 at the bottom [sic] of the table on page 4 of this data submission: http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=215261

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	18	120/ 121.0301	280/281.02	None	None	ENERGY EFFICIENCY: "The four Futures studied by MISO all included reasonable increases in energy efficiency but still found a need for the MVP Portolio." [sic] (p47) Ask the applicants to identify the particular MISO Futures they refer to. Though encouraged by FERC Order 1000, MISO does not present Futures that test stand-alone, non-transmission alternatives; all of MISO's economic Futures assume that proposed transmission project(s) will be built. Ask the applicants to quantify the "reasonable increases" they describe and if they were determined by MISO's "MECT" practice. MECT is a method of asking utilities, not PSC/PUC's or experts that study NTA's, to establish the value and potential of NTA resources in their service territories. Comprehensive analysis of non-transmission alternatives estimates savings and environmental benefits from spending towards energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation using a budget matching the 30-40 year total costs of HVT Project that would be assumed by electric customers.
359	19	120/120.01	120/120.02	None	None	ENERGY EFFICIENCY: "For energy efficiency to replace this Project, energy efficiency efforts would have to eliminate demand to a level that all the RPS would be met with existing renewable resources and the reliability and congestion benefits would be achieved through a dramatic reduction in flows on the regional grid. Such an increase in energy efficiency is simply not possible. For some reason, the applicants are asking Energy Efficiency to deliver benefits they do not claim the HVT Project will deliver. The applicants do not consider the energy reduction potential of accelerated spending in energy efficiency, lowered grid costs and the increasingly frequency* benefits of energy efficiency and load management with aging transmission facilities. Transmission builders are not sufficiently motivated to avoid transmission expenditures. *On page 8 of the AES, the applicants indicate that substation upgrades are averaging one per every 13 miles of transmission. "Since its formation, ATC has upgraded or built more than 2,300 miles of transmission lines and 175 substations" (p8) Ask the applicants, as they insinuate in their comparison, if the HVT Project is needed to provide unmet WI utility demand for out of state renewable energy. Wisconsin utilities are meeting WI's 10% RPS requirement with existing transmission. With these RPS goals met and electricity use flat and declining in WI, we note that purchases of renewable energy peaked in 2014. (See p46, PSC Strategic Energy Assessment http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=289792 Even if energy efficiency was asked to match total existing renewable energy imports (a goal the applicants do not substantiate for the HVT Project), reducing electricity use by 5.3%* by the end of the project planning window should be doable with accelerated investment in energy efficiency. (*p45, PSC Strategic Energy Assessment http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=289792 53% of the 10% RPS was out of state renewable energy.) For energy efficiency energy savings rates and environmental benefits in WI, see audits of the Focus on Energy program, https://focusonenergy.com/about/evaluation-reports . By supposedly lowering congestion-related energy costs and all other factors being equal, transmission expansion investment encourages greater energy use over time than electric customer dollars applied towards energy efficiency. Increasing demand over time, as MVP MISO expansion planning assumes, tends to

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						<p>increase grid related costs counter-acting congestion relief savings. Unlike potential savings from transmission expansion that are dependent on energy use and costs increasing, savings from spending on energy efficiency and load management directly lower electric use and bills. Unlike transmission additions, reducing use is core to Energy Efficiency and Load Management. Lower use over time enables greater transmission flow and congestion savings while providing reliability benefits through avoided peak use. Lowered peak use has great value at this juncture because it extends the lifespan of costly transformers and other components in aging substations. Thus, investments in Energy Efficiency and Load Management more reliably increase the inherent value of prior transmission investments. Summer peak use in WI (the largest of the year) has been trending downward since 2011*, not upwards as MISO planning Futures assume. WI PSC analysis of load management practices by WI utilities show very considerable untapped resources in the state.** (*p11, **p16, PSC Strategic Energy Assessment http://psc.wi.gov/apps35/ERF_view/viewdoc.aspx?docid=289792</p>
359	20	120/120.01	233/233.03	None	None	<p>ENERGY EFFICIENCY: "Given that this Project is intended to deliver renewable energy from Iowa to Wisconsin and the entire region, energy efficiency is not a reasonable alternative." (p47) Ask the applicants what they mean by "intended." Do they guarantee the Project would increase the amount of renewable energy purchased in Wisconsin? Ask the applicants to provide analysis of the HVT Project with sales of renewable energy to Wisconsin under flat and declining energy use without changes in the state 10% RPS. The applicants do not acknowledge that CO2 emissions avoided when a kWh is not consumed are greater than importing a kWh of renewable energy from Iowa. The impact differences are largely determined by the heavily-weighted fossil fuel content of wholesale-marketed power. About 75-80% of wholesale power in the MISO fuel mix appears to fossil fuel generation and about 7% is from wind generation. See MISO annual reports, https://www.misoenergy.org/MarketsOperations/IndependentMarketMonitor/Pages/IndependentMarketMonitor.aspx When a household avoids a kWh of wholesale power use, 80% of the negative CO2 impacts associated with this unit of wholesale power are avoided. The reduction also lowers demand on the grid and related costs. However, if a few percents of renewable energy are added to mix imported from remote areas, the electricity consumed in Wisconsin still will have a very high concentration of fossil fuel generation. Similarly, when renewable energy removes load from the grid installed "behind the meter" or supporting a local substation, CO2 emission reduction is optimized as is does with use of energy efficiency. In contrast, when utility-scale renewable energy is added at a remote location, not only does importing power encourage more fossil fuel than renewable generation, it creates demand for capital transmission expense with long-term, negative impacts on the development of local renewable energy. These transmission costs paid over decades, are largely billed to utilities as a fixed cost, not by kWh which directly lowers the "avoided cost" calculation utilities often use to determine the price they can pay for local renewable energy. For some municipal utilities in Wisconsin, these fixed charges for existing transmission are effectively lowering "avoided cost"</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						calculations about 30% compared to transmission billed per unit. In the case of Alliant Energy in WI, some of the charges for past regional transmission now amount to 19% of a typical residential electric bill. (See https://www.alliantenergy.com/AboutAlliantEnergy/Newsroom/RateCases/03037 7. The \$2 per month average household increase for Alliant’s Regional Transmission Service fee from 2015 to 2016, alone, would have tripled the energy efficiency rebate pool in Wisconsin. Even if RPS policy were to change requiring WI utilities to purchase more renewable energy, the applicants provide no reasons or evidence that WI utilities would favor buying the extra renewable power out of state source over developing the resource within their own service territories. This is what Dairyland Power Cooperative seems to be doing by installing 15 substation-supporting solar facilities and the 98 MW Quilt Block wind farm within their own service territory. If wind power delivered from remote locations is attractive to utilities because of lower cost, why aren’t Wisconsin utilities making this claim? Ask the applicants to provide analysis of end-costs paid by their utility customers for all types of power the utility buys adjusted for transmission costs and time of generation/use impacts on LMP wholesale pricing.
359	21	120/120.02	233/233	None	None	LOAD MANAGEMENT: “As with energy efficiency, load reduction and load shifting result in a decreased need for electricity...Neither load reduction nor load shifting would directly increase the transfer capability between Iowa and Wisconsin to allow for additional renewable energy transfer.” (p47) The applicants’ reasoning is incomplete and hard to understand. Ask the applicants to elaborate on the purported exclusiveness of benefits from additional renewable energy transfer from Iowa, how the additional transfer would be guaranteed by the HVT Project and how CO2 reduction and economic benefits are not guaranteed from investments in energy efficiency and load management.
359	22	120/120.01	280/281.02	None	None	LOAD MANAGEMENT: “Demand response would not provide the reliability benefits of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Project.” (p47) How much, what type, under what conditions and at what locations are the applicants assuming the demand response would be engaged? What, established, “reliability benefits” are the applicants referring to? If the applicants are referring to the 13 reliability projects in Table 2.1 on page 22 or the quoted “30 transmission projects mentioned in the Triennial Review,” ask them to how demand response applied to remove load from these transmission facilities would not provide reliability benefits under peak demand conditions. If the applicants argue that the WI PSC or Iowa IUB or Minnesota PUC cannot recommend use of non-transmission alternatives in other states as more cost effective, ask the applicants to explain how this economic rationale is consistent with the ability to approve transmission projects whose costs are assumed by electric customers in other states? Do the review of cost shared, MVP project mean state PSC’ are under no obligation to see that electric customer dollars are spent most cost effectively, in the whole, regardless of state jurisdictions?

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	23	120/121.03	120/120.02	None	None	<p>LOAD MANAGEMENT: "If load reduction were contracted to respond to real-time market signals, it could provide some congestion relief. However, the scope of this Project would require an amount of price responsive demand that is not known to exist. In sum, demand response is not an alternative to this Project." (p47) Ask the applicants to explain their hesitancy in placing economic values on demand response considering the "dual fuel" and "slab heat" programs at some Distribution Coops of Dairyland Power Cooperative which deploy radio-controlled switching of electric hot water, air conditioning, heating and other larger loads. According to correspondence with one of the Coops, these measures are averaging 5-7% of summer use and 10-12% of winter use. See: http://www.vernonelectric.org/content/dual-fuel http://xso.dairylandpower.coop/lm/LCstatus_xres.html http://www.vernonelectric.org/content/storage-heat Ask the applicants to explain how these load management systems within Dairyland Power's service territory are not examples of, "responding to real-time market signals? Ask the applicants to explain why these Distribution Coops bother to use this load shifting if it does not result in electric customers requiring/need less power during peak demand when wholesale pricing trends higher. Ask applicants to explain whether the load management practices at these Distribution Coops result in net savings for all co-op members. Ask the applicants to explain why Wisconsin utilities cannot incentivize and implement modern, load management tools such as "nest" thermostats for A/C & heating controlled via computers or smart phones or utilize the new hot water tanks with federally required internet control capability. Ask the applicants to explain how relatively low cost, automatic email and smart phone alerts encouraging end users to manually and voluntarily reduce use under peak demand conditions would not be economic.</p>
359	24	120/ 121.0301	110/110.04	None	None	<p>NTA's IN GENERAL: "None of the NTAs could meet the purpose and need of this Project: bolstering reliability, increasing economic benefits, increasing transfer capability between Iowa and Wisconsin to ensure compliance with existing RPSs, and increasing flexibility to address emerging public policies. For these reasons, there is not a feasible NTA to this Project" (p47) Ask the applicants to explain how existing transmission in Wisconsin is prohibiting compliance with Wisconsin's 10% RPS? Ask applicants to provide the names and locations of the limiting transmission facilities with the number of limiting hours per month by month with the explanation. Ask the applicants to cite one or more laws and regulations with imminent approval that would legally require increasing transfer capability between Iowa and Wisconsin.</p>
359	25	110/ 110.0407	None	None	None	<p>"The Project proposal...has been approved by the regional transmission organization ("RTO"), namely the Midcontinent Independent System Operator Inc. ("MISO")." (p9) Such "approval" means there was agreement between utility-interest members of MISO, a non-governmental, not for profit organization. More than 16 of the approximate 26 total votes were held by for-profit utility interests utilities on the presiding committee when MVP expansion plans (including Cardinal Hickory Creek and Badger-Coulee as one project) were agreed upon over 6 years ago. There are only a few votes with the potential to represent electric customer interests such as the three votes shared by all state utility commissions.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	26	120/120.01	280/281.02	None	None	The Project will be approximately 125 miles long, depending on the final authorized route with the estimated costs of approximately \$500 million (2023 dollars) and an in-service date of 2023.” (p9) The costs covered by this \$500 million figure are not stated. The EIS needs to inform policy makers and electric customers of inclusive costs that would be assumed by electric customers over the project life of 30-40 years including construction, financing, operation, maintenance, security hardening costs and the last three “interconnection” projects bulleted on page 11. Total cost is needed as well for the EIS to provide policy makers head to head comparison of economic and environment benefits that would be delivered by spending an equal sum on NTAs as well as LV Alternatives.
359	27	120/121.04	None	None	None	Related “Interconnection Projects” with unspecified needs/costs/ alternatives as bullets. (p11) The bottom four projects/expenses that would be necessitated by the HVT Project could exist either outside of the project area or outside of the HVT Project budget. Their costs, environmental impacts and NTA’s need to be evaluated and submitted. The applicants need to explain how the HVT Project creates the need for these upgrades and alterations. Locations and equipment requirements for the “facility reinforcement needed in Iowa and Wisconsin” need to be described. As currently worded, this proposed work and associated costs is not sufficiently accountable.
359	28	120/120.01	120/121.03	245/245.01	None	“The Utilities are proposing to cross the Mississippi River and the Refuge at Cassville, Wisconsin. There are two existing transmission lines in this area: (1) Millville to Stoneman 69 kV, and (2) Turkey River to Stoneman 161 kV. The Project would eliminate the need for the existing Dairyland 69 kV line across the Refuge and the existing Dairyland 161 kV line would be double circuited with the new 345 kV line.” (p12) Utilities need to provide full description of these facilities including the number of circuits and their ages. They need to explain how the need for Millville to Stoneman 69 kV line is eliminated by the HVT Project. They need to explain where corridor for this facility is located relative to the Turkey River to Stoneman 161 kV line. Applicants need to account for the removal of this 69 kV line in relation to the Stoneman to Nelson Dewey 161 kV “reliability project” they claim would also be avoided by the HVT Project. “While the present needs are for the existing 161 kV line and the proposed 345 kV line at the river crossing, Dairyland and ITC Midwest are also presenting a design with 345 kV/345 kV specifications within the Refuge. The facilities would operate at 345 kV/161 kV for the foreseeable future, but be capable of operating at 345 kV/345 kV should future system conditions warrant it. Constructing the line in its ultimate configuration at this proposed crossing of a refuge and major river, is a prudent and cost-effective investment to accommodate future needs in a manner that avoids future impacts to the Refuge if a transmission system upgrade between Iowa and Wisconsin is needed. As with the other transmission features planned for the Refuge, the final design of the transmission facilities will be determined in consultation with the USFWS.” (p12) What “river crossing” is being considered in the above passage? This discussion is too brief and unclear. The crossing questions need to be fully taken up by the EIS aside from the USFWS.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	29	120/120.01	120/121.03	None	None	The applicants need to specify anticipated challenges presented by each of the potential crossings, the electric and environmental goals for each crossing and how each crossing would impact existing transmission facilities as well as description of all new corridor creation for all five crossing locations. Do any of the potential crossings potentially go to the Nelson Dewey substation and if so, how would this affect the Stoneman to Nelson Dewey 161 kV "reliability project" claimed as avoided by the HVT Project? Are the applicants suggesting crossing with a single 345 kV circuit and, if so why, and at what locations? The applicants need to explain how a single circuit is consistent with other descriptions of the HVT Project being double-circuited. The applicants need to account for the number of 345 kV circuits assumed in MISO planning for the Project in 2010 and in 2014. Any factor restricting flow through the proposed HVT project requires separate analysis under separate planning scenarios and differing economic and environmental benefits. Does the existing Turkey River to Stoneman 161 kV line currently pass over the Cassville Elementary School and if so, how do the applicants justify adding the risk of one, or possibly two 345Kv circuits at this crossing?
359	30	120/120.02	120/120.02	None	None	C. [The HVT Project would address reliability issues on the regional bulk transmission system; (p6) "In addition to NEPA, RUS has two requirements addressing how to demonstrate the need for a project... Second, RUS's New Guidance specifies, 'The purpose of the AES is to provide the applicant's rationale for the proposal And why that proposal is the best means of solving the problem. "(p13) No fundamental "problem" is defined by the applicants in the AES. There are no reliability, economic or policy "problems" described. "Problems" would typically take the form of existing NERC violations, evidence presented of excessive amounts of congestion taking place and citation of unmet state RPS requirements that the HVT Project is best suited to address. Without problems on this order, discussions of solutions is premature. Starting their discussion the need, applicants cite utility-biased studies, "beginning in 2008 and culminating in 2011" (p13) No independent analysis of need for the HVT Project or for transmission expansion as whole is provided or cited. The cited 2008-2010 studies are not attached to the AES. The 2014 Triennial MVP study, which is attached, is not referenced in the section summarizing need. Applicants need to specify whether the 2014 Triennial document is a full, updated study of need for the HVT Project or a revision of some assumptions with the bulk made pre- 2010. The question of providing contemporary need analysis has been raised in reviews of MISO MVP proposals in recent years by testifying experts. They have observed that MISO 2008-2010 planning is based on non-transpiring policies and much higher than experienced energy/demand forecasts and is out of date. Ask the applicants if new, system-wide ProMod analysis was run for the 2014 Triennial document including the expansion transmission projects added since 2010. If so, when? Experts have noted that the most substantive change in the 2014 Triennial is a very significant increase in natural gas pricing and, like the 2010 studies, electricity use and demand projections are still above those being experienced. RELIABILITY: "Power usually flows from the 345 kV transmission source at the Hickory Creek Substation near Dubuque towards Wisconsin on the 161 kV transmission lines

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
						causing high flows on these 161 kV lines. (p14) Ask DPC to confirm which 161 kV lines are involved in the above statement and to: a. Describe the usual causes of high flows on these lines. b. Describe the reason/location of the high demand. c. Explain if demand for the high flow is located within or outside of DPC’s service territory and if outside, where? c. Explain whether DPC purchases power generated by other utilities using the mentioned lines. d. Explain whether DPC imports power generated by facilities they own using the mentioned lines. RELIABILITY: “Criterion 3: The MVP must address at least one transmission issue associated with a projected violation of a North American Electric Reliability Corporation (“NERC”) or Regional Entity standard and at least one economic-based transmission issue that provides economic value across multiple pricing zones. “ (p19) Ask the applicants to provide MISO’s most recent list of projected NERC violations that would be avoided by the HVT project. Also to list the MVP projects assumed to be in service for the list of projected NERC violations. Ask the applicants to specify the most important, “economic-based transmission issue that provides economic value across multiple pricing zones” for the HVT project. Ask them to provide the names all of the transmission facilities associated with addressing this issue.
359	31	120/120.02	122/122.01	None	None	RELIABILITY: “Due to the location of the intermediate substation in Montfort, Wisconsin, the reliability improvement would also be local to southwestern Wisconsin where there is a presently a lack of connectivity to the regional 345 kV network. “ (p21) Ask the applicants to provide the reasons for a 345 kV substation being located in a very sparsely populated area. Ask the applicants whether there is any chance of other, new transmission lines being added to the area in the future because of the presence of the large substation at Montfort. Ask the applicants whether there is any chance of any, new transmission lines connecting at Montfort that are 345 kV or larger.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	32	120/120.02	233/233	None	None	<p>D. [The HVT Project would cost-effectively increase transfer capacity to enable additional renewable generation needed to meet state renewable portfolio standards and support the nation’s changing energy mix; (p6) RPS: “RPS compliance was not only a requirement, it was the primary purpose for starting the MVP process. “ (p42) Ask the applicants to explain if and how MISO MVP planning for this HVT Project proposal was updated to account for actual demand and forecasts for renewable energy purchases in Wisconsin after utilities met the WI RPS requirement in 2013. Ask the applicants if MISO’s MVP projections for the development of distributed solar resources in Wisconsin made 2008 -2010 proved to be more or less than the resources that actually developed. RPS: “In 2008, the governors of Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin formed the Upper Midwest Transmission Development Initiative (“UMTDI”) to “identify and resolve regional transmission planning and cost allocation issues” within the five-state area.” (p16) There are indications that the state PSC’s and governors had a minimal little role in this 2008 study. In other places it is described as “independent.” Ask the applicants to account for the funding behind this study. It is important to know what interests were doing the evaluation and making recommendations. RPS: “Criterion 1: The MVP must enable the transmission system to deliver energy reliably and economically in support of documented federal or state energy policy mandates or laws.” (p19) Ask the applicants to explain which “federal or state energy policy mandates” are not being met that building the HVT Project would resolve. Ask the applicants if they feel Criterion 1 only requires adding additional support of “federal or state energy policy mandates?” Ask applicants to describe the conditions where the addition of any transmission line would not provide general, additional support of RPS. RPS: “In 2011, MISO determined that [all of] the projects in the MVP Portfolio...[would] reduce carbon emissions by 9 to 15 million tons annually” (p20)</p> <p>Ask the applicants to provide updated CO2 reduction accountability pertaining to only the impacts of the HVT Project for both Wisconsin (or ATC’s footprint) and MISO as a whole. Ask that the update show estimated CO2 emission projections at the beginning and end the HVT Project’s evaluated time frame, with and without the HVT Project in service.</p> <p>An updated CO2 reduction forecast for the HVT Project is necessary for NEPA/EIS analysis including the LV Alternatives and NTA’s.</p>
359	33	233/233	120/120.01	None	None	<p>The CO2 reduction information supplied for Badger-Coulee* revealed that the reductions claimed would be a very small fraction of state and regional emissions. It showed that MVP planning assumes CO2 emissions would continue to increase with Badger-Coulee in service under 5 of 6 futures including one future where regional wind resources were increased very considerably. The only future in MVP planning where CO2 emissions decrease over time assume unspecified investments in energy efficiency and load management to realize the lowest amount of energy use and demand. With these NTA improvements in place in MISO’s study, CO2 reductions over time are projected when the propose MVP line is not built. *Original MISO posting: http://bit.ly/MISO-CO2-Increases Summary based on CO2 changes from 2020 to 2026 rather than net computations: http://bit.ly/B-C_CO2_OverTime (pg19)</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	34	120/120.02	None	None	None	<p>RPS: "Because of the existing limitations on transfer from Iowa to Wisconsin, the development of additional wind generation in Iowa is dependent on increasing transfer capability. Ask the applicants to provide documentation describing these restrictions including the total amount of power that is has been limited over recent years, the lines involved with the restricted the power flow with the number of hours per month by month during which the flow is restricted. Ask the applicant to describe the conditions under which this limitation can restrict the abilities of Wisconsin utilities to meet their 10% RPS requirement. Ask the applicants if there are conditions under which power would flow from east to west on the HVT project and, if so, to describe the conditions and the likely frequency. RPS:" Indeed, there are a number of wind generation projects in MISO that are explicitly dependent upon completion of the Project. MISO has informed these wind generators that they are only eligible for conditional interconnection agreements ("IAs") until the Cardinal- Hickory Creek Project is built and operational. " (p27). Ask the applicants to provide correspondence or other, dated documentation from MISO to the affected wind generators informing them they are only "eligible for conditional interconnection agreements." Include descriptions of the conditions under which each wind generator must "limit their output to less than nameplate." Ask the applicants to provide and explain a sample of a revised contract that would be created for one of the affected wind generators after the HVT project is in service with an estimate of the change in output to the grid as a percentage of the full annual potential. Ask the applicants to estimate the amount of wind generation that was limited in 2015 and 2016 at each of this wind generation facilities as a result of the lack of the HVT Project both in MWH's and as a percentage of the full, annual potential. For all of the cited wind generators, ask the applicants to indicate all that are contracted or have been contracted under Dispatchable Intermittent Resource terms.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
359	35	120/120.02	120/120.01	None	None	[The HVT Project would alleviate congestion on the transmission grid to reduce the overall cost of delivering energy; (p6) CONGESTION: “The Project’s new 345 kV transmission connection between Iowa and Wisconsin will add transmission capacity and alleviate congestion, allowing lower cost generation from the west to flow to Wisconsin.” (p14) and “The addition of a 345 kV transmission line between Iowa and Wisconsin would provide a path for lower cost renewable energy to reach market, reducing overall energy costs...” (p24). Ask the applicants to identify the associated transmission facilities that will experience less congestion and to substantiate that power flowing from west to east is “lower cost” to end users. The applicants need to document the assertion that imported renewable energy results in lower costs for Wisconsin electric customers. Ask the transmission builders to provide data from one of their utility customers showing the end-costs to their customers for all generation types and locations of power they provide to their electric customers. The end costs need to take into consideration all costs including transmission and values associated with LMP pricing for time of day for all generation/location types. CONGESTION: “...Reducing congestion in the area is a benefit to Dairyland by allowing a more efficient dispatch of generation, and by improving Dairyland’s service to its member cooperatives’ load in northeast Iowa, southwestern Wisconsin, and northwest Illinois.” (p14) Ask the applicants to elaborate on how service to member cooperatives would be improved by increasing flow either west to east or east to west across the IA/WI border flow? CONGESTION: “...MISO applied the economic benefits test to the Portfolio as a whole, i.e. it did not evaluate the economic benefits of each component of the Portfolio. (p24) Ask the applicants to provide an evaluation of the economic benefits for just the HVT Project, not the entire MVP portfolio. Per proposal evaluation is necessary for NEPA/EIS cost benefit evaluation of alternatives including head to head comparison of economic benefits from a comparable investment in NTA’s and the LV Alternative(s). E. [The HVT Project would respond to public policy objectives aimed at enhancing the nation’s transmission system and reducing carbon dioxide emissions. See responses under D, RPS.
360	1	243/243.01	232/232.01	244/244.01	None	Our property on County Road Q in Highland is like many other properties along the proposed routes for the C.H.C Transmission Project: a very special convergence of plant, animal, water and land communities, unique to the Driftless Region. To have our efforts in stream restoration and habitat improvement, not to mention our working forestry MFL land, thwarted by a power easement seems almost a punishment for doing the right thing at our end.
360	2	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	None	This sense of loss is punctuated by the fact that we believe a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis would show that the need for this project is non-existent. Alternatives are already approved and under construction.
360	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	The most obvious energy efficiency can already be seen in that energy sales for MGE and WPL have declined over the last ten years despite increases in population and economic growth. In 2007, ATC assumed a 20% growth in electrical need. That has not happened.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
360	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	ATC is operating on a 20th century business model for energy resourcing and transmission. The state of New York and the United States Army are adapting "micro-grids" as the modern model for locally produced energy in the 21st century.
360	5	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	When, if not now, will we embark on non-transmission alternatives here in our communities? When will we put our resources into models of energy efficiency, load management and development of local, renewable energy?
360	6	234/234.01	None	None	None	Due to the steep hillsides of the Driftless area, we fear erosion issues from transmission line easements that will also accelerate flooding. Since 2006, we have experienced three 100-year and two 500-year floods.
360	7	232/232.03	None	None	None	Many properties in the Union Valley and along the Otter Creek watershed have beautifully restored streams and wetlands. Our land includes approximately one mile of Otter Creek and two spring-fed creeks that are tributaries to Otter Creek. In addition, within the surrounds of these streams, we have dry mesic, wet mesic and wet wetlands, forming a complex animal and plant habitat. With ongoing restoration projects in our forest land (MFL) and stream (EQIP), we have been encouraged by the support offered by both state and federal agencies, in the form of cost share grants, but also in the shared knowledge, enthusiasm and love for the land. The impact of a transmission line easement would be devastating. [See attached map and list of at-risk species below.]
360	8	243/243.02	232/232.03	None	None	Raptors, including eagles overwinter in our stream area. Cranes, herons, wood ducks and more, nest in our wetlands every spring.
360	9	243/243.04	510/510	None	None	List of endangered, threatened and special concern species from our DNR "Endangered Resource Review" compiled for our EQIP (USDA/NRCS) stream restoration project: END - Endangered SC - Special Concern 1. Highland Dancer, Dragonfly, SC 2. Silver Chub (Spawning Restrictions), Fish, SC 3. Blanchard's Cricket Frog, Frog, END 4. Pickerel Frog, (Spawning Restrictions), Frog, SC 5. Blanding's Turtle, (Spawning Restrictions), Turtle, SC. These species are among many others listed in the DNR's Natural Heritage Inventory. [See attached two pages from our surrounding township area.]
360	10	280/280.02	None	None	None	Business/Residential Impacts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This area around and downstream of Blackhawk Lake is renowned for its mix of retirement homes as well as small family farms. The reasons for choosing this quiet, beautiful place to live of course are based on the absence of an industrial presence. • We are one of three "open studios" in our valley that join the near 50 artists on the annual Fall Art Tour. Established in 1993 and a highly publicized event, many area businesses, beyond the individual artists, benefit from the Fall Art Tour each autumn. Driving the scenic back roads with fall colors blazing is as much a part of the Tour as the art. We fear, as do many others on the Tour, that rows of giant metal towers will have a significant impact on bringing our clients to our studios. [See attached brochure.]

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
360	11	245/245.04	None	None	None	The lines would also impact other businesses that rely on tourism and the unique landscape here. Fishing, biking, hiking, camping, hunting, snowmobiling, canoeing, kayaking, the arts, music, theatre, dining and lodging. People visit this area to experience the rural and wild environs of the land where the glacier didn't go.
360	12	280/280.02	None	None	None	We have nearly completed the restoration of an 1850s settler's cabin with the goal of establishing a rental retreat for artists or anyone who might wish to experience the Driftless Area--its hills and valleys, woods and wetlands, prairies, farms and bluffs. A high-wire highway would halt this endeavor and impact our future business plans.
360	13	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property values to plummet.
360	14	510/510	None	None	None	Documents attached: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2016 Fall Art Tour brochure • Map of 4568 County Road Q • List of at-risk species in T7N R2E & T6N R2E (2 pages)
361	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Against both proposed routes - Especially Northern Route
361	2	280/280	None	None	None	Population not growing in this area - + won't as area is sold in acreage parcel for single family dwellings.
361	3	241/241.03	None	None	None	Invasive species will be introduced.
361	4	282/282.02	None	None	None	Ancient Indian Mounds.
361	5	245/245.04	None	None	None	Frank Lloyd Wright Scenic drive area.
361	6	243/243.02	None	None	None	Interruption of Bird flight patterns.
361	7	241/241	232/232.01	None	None	Natural old timber hardwoods will be at risk, as well as fresh water streams.
361	8	120/120.02	None	None	None	(Power is already reliable!)
361	9	260/260	None	None	None	Visual eye-sore!
362	1	280/280.04	244/244.01	None	None	We live on the farm at 5079, 5077 and 5071 County Road Z, Spring Green, Wi. 53588. Our farm, now called Seven Seeds Farm, has been in my wife's family for over 130 years.
362	2	244/244.02	None	None	None	We have evolved to an organic pasture based farm, meaning that all our beef, hogs and chickens graze most of their life out doors.
362	3	244/244.01	244/244.02	280/280.02	None	My wife's son, Michael Dolan co-leads an Iowa County conservation group that is implementing measures to control nutrient run off. Enclosed are photographs of our farm with our key-line system (1 % sloped ditches to control water) and our neighbors land showing erosion without conservation measures. Along the bottom of these ditches we have planted 12,000 perennial fruit and nut trees. Our farm is one of the largest in the United States to implement a restoration agricultural system using principals proposed by Mark Shepard and his book "Restoration Agriculture". Our farm is under a study from The Savannah Institute for the permaculture type system. We receive a significant amount of agri-tourism as a result of our restoration agricultural system and our farm produced organic meats available at our on farm store.
362	4	260/260	None	None	None	It would be a desecration of the land to bring the 15 plus story power lines which require a 300 foot corridor for toxic herbicide spray yearly along the lines passing by our farm. The high voltage power lines would be an "eye sore".

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
362	5	244/244.01	280/280.02	None	None	The toxic spray would affect our organic status in land near the line and negatively affect our agri-tourism. We truly believe that this would be a most negative tipping point causing our business to fail. We in fact would consider selling the farm because of the passing high voltage line would not make it viable for us to continue living here for physical, emotional and psychological reasons.
362	6	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	We ask that this power line not be approved for any route as there is no increase in electricity demand over the past 10 years in this area and certainly request that the County Road Z corridor be dropped from consideration.
364	1	260/260	None	None	None	Destroys the beauty of the land. And lives Visual resources theres [sic] great views into the park down by Wisconsin river there a rock house, school old store old barns the nature beauty is incredible
365	1	280/280.05	260/260	None	None	Friends of ours live in Vermont Township, Wisconsin. I have known them for years + have visited them on their property. It is beautiful in the Driftless Area. So when they informed me of the proposed transmission lines which would run through such a gorgeous + sensitive environmental area - I quite frankly couldn't believe it. I stand with them totally opposed.
366	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	Supply exceeds demand. No need has been demonstrated for the extremely expensive (to consumers) and environmentally invasive 354 kV transmission line. New wind and gas plants can provide local energy and jobs. ATC has not demonstrated need for interstate electrical supply. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projected flat and declining demand • Proponents of the 345 kV line are relying on outdated industry forecasting (these forecasts have proven inaccurate). • The 345 kV transmission line need must prove that they are helping move wind energy and that they are meeting the Midwest's Renewable Portfolio Standards.
366	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	More cost-effective options include improved energy efficiency and conservation. WI law requires that energy demands 1st be met through conservation and improved energy efficient consumption. Peak demands are better met via: solar/wind, distributed energy demand response, and increased energy efficiencies. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do less damaging transmission alternatives exist, such as low-voltage transmission, or routing a transmission line outside of the Driftless Area meet any actual (demonstrated) electrical needs. • Can non-transmission alternatives such as solar, wind, energy efficiency, storage demand response meet electrical needs (if these needs actually exist) and can be demonstrated to exist.
366	3	243/243.01	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harm to National Fish and Wildlife Refuges
366	4	245/245.03	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impacts to Military Ridge State Trail, Wyoming Valley Conservation Areas, Governor Dodge State Park, Pecatonica State Trail, and State Natural Areas

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
366	5	245/245.05	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Impacts to Driftless Area Trout Streams
366	6	243/243	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Impacts to Wildlife Areas
366	7	232/232.03	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Degradation of Waterways and Wetlands
366	8	282/282	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Impacts to Archaeological and Historic Sites
366	9	243/243.02	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Impacts to Migratory Birds and Eagles
366	10	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Impacts to Endangered, Threatened, and Protected Species
366	11	260/260	None	None	None	The proposed 345 kV IES report must address the full range of environmental impacts to the Driftless Area. • Disruption of beautiful and unique Driftless Landscape, one of the most important most unique areas in the Midwest.
366	12	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Damage to Real Estate Market due to uncertainty over 345 kV Line placement (final corridor).
366	13	245/245.04	None	None	None	Loss of Recreational Properties from deforestation/ in and near Right-of-Way
366	14	280/280.02	None	None	None	Loss of Tourism
366	15	244/244	280/281.0101	None	None	Degradation of Rural Properties and Farms both in value and use
366	16	245/245.05	None	None	None	Loss of Fishing and Hunting properties and opportunities for both residents and non-residents
366	17	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Impacts to rural families who have invested their life savings, work, and sweat into restoring and maintaining ecologically unique acreages on their family homesteads.
366	18	122/122.01	None	None	None	ES must address cumulative impacts from this proposal in combination with forecasted projects including Badger-Coulee TL.
367	1	260/260	None	None	None	The scenic drives in this Driftless region are some of the most beautiful in the mid-west and drew us to buy a home in this area outside Dodgeville twenty years ago. This is, and should remain a scenic, rural area. Towers that would rise 150 feet would not only wreak havoc on a fragile habitat for wildlife on the ground, but would visibly mar the landscape for miles.
367	2	120/121.03	232/232.05	243/243.02	None	Neither one of the proposed routes would be low impact on the environment. The proposed Mississippi crossing is at Cassville, which is a treasured location for viewing bald eagles, by both local residents and tourists.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
367	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	The Iowa Utilities Board brochure states that in order "to obtain a franchise, the applicant must show that the proposed transmission line is necessary to serve a public use." Nothing I have seen convinces me that there is a need that justifies ruining this unique area. Studies show that the energy usage in Madison is either flat or decreased due to better conservation.
367	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	It would seem that only the Utility Companies would reap any benefit from this project, not those of us who live in this area.
367	5	260/260	280/ 281.0101	280/ 281.0101	None	I urge you to discourage this project that would have a negative impact on the region's scenic beauty, land value and economy.
368	1	111/111	None	None	None	I am writing as I was not aware that this project was occurring in the vicinity of my home as all information I read about it in the paper stated that potentially affected residents were to have received information in the mail about the project. I never received any information.
368	2	120/121.03	244/244.04	None	None	Recently, one of my neighbors pointed out that my home was in one of the two proposed possible routes. As I investigated this further, I found that our home was inside one of the potential blue highlighted routes. I live at 3498 Garfoot Road in Mount Horeb, which is at the intersection of Highway J and Garfoot Road (Town of Cross Plains). This greatly concerns me as we have been at our current residence for six years and moved away from the City to have some privacy and be away from all commercial looking structures. In those six years we have invested not only a lot of money, but also our own labor to improve the property to be exactly as we want it.
368	3	283/283	None	None	None	I am also concerned about the potential health effects resulting from having such a strong electromagnetic field around these poles. We have two small children who love playing outside and having the freedom they do living away from the city. The effects of stray voltage concern me greatly.
368	4	244/244.04	120/120.02	None	None	As much as I feel this project is unnecessary and large corporations flexing their muscle when it comes to dealing with property owners, I realize that the project could move forward. If the project does move ahead, PLEASE consider the placement of poles and wiring in relation to homes. All of us affected by this project live where we do because we enjoy rural living and the beautiful views we have in rural Wisconsin.
368	5	244/244.04	None	None	None	My hope is that as a corporation you are taking into account the lives and homes of those that could be affected by this project and not simply placing poles at the path of least resistance (easiest install). We only own a small 3-acre parcel of land that would be completely destroyed if a 180 foot tall pole was placed on the property. I am requesting that you design around our small property and leave us the small yard space we have. Please don't destroy everything we have worked so hard to build and enjoy.
368	6	507/507.02	None	None	None	I am also requesting a copy of whatever documentation was sent out to affected property owner so I can review.
369	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Depression of property values even before approval of application and construction.
369	2	283/283	None	None	None	Perceived (or actual) dangers of EMFs and Stray Voltages.
369	3	244/244	None	None	None	Damage to sensitive areas.
370	1	110/ 110.0404	None	None	None	Probable use of Eminent Domain.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
370	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	No demonstration of the "public good" requirement.
370	3	120/ 121.0301	280/281.02	None	None	No independent quantitative determination of the effects of Energy Efficiencies and Renewable Energies in a cost-benefit comparison.
371	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	I am opposed to the power lines going through the driftless area of south west Wisconsin. Making a power line along the highway 18/151 corridor is much more acceptable.
372	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	I am a business owner working and living in one of the townships that would be impacted by the proposed \$500 million+ Cardinal Hickory Creek Transmission line.
372	2	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	With this background, I am deeply concerned about the lack of alternatives being considered so far in the proposal for the Cardinal hickory Creek line. Specifically, I have neither heard nor yet seen any discussion of conservation or deployment of more renewable source of energy distributed much more locally.
372	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	This economic cost benefit certainly needs to be detailed in any Environmental Impact Statement being prepared.
372	4	120/121.03	280/281.02	None	None	The two routes being studied would seriously affect this region and its varied, rich natural environment. The northern route alternative would be a "green field" line rather than following existing roads. A very detailed EIS needs to be reported that details the cost benefit on the natural environment.
373	1	260/260	120/120.02	None	None	Comments: There are several reasons why Rural Utility Service should NOT build a power line in Vermont Township. 1. Unsightly power lines not only mar the landscape but lock us into a power source that has shown declining use in past years.
373	2	280/ 281.0101	260/260	None	None	2. Clearcutting our beautiful wooded areas and continued maintenance of the lines will reduce land values for all residents while also taking away our scenic views.
373	3	243/243	None	None	None	3. Several bird, frog and trout species may be affected during and after building the lines.
373	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	4. This money from the federal government should be spent on better internet lines for our rural area and not generating power for large cities like Milwaukee and Chicago. If they cannot generate their own power then they can find ways to reduce usage on their own.
373	5	280/281.02	120/120.02	None	None	5. Why should our tax dollars for the next 40 years go toward a power line we really don't need. My taxes are high enough already. Spending unnecessary money is something this country needs to stop doing as a whole.
373	6	283/283	None	None	None	. High voltage has been proven to be hazardous to the health of humans and animals. I DOT [sic] NOT WANT HIGH VOLTAGE NEAR MY HOME!
374	1	280/280.05	244/244.04	None	None	Comments: My wife and my two sons live at 9773 Vermont Church Road, Black Earth. We are the 4th generation living on the old family homestead. We are very concerned about the Cardinal Hickory Creek line potential route going near/through our property.
374	2	260/260	None	None	None	We currently enjoy beautiful scenic views that would be scarred installing 100-150 foot power tower.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
374	3	284/284	None	None	None	We are also concerned about the noise produced. We are living in a nice quiet rural area where we hear deer & turkeys walking up in our woods. We also enjoy listening to the birds chatter/singing. This enjoyment would be forever scarred/taken away with the installation of these massive power line system.
374	4	241/241.01	None	None	None	We also have mature trees growing on our property that are 100+ years old. Some of these trees were already established before my grandfather settled on our farm. We don't want to lose this part of our history.
374	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please do not run the Cardinal Hickory creek line through our beautiful Vermont township. Can this go along some of the major roads that the noise and scenery would not be effected as much?
375	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	We, Paul & Nancy Kaufman, (Kaufman/Stemper Farm), object to the proposed transmission line in Clayton County Iowa for numerous reasons. We have owned 189 acres of farmland in partnership at 37703 Pleasant Avenue since 1987. As landowners, we are concerned that this line, if placed on our property will destroy the value of our property and diminish the available acreage for income production.
375	2	234/234.03	243/243.01	None	None	We have spent years conserving the soil and enhancing wildlife habitat on the property and the power line would certainly adversely affect our past conservation work. We have witnessed the recent transmission lines placed in our area and were appalled by the lack of the concern for the loss of soil and environmental effects of the work.
375	3	232/232.01	232/232.04	None	None	We have been involved in watershed improvement programs and we are committed to preserving our water quality on the farm. Our property contains a large pond that we had constructed and a clear running creek and many natural springs. We are concerned that large scale excavation and construction of power lines will adversely affect the water quality of these waterways.
375	4	282/282.02	None	None	None	Our property is located across the road from Pleasant Creek Wildlife Area, which contains a large effigy mound. A power line on our property would certainly not be compatible so close to this Archeological site.
375	5	243/243.02	232/232.05	None	None	We are also concerned that a second set of large transmission lines along the migratory corridor of the Mississippi River would adversely impact the annual fall migration of Bald Eagles, waterfowl and song birds.
375	6	260/260	None	None	None	The lines would again cross the scenic Iowa Great River Road. One transmission line allowed along this scenic roadway was bad enough. A second transmission line built along the Great River Road will be too much of a visual blight for this scenic highway.
376	1	120/120.02	None	None	None	There are too many unanswered questions concerning construction of the high voltage transmission lines through southwestern Wisconsin. Is there truly a need for it?
376	2	280/281.02	None	None	None	Will it serve the people whose property it will cross? Will compensation be fair?
376	3	243/243	None	None	None	What will it do to the wildlife of the area?
376	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Wouldn't it make more sense to develop more solar and wind energy?
376	5	281/281.1	None	None	None	Will these towers affect my cell phone or radio reception?
376	6	260/260	None	None	None	I moved here to get away from man-made structures. This area is beautiful, don't mess it up!

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
377	1	244/244.04	None	None	None	I am Michael McDermott. I live in Town of Vermont, Dane County, Wisconsin. I am the chair of the Vermont Citizens Powerline Action Committee, appointed as such by the Town chair. I am concerned about many aspects of the Cardinal Hickory Creek transmission line. My property is within the northern corridor of one of the two proposed routes for the line.
377	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	My concerns include the areas of a) property values;
377	3	243/243.01	232/232	None	None	b) loss of endangered habits particularly those related to groundwater, wetlands and important creeks; c) impact on fish and plants in those areas;
377	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	d) demonstration of need for the line;
377	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	e) cost of the line for years to come;
377	6	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	f) the line taking away resources of increasing energy efficiency, load management and local generation and distribution;
377	7	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	impact on tourism and recreational activities in the area
377	8	120/ 121.0301	None	None	None	the process which does not include any real analysis of non-transmission alternatives given that all such analyses are presumed to be within the transmission based paradigm. This last dooms any consideration of such alternatives. In discussion with principals of Dairyland Power Cooperative, SWCA, and RUS there was admission that all considerations were based on acceptance of transmission dominant analysis. Modeling and all other analyses were based on this acceptance. Resources and expertise are not planned for non-transmission alternatives outside of this paradigm and as above this is acknowledged in all "town hall" and scoping meetings held to date. The only analysis that supports need is that done based on MISO's figures, other estimates do not support this need and when the same resources are put into non-transmission alternatives these support both sufficient supply and more than adequate use.
377	9	120/120.02	None	None	None	Electricity demand growth is near flat and contradicts MISO's figures and does not support the need for the line.
377	10	232/232.03	243/243.01	241/241.02	None	The proposed northern route cuts through valuable wetlands along Hwy F between south of the intersection of F and FF and north of the DNR designated fishing area near Swetler Road. Though for the moment the area of the Pleasant Valley conservancy has been excluded in the most recent version the wetland west of PVC in the area described is directly in the route. This is an extensive wetland of many hundreds of acres and is wider than the maximum distance between transmission towers thus requiring placement of towers within the wetland itself. There are many endangered and threatened species in this area including purple milkweed, glade mallow, and woodland boneset. The wetland feeds Elver's Creek which then goes into East Blue Mounds Creek and into Black Earth Creek, a class one trout stream.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
378	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	<p>We understand that lands under or near such a line lose about 20% of their value, perhaps twice that for homes under a line (Valuation Guidelines for Properties with Electric Transmission Lines; by Kurt C. Kielisch).</p> <p>Landowners whose properties are crossed would receive some payment from ATC. We understand, from a firm that represents landowners in trying to get fair payment from transmission companies that ATC habitually pays less than the actual devaluation of the land. (We understand that the appraisers ATC uses are inclined to use their own prior appraisals as comparables for their current appraisals, not a fair market arms- length approach. We further suspect that ATC selects appraisers who provide values most favorable to ATC.)</p> <p>Landowners who are near the line's path but not under the line are apparently not compensated. Yet they will see the line for as long as it exists and the values of their lands will be diminished as well.</p> <p>Potential home sites would be affected as well, not just existing home sites. Many of these sites may cease to be marketable as home sites due to the line.</p> <p>The EIS must address loss of land value as a cost the line would create, including undercompensated and uncompensated losses.</p>
378	2	241/241	None	None	None	<p>Certain ecologic habitats have been largely lost over much of the region. This driftless area has many of the existing remnants because of its topography of highly variable hills, slopes, soils, streams and drainages.</p> <p>Nationally, savanna remnants have been reduced to much less than .1% of their original acreage. Many of the dry hilltops that the proposed line might potentially cross could be remnants of savannas. DNR Forestry commissioned a study of such remnants a few years ago which may provide further information (the study was done by Bob Wernerehl, who is now the Chief State Botanist of Massachusetts).</p> <p>Pine Relicts are remnants of communities that were here as the glaciers receded from northern Wisconsin toward the arctic. They exist in scattered locations where the slope, rockiness and moisture are just right. Several such relicts exist along the northern proposed route from Montfort through Middleton, and probably in the Grant County portion as well.</p>
378	3	232/232.03	None	None	None	<p>Wetlands exist along most streams and in other locations as well. The issues are many, and go well beyond simple drainage or soil disturbance, and wetland experts can better describe them. Damage would go well beyond just the simple repair of rutting or the like.</p> <p>The EIS must identify these habitats and require that they be avoided. Repair of damage or replacement of losses would be difficult and expensive, or impossible.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
378	4	241/241.02	None	None	None	<p>Some plant and animal species have become quite rare for various reasons including loss of the habitat they need. Some rare species have legal protection, while others without legal protection are nevertheless ecologically important. State and federal law protects some of these species from being taken or destroyed without the landowners' permission, which would seem to include activities of construction or maintenance of a power line.</p> <p>Some locations of rare species are not yet known. Some known locations are not recorded in public records to avoid someone illegally collecting them. It is not satisfactory to simply say that there is no record of some species at some location. A survey of likely habitats for rare plant species needs to be conducted during the growing season (probably multiple visits between May and July).</p>
378	5	243/243.02	243/243.04	None	None	<p>A survey of rare birds needs to be done during the breeding season when calling is most active (May and June). DNR or others may be able to advise on times and methods of surveying for other rare animals.</p>
378	6	241/241.03	None	None	None	<p>Various non-native plants and animals have gotten into our farmland, woodlands and roadsides. These species can multiply rapidly and take over native vegetation, and sometimes cropland and pastures. DNR maintains a list of these invasive species, and has partial mapping of them (although the mapping is subject to change). Their specialist, Kelly Kearns, can provide further information. The concern is that invasives can be moved around by construction equipment and vehicles, and are likely to be spread into areas where a line would be constructed.</p> <p>Maintenance of vegetation under the line would provide further opportunities for seed to inadvertently be spread around, on equipment, clothing and footwear.</p> <p>The cost of controlling or eliminating invasives can be considerable, including several years of active control and perpetual monitoring in case some were missed (dormant seed can subsist in the ground for years).</p>
378	7	243/243.01	None	None	None	<p>Certain animals are invasive as well. Cowbirds lay their eggs in the nests of woodland birds including some rare species, and their chicks out compete the chicks of the other species. The adults feed in grasslands outside of the forest, and their nest predation occurs more often within a couple hundred yards of the forest edge, much less so in the interior of larger blocks of forest. Thus, every time an area of forest is cleared, such as for a power line, more edge is created and more nests of rare birds are compromised.</p>
378	8	232/232	None	None	None	<p>Other animals and diseases may be invasive in waterways. Equipment traveling from one stream to another during construction or maintenance could transport such species from one stream system to another; once in a new stream they could spread up and down the entire length of the waterway.</p> <p>Costs of controlling and eliminating invasive species must be included in the EIS. Such costs must be assigned to ATC as a cost of the project, or they will be an uncompensated cost that the landowners will be stuck with.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
378	9	122/122.04	None	None	None	<p>State agencies have developed Best Management Practices for erosion, water quality, avoidance of invasives and other, which would provide a base level of guidance for construction and maintenance of such a line. DNR Division of Forestry has a Field Manual on water quality, specifically for certain forestry activities. DNR Water Regs probably has something in addition that would be useful. Some are practices beyond anything that can be required in a permit, thus not addressed by simply obtaining the required permits.</p> <p>The EIS must address how or if these standards can be met. If they cannot be identified or met, such a line should would have negative impacts upon the land and should not be built.</p>
378	10	280/280	None	None	None	<p>The clearing of forests under the line will result in some lost timber value. A growing forest can produce more timber value every year, which adds to the value of future harvests. Present and future values vary a great deal from one forest to another. There has been no indication from ATC that it intends to compensate landowners for present timber value or future growth.</p> <p>Many landowners have invested in their forests, via planting trees or otherwise managing their timber. Wherever the line interferes with these expenditures, the investment is lost. In some cases, where government programs have shared the costs, repayment by the landowners may be required.</p> <p>The EIS must address these losses, preferably on a property-by-property basis since they will vary considerably.</p>
378	11	234/234.01	280/280	241/241	None	<p>Many forests are enrolled in the Wisconsin DNR's Managed Forest Law program. Forests cleared for a line would need to be removed from the program, which will involve a significant cost to the landowners as well as a cost for re-writing the MFL plan for acreage remaining in the program.</p> <p>Some fields in the USDA Conservation Reserve Program have been planted with trees or wildlife shrubs, which would need to be cleared for the line. Withdrawal can require that landowners refund past payments and other costs. Withdrawal may also lead to soil erosion which the program was designed to eliminate.</p> <p>Trees sequester carbon, and sequestration is a goal of both programs as well as a part of federal policies. If cleared, the carbon would be released, whether burned or left to decompose.</p> <p>The EIS must address costs of withdrawals from programs, as well carbon and soil losses.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
378	12	280/280	None	None	None	<p>Organizations and people are impacted as soon as such a proposal is announced. Include are time devoted to investigating and opposing; hard costs including staff, attorneys, signs and mileage; stress and uncertainties of land management. Legal & staff costs for PSC hearings and any court challenge based upon misinformation by ATC may be significant; the local land trust is budgeting about \$250,000 for legal representation, staff and experts. The more ATC misrepresents facts or fails to follow existing laws and siting standards, the greater these costs become. ATC certainly must recognize the costs of its own staff, attorneys and expenses. It must also recognize such costs in the organizations which it has been paying to promote its proposal. Thus it must recognize that there is considerable cost of opposing the line, including investigation of omissions and dubious representations. Costs of opposition would not be necessary if the line had not been proposed; but given that the proposal was made they are reasonable because they are less than the losses of value if the line is built.</p> <p>The EIS should recognize that the proposal creates costs for those who would be affected, whether the line is approved or not. It must attempt to quantify those costs, both financial and personal.</p>
378	13	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	<p>Because of the dubious claim of "need" for this line, and the high levels of ecologic, aesthetic and financial impact that it would create, it is imperative that the full costs of the line be explored. To construct such a line though an area without such features would be an unfortunate waste of ratepayers' money; but to construct it through this area of high values and potential damages would be much worse, thus the EIS must be a robust assessment of the full impact of such a line.</p> <p>We citizens appreciate the efforts of RUS and SWCA in exploring the Impacts and costs thereof.</p>
379	1	120/121.03	120/120.02	None	None	<p>I am writing this letter to urge the RUS to undertake a serious and comprehensive cost/benefit analysis of the CHC in comparison with non-transmission alternatives.</p> <p>Should this analysis indicate that there is no need for the CHC, I urge RUS to choose the "No Action Alternative" when considering the proposal by the Dairyland Power Cooperative (DPC) for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek high voltage transmission line.</p>
379	2	120/ 121.0304	None	None	None	<p>At the same time, I am urging the RUS to take an "Action Alternative", that is, put the funds which it was asked to provide to the DPC for this transmission line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) into improving the efficiency of electricity use by the users of the DPC electrical power and improving load management capabilities, and b) into the provision of community solar and other renewable energy systems for generating power locally.
379	3	510/510	None	None	None	<p>See the attached paper for the logic behind this request.</p> <p>See also attached a summary of my concerns with the CHC project.</p>

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
380	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	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.
380	2	243/243.02	None	None	None	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 [sic] 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.
380	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	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.
380	4	120/120.02	None	None	None	I have also seen studies that show flat or declining energy use in our area.
381	1	110/110.0408	None	None	None	The City Council hereby approves the recommendation of the City Manager that the filing of a petition by ITC for a license to erect, maintain and operate a facility within the city as proposed by ITC is not permissible and would not be permitted by the City Council, and that the filing of an application by ITC and proceeding with the process required by the City of Dubuque's Code of Ordinances for such a license would not be in the public interest.
i1	1	245/245.03	241/241.02	232/232.01	None	Pleasant Valley Conservancy, Black Earth Creek, Vermont Creek, Native Prairies with Endangered Plants. Blue Mounds State Park, Blue Mounds Creek, Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk Lake
i1	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Vermont View Greenhouse
i1	3	244/244.04	None	None	None	Any home builder. All property owners.
i2	1	260/260	None	None	None	So, you want to want to build huge, ugly power lines through some of the most beautiful, pristine land I have ever seen on this Earth? Please send someone with brains to look - in person - and they will agree power lines do not belong here.
i2	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Your proposed power lines go through the Uplands Cheese Company. The power lines will ruin this company and the fine cheeses they make will disappear.
i2	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Put your power lines on highway 18-151 - that's where they belong.
i3	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	red headed woodpecker pileated woodpecker
i3	2	280/280.05	None	None	None	arts organizations
i4	1	283/283	None	None	None	I am concerned about the humans, livestock, flora and fauna living directly under this high voltage transmission - I fear for their health and well-being.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i4	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	I am very concerned about Uplands Cheese Co. of Dodgeville, WI, known for its prize winning cheeses. Their production could not continue as the high voltage transmission lines will travel directly through their property, severely impacting milk production in the cow herd
i4	3	283/283	None	None	None	as well as affecting the health of the families and workers running the company.
i4	4	283/283	None	None	None	Health impacts are of grave concern.
i5	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	birds particularly woodpeckers
i6	1	280/280.05	243/243.01	None	None	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 and county.
i6	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Family Therapy Private Practice (self employed) Talesin and other Historical sites/tourism) Lovers of nature, wildlife, rare Driftless communities that deserve livelihood from farming, tourism, etc.
i6	3	283/283	None	None	None	Health benefits of country living/gardens/ecology needs
i6	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	We moved to the Wyoming valley (Iowa County) for the beauty, natural wildlife, tourism of Talesin historical; governor Dodge State Park from dense urban center. Please don't ruin this special area.
i7	1	243/243.01	243/243.04	None	None	The impact on wildlife - such as the Blanchard cricket frog, Henslow sparrow, Acadian flycatcher, pickerel frog, bell's vireo, ornate box turtle Impact on natural
i7	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	American Players Theater Talesin [sic] House on the Rock and all associated hotels Silver Star All restaurants Tourists come to this area for its natural beauty - no one wants to see it disrupted by high voltage wires - especially residents
i8	1	232/232.04	None	None	None	Besides clean water
i8	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	I raise bees
i8	3	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	Endangered habitats/animals/plants
i8	4	283/283	None	None	None	Stray voltage electromagnetic fields
i8	5	232/232.04	None	None	None	cleaning drinking water
i8	6	244/244.01	None	None	None	impact on my bees which will affect my organic garden
i9	1	507/507	None	None	None	Yes, concerned about all potential environmental impacts and need to see a thorough EIS before I can get specific
i9	2	260/260	None	None	None	Also worried about aesthetic impact. Transmission lines and towers. The beauty of this landscape is increasingly diminished by ugly structures.
i9	3	120/120.02	120/121.03	None	None	Also: Why is proposed HVT even needed at all? Are there no viable options?
i10	1	120/120.01	None	None	None	Creation and long term maintenance of new and extensive rights of ways
i10	2	260/260	None	None	None	Damage to unique driftless landscape
i11	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	The wonderous [sic] expression of nature!
i12	1	283/283	None	None	None	1. Stray voltage
i12	2	243/243.02	None	None	None	2. Bird migration

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i12	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism is reliant on natural beauty - ATC has little concern for landscape, nor the tourism it effects.
i12	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	The blight on the landscape also negatively affects property values.
i12	5	280/281.02	None	None	None	ATC runs a rigged game, playing one community against another for corporate profity [sic].
i12	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	We can eliminate the need for the monstrous [sic] lines with simple conservation measures.
i13	1	245/245.03	243/243.01	241/241.02	None	Gov. Dodge State Park and surrounding area is a valuable wildlife habitat with clean streams and lakes; forests and prairies with many plant communities which are endangered, threatened, or of special concern.
i13	2	280/280.02	244/244.01	None	None	Green Spirit Farm House on the Rock attraction, hotel, restaurant All businesses and motels, shops, restaurants Upland Hills Health hospital, clinic, nursing home Stonefield Apartment Homes Seven Seeds Farm Land's End
i13	3	283/283	None	None	None	With a high population of older residents, health impact large.
i13	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	Potential new residents and 2nd homeowners won't come. Lower population and dying town, less school support and tax base.
i14	1	232/232	243/243	241/241.01	None	Damage (irreparable) to water bodies, animals, plants, and habitat, not only during construction, but continuing after installation and will be inescapable.
i14	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Loss of tourism, a growing industry in Iowa County, is a very serious matter. Not only is there damage to the landscape, residential and business activities are threatened and slower to develop, if at all, due to resulting stress and inability to thrive. Growth is inhibited.
i14	3	280/ 281.0102	None	None	None	Retirement in this area is not promoted by these proposed power lines. We feel intimidated by their presence.
i15	1	244/244.06	None	None	None	We live on property that contains a land conservation easement,
i15	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	which includes Lowrey Creek. It's one of the few creeks that meets the standard for wild brook trout spawning - w/ special genetic markers for w/ standing disease.
i15	3	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	Spring Green is a SW biking hot spot. Trek brings groups through the area b/c of its beautiful undisturbed landscape. People from all over the country come to the driftless area for hiking and biking and this would affect that tourism and our economy.
i15	4	280/280.05	None	None	None	This area has a STRONG environmental/conservation ethos and it goes against my values and values of my neighbors. We need to protect our precious lands.
i16	1	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	Lowrey Creek runs through our property - it's one of the few creeks that meets the criteria of the WI Dept of Natural Resources for their wild brook trout spawning program (special genetics for these particular trout).
i16	2	244/244.06	None	None	None	Land is also in conservation easement and has had a lot of \$ spent (FWS) on streambank restoration for habitat improvement.
i16	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	rural areas depend on tourists and recreational users for economic support. Any decrease in these activities will have a devastating economic impact for our area.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i16	4	260/260	None	None	None	The driftless area is a unique landscape in our country and should not be marred by ugly towers that will compromise its natural beauty and impact visitors to our area.
i16	5	280/280.05	None	None	None	strong conservation and environmental values - and connection to local community - which includes local energy production.
i16	6	280/281.02	120/121.03	None	None	Would prefer to spend money on more solar panels versus increased payments for gigantic transmission lines. Please make sure a comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives is completed which includes local, renewable energy.
i17	1	243/243.01	None	None	None	Trout streams,
i17	2	232/232.04	None	None	None	well-water systems
i17	3	234/234	None	None	None	soil quality
i17	4	243/243.01	None	None	None	animal habitat/food supply
i17	5	241/241	None	None	None	Plant diversity/disease,
i17	6	244/244	None	None	None	decreased land restoration and preservation problems
i17	7	283/283	None	None	None	Increased electronic frequency/voltage in area.
i17	8	120/121.03	None	None	None	Better options: solar power, improved energy sharing and sustainable community practices, environmental improvement.
i17	9	245/245.04	None	None	None	Trout fisherman - bicyclists - hikers
i17	10	280/280.02	None	None	None	Unnecessary energy debt for local businesses and community.
i17	11	283/283	None	None	None	Increased healthcare related issues.
i17	12	260/260	None	None	None	Beautiful views affected.
i17	13	120/120.01	None	None	None	Outdated energy practices.
i18	1	245/245.03	None	None	None	Gov. Dodge State Park
i18	2	244/244.06	None	None	None	Conservation Easement 4091 Cty Rd 2
i18	3	282/282.01	None	None	None	Pendarvis Historical Site
i18	4	245/245.03	None	None	None	Cave of the Mounds Blue Mounds St Pk
i18	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	Spurgeon Winery All restaurants and models in Dodgeville: Super 8, Bob's Bitching Barbeque, Quality Inn
i18	6	282/282.01	None	None	None	Thomas Barn and Homestead and prairie on Nat'l Reg. of Hist Places and protected by Prairie Enthusiasts and Nature Conservancy
i19	1	243/243	241/241	None	None	What is the effect of these high voltage transmission on life of flora [sic] and fauna - everyone and everything!
i19	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Businesses will be affected if tourism is diminished
i19	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	and property values decline
i19	4	283/283	None	None	None	Health issues for residents and animals have not been taken into consideration

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i20	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	rare Rusty-Patched Bumble Bee has been identified in 8 of the 11 township/ranges (all in Iowa County) traversed by the CHC line Henslow Sparrow (found in 12 of the 16 township/ranges under CHG corridors in Iowa and Dane Counties) Threatened birds found here are: Acadian Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Cerulean Warbler, Hooded Warbler and upland Sandpiper.
i20	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	7 Seeds Farm - Organic, will lose certification with herbicides sprayed on CHC route Uplands Cheese Company, home of award winning Pleasant Ridge Cheese, on CHC route Pleasant Ridge Store, corner of Z & ZZ, CHC route. 100 year old bar, central to tourism in area Governor Dodge State Park, 1000s of people visit annually. Critical to area tourism. CHC route along northern edge Dairyland Dare bike race through Iowa county. 1500 bicyclists race along path of proposed CHC. Critical for tourism. Military Ridge State Trail. Along proposed CHC route. Critical for tourism.
i20	3	245/245.03	None	None	None	Old homesteads in Governor Dodge State Park, CHC route along northern edge.
i20	4	None	None	None	None	Concerned about electric magnetic fields and noise
i21	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	Regal fritillary butterflies Ornate box turtle, Blanchard's cricket frog Henslow sparrow
i21	2	241/241.02	None	None	None	wild hyacinth, pale purple coneflower
i21	3	244/244.01	None	None	None	farming
i21	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	tourism (motels, restaurants, B+B's, taverns, etc.) convenience stores, gas stations
i21	5	245/245.04	None	None	None	biking (pedal and motor bikes)
i21	6	245/245.05	None	None	None	hunting (deer and turkey)
i21	7	280/280.02	None	None	None	Driftless Region has a large # of cultural institutions (eg. American Player's Theater, Fall ART TOUR, Taliesin, House on the Rock) that were established here because of the region's ecology
i22	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	The flight paths of eagles, hawks, geese, etc. would be obstructed
i22	2	243/243.01	232/232.03	None	None	along with possible & likely damage to trout streams, wetlands & habitat of wild life.
i22	3	245/245.03	None	None	None	The visual beauty of Blue Mounds State Park & surrounding area would be destroyed.
i22	4	245/245.04	None	None	None	Recreational activities negatively affected
i22	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	thus hurting local and regional businesses like Rookies Bar & Grill, The Shoe Box, and local gas stations.
i22	6	283/283	None	None	None	The health impacts are also a big concern. Studies have found association between childhood leukemia and proximity of homes to HVTLs. Stray voltage is another issue with nearby farmers.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i24	1	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	concerned w/ property value loss
i24	2	243/243	241/241	None	None	effects on plants and animals
i24	3	280/281.02	None	None	None	cost of project /vs return for community
i24	4	260/260	None	None	None	view from Brigham Park - what a disaster
i24	5	283/283	None	None	None	stray electricity
i26	1	243/243	241/241	None	None	Plant & animal impact.
i26	2	283/283	None	None	None	Human health concerns. Magnetic fields & stray voltage
i26	3	120/120.02	None	None	None	Don't really need more high voltage lines; need to prove we do.
i26	4	120/121.03	None	None	None	Better options - solar & wind power - education in energy conservation!
i26	5	245/245.04	245/245.05	None	None	This area has trout fishing - bicycle routes - hikers our land & eco system should not be tampered with!
i26	6	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property value impact!
i26	7	283/283	None	None	None	No one knows all health issues caused by high trans lines to humans, animals and plants!
i27	1	283/283	None	None	None	Human health concerns, magnetic fields
i27	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Will not be able to sell our property in 5 years or so
i27	3	260/260	None	None	None	no one will want their view of the valley ruined
i27	4	284/284	None	None	None	Noise comes from high voltage
i28	1	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	I'm concerned about the impact of the cold water fisheries in Vermont, Bonn & Ewers creek.
i29	1	243/243.01	232/232.01	None	None	There are many (and sensitive) cold water fisheries in Vermont Township --> Vermont, Bohn & Elvers Creek with surrounding wetlands - DNR owned land.
i29	2	245/245.04	None	None	None	Many people visit the Driftless Area for its singular beauty. Many are involved in silent sports - biking, kayaking, hiking & cross country skiing.
i29	3	260/260	None	None	None	Are you aware of how many fine artists paint on location in the area you propose to run the line? It's famous for its gorgeous views. We don't want this area spoiled!
i30	1	243/243	241/241.02	None	None	We have identified Blanding Turtle, Purple Milkweed, Redheaded Woodpeckers on our property
i30	2	280/281.01	None	None	None	We rely on timber sales - Forest crop & property is managed for timber production. We also have 2 prairie restoration areas that we burn every year. We had hoped to market home sites in the future.
i30	3	245/245.05	None	None	None	We use the land to relax - hunt + share with others including cub + boy scouts.
i31	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	Organic pastured based sustainable farm based on a silvopasture key line system
i31	2	280/280.02	244/244.01	None	None	Seven Seeds Farm LLC
i32	1	120/121.03	None	None	None	Funding needs for local renewable energy - our township is well suited for solar, geothermal, wind to individual properties
i32	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	tourism our township is visited by many for its historic/rural lands
i32	3	232/232.01	None	None	None	Wi River
i33	1	232/232	244/244.02	None	None	I am particularly concerned about the use of herbicides on easements and the effect they will have on our water table and our grazing animals.
i33	2	283/283	None	None	None	I am also concerned about the possible association of high voltage lines on the incidence of Alzheimer's, dementia, leukemia. See RETA site.
i33	3	243/243.02	None	None	None	We live very near Cty T where we frequently see Eagles and hawks.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i33	4	243/243.04	241/241.02	None	None	We are also concerned about the HV lines on protected, threatened, and endangered species as found on DNR Natural Heritage Working List for areas traversed by the line.
i33	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	A very large number of residents in Wyoming Township were drawn to the area because of its natural beauty. These residents support many businesses including ours (Wood and Stoha Works) as well as many other artist and artisanal businesses. Our township also draws a significant number of tourists - also drawn by the Driftless landscape.
i33	6	120/121.03	None	None	None	We believe that recent data on electrical usage indicates flat or declining demand because of growing efficiencies. Let's look to alternatives that are more beneficial environmentally and economically.
i33	7	245/245.03	245/245.01	None	None	I am very concerned about the impact of the line visually, environmentally, and economically on the following: Upper Mississippi National Wildlife and Fish Refuge, Military Ridge, Prairie Heritage Area, Pecos State trail, Governor Dodge State Park, Blackhawk State Park, Belmont Prairie State Natural Area, and Black Earth creek
i34	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	Economic Impact
i38	1	241/241	None	None	None	Forest,
i38	2	244/244.01	None	None	None	Ag Land
i38	3	260/260	None	None	None	Rural aesthetic
i38	4	243/243	None	None	None	wildlife corridors
i38	5	245/245.04	245/245.05	None	None	Tourism - bike rallies, fall color visitors, hunting fishing farming
i38	6	283/283	None	None	None	EMF
i38	7	282/282.01	None	None	None	historical sites,
i39	1	243/243.03	None	None	None	We are concerned about land fragmentation.
i39	2	283/283	None	None	None	We are concerned about the use of herbicides [sic]. We are concerned about high voltage electromagnetic pollution.
i39	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Our property values will plummet.
i39	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	Our rates will skyrocket with this unnecessary line/project
i39	5	120/121.03	None	None	None	Why use our taxpayer dollars to incentivize utilities to invest in an energy model that is outdated. Renewables are the future.
i41	1	243/243.01	None	None	None	Class 1 Trout Streams Wetland habitat, woodland habitat
i41	2	243/243.02	243/243	None	None	Birds esp. (vireo), box turtle, Am. Bald Eagle, deer esp. (warbler) esp. (flycatcher)
i41	3	244/244.01	None	None	None	Vermont Community Farm - organic Cress Spring Farms - organic Connell Farms Forsaug Farms
i41	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	Blackberry Ridge Lehner Cheese Factory
i41	5	244/244.02	None	None	None	Sweeney Horse Farm

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i41	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	Peculiar Corners Norwegian Settlements ie: Little Norway Driftless Area & Trail
i42	1	232/232.01	None	None	None	There are caves thruout [sic] this area, many not found or open to view. I am concerned about sink holes developing, springs being destroyed/stopped, groundwater being misdirected, contaminated with poisons/ weed & plant killer. Rivers, wetlands, lakes.
i42	2	243/243.01	241/241.02	None	None	Rare plant & animal habitat being destroyed
i42	3	244/244.01	None	None	None	organic farms & my organic field being contaminated with weed killer.
i42	4	232/232.04	243/243.01	None	None	The run off of weed killing poisons into streams, rivers, wetlands which then contaminates & kills & or changes sex eventually of frogs, toads, fish. Buffer zones are ineffectual over time. Damage to water bodies & habitats that will happen with construction is forever changed in spite of repair efforts due to what damage + weed control poisons used consistantly [sic] in future.
i42	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	Any artistic business, classes, school fall art tour, weddings, bed + breakfast.
i42	6	245/245.04	None	None	None	Hunting, fishing, birding, mushroom hunting, bicycling events + vacations. Tours, winter sports, hiking, cross country skiing, roadside stands, organic farms, restored woodlands, oak saunas, golfing, parks,
i42	7	280/280.02	None	None	None	small town attractiveness to tourists who come to escape the high intensity transmission lines you want to install, motels, pet stores that vacationers can kennel their out of town pets.
i42	8	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	This will severely impact property values! Sale of land for new homes/retirement/future communities will slow & diminish in price if these towers are even visible...
i42	9	120/120.02	None	None	None	are not necessary needed and are unwanted. There has been no proof of need,
i42	10	280/281.02	None	None	None	cost benefit analysis of non-transmission alternatives is needed -
i42	11	283/283	280/280.02	None	None	E.M.F.! E.M.Fs Living close to, being exposed to, traveling thru power line radiation is strongly related to increase in cancers, leukemia, A.L.S., Alzheimer's, hormone imbalance, neuro-degenerative diseases... and these concerns, problems, and issues prevent people from wanting to move into areas with intense E.M.F.s -- which in turn lower property value & hurt Wisconsin businesses -
i43	1	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	Loss of habitat for animals, plants
i43	2	280/280.02	245/245.03	None	None	Lots of tourism in area - American Players, House on the Rock, Taliesin, WI state parks
i43	3	260/260	None	None	None	scenic beauty all impacted severely by 150 foot clear cut of woods to make way for transmission line
i44	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	This line will destroy a wide swath of timber and crop-land.
i44	2	260/260	None	None	None	Its appearance will be terrible. People drive thru this area because of its beauty.
i44	3	244/244.02	None	None	None	What will it do to our dairy herds
i44	4	283/283	None	None	None	Our health is a man concern.
i44	5	244/244.01	None	None	None	The farmers will be affected as you pass through. No compensation of land compares to your line passing thru.
i44	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	People come to the APT theater for the cultural arts and beauty of the area from out of state as well as in state

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i46	1	260/260	280/280.02	None	None	I am concerned about the visual impact of the lines in an area that draws tourists because of its natural beauty.
i46	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	It seems to me, these lines could be sited along existing corridors.
i46	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	I am also concerned about the impact on property values.
i46	4	280/281.02	None	None	None	"I would like to know how they compare cost-wise."
i47	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	Taliesin American Players Theatre and the House on the Rock. They are major tourist/cultural attractions (500,000+ visitors per year) that are located in a rural undeveloped area that enhances their appeal.
i49	1	283/283	None	None	None	I am gravely concerned about the probable negative impacts this line will have on our health and well being,
i49	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	as well as the value of the property.
i49	3	243/243.02	None	None	None	Moreover, the transmission line threatens the safe passage of migratory waterfowl and rare birds, particularly fragile habitats of sandhill cranes, a species that has recently established nesting grounds in the zone proposed for the C-HC line.
i49	4	280/280.02	245/245.04	None	None	The tourists we bring to this region will not be inclined to continue to frequent rural Arena township for hunting, hiking, biking, and other activities if their appreciation of nature is compromised by the C-HC line. This will have an overall negative impact on the local economy, which stands to gain little, if anything, from the transmission
i49	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	Businesses that will be negatively impacted include local restaurants, stores, outdoor shops, retail outlets, filling stations and real estate interests that benefit from tourism and local economic activity.
i49	6	283/283	None	None	None	My greatest concern is for the mental and physical health of myself, my family, my friends and my in-laws neighbors. High voltage transmission lines have been proven to emit toxic levels of electromagnetic radiation, which can cause cancer, vertigo, and other health problems for people who experience prolonged exposure to radiation. Also, given that the appeal of my in-laws property, of which I am an inheritor, is based on its purity and distance from such harmful developments, my mental health will be jeopardized by the imposition of a toxic energy transmission line that will emit harmful levels of radiation.
i49	7	282/282.02	None	None	None	This is underscored by the probable disturbance of ground held sacred by native American populations
i49	8	120/121.03	None	None	None	At this stage of environmental degradation, we need to find alternatives!
i50	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	Having grown up in and spent years visiting my home in the zone of the Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission line, I am deeply concerned about the line's impact on sandhill crane migration & nesting in the line zone. In addition, I am deeply concerned about the effects the C-HC Transmission line will have on other birds that nest in the proposed line's zone, such as red-tailed hawks, turkeys, grouse, and eagles.
i50	2	120/121.03	None	None	None	Please consider alternative energy sources.
i50	3	282/282.02	None	None	None	The proposed zone for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek line cuts directly through a portion of land held sacred by the Ho-Chunk nation of Native America. The proposed line could severely impact sacred burial sites and archaeological relics of this and other tribes.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i50	4	245/245.04	280/280.02	None	None	The zone proposed for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek transmission line is an area frequented by bike enthusiasts (particularly GRABAWR) and hikers, as well as hunters and fisherman. The transmission line would drastically reduce the appeal of this location to outdoor enthusiasts and sportspeople who generate economic growth and fuel the local economy in countless ways, through direct commerce and indirect transaction, including word of mouth.
i52	1	260/260	None	None	None	I am opposed to the construction of the power line because it will destroy the beauty of the area involved.
i52	2	120/120.02	None	None	None	will not benefit. They do not need it.
i52	3	120/121.03	None	None	None	Alternative energy should be studied +used if needed
i52	4	280/280.02	243/243	None	None	Tourism, wild life, and the environment in general belong to the people here, not companies!
i53	1	243/243.01	None	None	None	I am very concerned about the transmission line's effect on animals and their habitats in the Black Earth and Vermont Township
i53	2	260/260	None	None	None	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 location of high voltage power lines in such a pristine location
i54	1	232/232	None	None	None	water bodies
i54	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	animals, plants, habitats
i54	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	We have lots of tourism
i54	4	283/283	None	None	None	Cancers miscarriage leukemia tumors
i55	1	232/232.01	245/245.05	None	None	Black Earth Creek Watershed:Elvers Creek Blue Mound Creek, Trout Creek, Vermont Creek Garfoot Creek, fisheries and impact on health of fisheries and recreational fishing economy
i55	2	245/245.04	None	None	None	Outdoor recreational economy including hunting hiking, boating, fishing, camping, bird watching, ect. [sic]
i55	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	loss of property value due to public perception of high voltage lines!!!
i56	1	233/233	None	None	None	Indirect emissions: We see results of power usage all around us. Each day, the generation and usage of energy produces more pollution than any other single industry.
i56	2	260/260	283/283	None	None	Please see attached/Visual impact of transmission towers and lines creates a mental health issue for those of us who believe that in a pristine area as the driftless area the tallest thing seen is a tree.
i57	1	243/243.01	241/241.02	None	None	I am concerned for the animals that graze near our property. Their natural habitats + all the rare plants that are near. The nature of trees + cliffs + bluffs will also be affected!
i57	2	245/245.04	None	None	None	We have bike events that occur locally that would be impacted by destroying the natural environment.
i57	3	245/245.04	None	None	None	Parks + Rest Areas will be affected negatively
i58	1	243/243.01	None	None	None	High voltage lines could negatively affect wild life by breaking up habitat both in short term while building and long term when undergrowth is mowed
i58	2	260/260	None	None	None	We live in the driftless area and part of its beauty would be destroyed by these lines passing through a relatively undeveloped area.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i59	1	None	None	None	None	water bodies
i59	2	243/243	241/241	None	None	animals, plants, habitats
i59	3	280/280.02	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	Tourism farming crops cattle
i59	4	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	No one want to buy land next to the metal men
i59	5	283/283	None	None	None	Cancers miscarriage [sic] leukemia tumors all health issues
i60	1	232/232.01	None	None	None	water bodies
i60	2	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	animals, plants, habitats
i60	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism
i60	4	244/244.01	244/244.02	None	None	farming crops cattle
i60	5	280/ 281.0102	None	None	None	value of the land
i60	6	283/283	None	None	None	Cancer, tumors, leukemia, miscarriage health issue for animals to
i61	1	232/232	243/243.01	241/241.01	None	water bodies, animals, plants, habitats
i61	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	we live in a tourist area
i61	3	283/283	None	None	None	Cancer etc.
i62	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	Ridgeway Township provides high quality habitat for threatened, endangered, and SOC species. Many reside on my 89 acre farm. I have spent 25 years cultivating these habitats and this proposed transmission line (un-needed) will negatively impact these habitats. I have been cultivating Henslow sparrow habitat for 25 years.
i62	2	280/280.02	None	None	None	Our area derives much of its income on revenues generated by tourism. Tourists come here because of the unique beauty and singular geologic makeup of our area. The proposed transmission line will change the scenic beauty of this area and threaten the economic viability of businesses and individuals who reside here.
i62	3	280/280.05	None	None	None	The proposed transmission line would destroy the cultural identity we have fought hard to preserve.
i62	4	120/120.02	280/281.02	None	None	There is no proven need for this line - no cost/benefit analysis by an independent agency.
i69	1	243/243.02	None	None	None	I'm concerned about what these towers would do to our fowl who use the airways
i69	2	232/232.01	None	None	None	impact on the ground + water supply
i69	3	244/244.02	None	None	None	we don't really know how these towers would affect grazing animals
i69	4	243/243	None	None	None	what about the fauna?
i69	5	283/283	None	None	None	I'm concerned for the health + well being of those who would be around those towers - for all living creatures
i69	6	260/260	None	None	None	We have a beautiful + stunning environment - to add massive energy towers would be a disgrace to all living things impacted by those massive towers.
i70	1	260/260	None	None	None	1. Diminished and disturbed aesthetic character of Driftless Area, the most important ecological region in Midwest
i70	2	241/241.03	None	None	None	Disturbance of native species and increase of invasive species due to soil disturbance during construction.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i70	3	243/243.02	None	None	None	Disturbance of at-risk bird population and their habitat (Acadian flycatcher and hooded warbler) 4. Diminished eagle population 5. Disturbance and loss of birds, native species and other natural resources in all sensitive areas along proposed routes
i70	4	245/245.03	None	None	None	1. Governor Dodge State Park
i70	5	245/245.04	None	None	None	Dairyland Dave - Bike ride and other charity bike rides
i70	6	241/241.03	None	None	None	Increase of wild parsnip in construction of towers that can potentially impact persons who unknowingly walk throughout - painful blisters are harmful to health.
i70	7	283/283	None	None	None	Personal mental health anguish
i71	1	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	It will impact all types of habitats, plants/animals, old forest.
i73	1	243/243.01	None	None	None	We live in a very special area of Dane County. It's a nature lovers' region, including trout streams, parks, & wildlife areas.
i73	2	280/280.01	None	None	None	If we focus on local energy, small businesses would have a stronger impact, employing people who live in the area, rather than money being pulled out of the community & pocketed by corporations that have no local impact.
i73	3	283/283	120/121.03	None	None	The health impacts are a great concern. I feel that renewable energy, generated locally, has less impact on not only the health of people, but also animals & plants that thrive in this area.
i74	1	110/ 110.0408	None	None	None	The proposal violates the Town of Wyoming Land Use Policy Plan adopted by Town Ordinance 6-13-1989, negatively impacting standards for Environmental Protection, Town Character, Agricultural and Commercial Development. Written impact statements are required for Town review (attached
i75	1	280/280.02	None	None	None	This is a unique & beautiful area and that is why people come here. This project will drive them away. We have a bed and breakfast here
i75	2	283/283	None	None	None	Let's error on the safe side, what these transmission lines do to our health we don't know
i76	1	244/244.01	None	None	None	CHC's path covers Beautiful family farms that provide a living for many. Farms will be divided where ever it passes. Local healthy food is a product of small farms + entrepreneurs.
i76	2	280/280.02	280/ 281.0101	None	None	I believe all businesses and all property values will be negatively affected by ugly power towers.
i77	1	243/243.03	None	None	None	further fragmentation of wooded habitats
i77	2	260/260	None	None	None	esthetic [sic] damage to rural landscapes such as I observed near Silver Springs State Park outside of Plano, Illinois my childhood home
i78	1	244/244.01	244/244.02	243/243.01	None	Concerned about impacts to Black Earth Creek and natural habitats for animals in the area. Also concerned about destruction of cropland, wooded areas (habitat where animals live), and impact to the cattle that graze our land.
i78	2	283/283	None	None	None	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 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.
i79	1	243/243.01	241/241	None	None	We own a diverse woodland with many plants and animals thriving there.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i79	2	235/235	None	None	None	We have caves, dens, rock outcroppings which provide unique habitat.
i79	3	243/243.02	241/241	None	None	We are a bird haven and have planted "edges" and created bird habitat our 37 years. We are also planting prairies to increase bird and plant habitat e.g. milkweed, grasses, etc.
i79	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	People come to Spring Green/Dodgeville area to experience open space, beauty of nature and agricultural life. People say it is breathtaking in the Driftless Area. I own a retail store in Spring Green and we are in business because of the seasonality of the tourist trade. We opened our store to fill a needed gap that visitors had. Loss of tourism would be devastating economically. We have worked very hard to grow tourism in the River Valley.
i80	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	Applications of herbicides near our livestock
i80	2	232/232.01	244/244.02	None	None	impact of herbicides on groundwater and pasture,
i80	3	284/284	None	None	None	impact of noise on humans and livestock.
i80	4	243/243.04	None	None	None	The following species are either endangered or threatened, or fully protected. The HV line would further threaten these species: Blanchard's cricket frog, Henslow's sparrow, purple milkweed, Arcadian flycatcher, cherry stone drop snail, ornate box turtle, Bell's vireo
i80	5	280/280.02	None	None	None	Direct Impact - Our business, Wood and Stone Works, has a client base made up almost exclusively of urban dwellers with second homes in this area. These power lines will make this area much less attractive to our clients. Indirect Impact - Another very important attraction this area holds is the large number of small artist and artisan businesses. These businesses were drawn to the Driftless area because of its natural beauty. We risk losing this tourist attraction with the construction of the power line.
i80	6	282/282.02	None	None	None	The Wisconsin Dept of Natural Resources notes that Wisconsin has the highest concentration of effigy mounds in the country.
i80	7	245/245.03	None	None	None	We also have very important protected lands and conservation areas.
i80	8	280/281.02	None	None	None	It is vital that we do a proper cost-benefit analysis of alternatives that may be less harmful to such areas.
i81	1	243/243	244/244.02	232/232.01	None	On the northern route mapped for alternative area our property on Sweeney Rd has several ponds and springs throughout that can be adversely affected by the placement causing harm to wildlife and cattle that graze the whole area.
i81	2	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	As our Township would like to see residential growth in our community, the threat of the possibility of this line going through stops the interest in proceeding with purchases as we are in the Real Estate business it has a great effect on us and all communities
i83	1	232/232.04	None	None	None	Maintaining the corridor for the towers will impact water quality (herbicides)
i83	2	243/243.02	243/243	None	None	and affect the movement of birds and other animals
i83	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tourism infrastructure, (motels, stores, restaurants, tours and other service enterprises
i83	4	245/245.04	None	None	None	Biking/touring (bike, cars, motorcycles)
i83	5	260/260	None	None	None	Unique nature of the Driftless region with views of Blue Mounds, Gov. Dodge St. Park, conservation districts, etc. Will be greatly depreciated.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i83	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	The uniqueness of the driftless region is a defining aspect of the context supporting a rich array of cultural activities (APT, Taliesin, House on the Rock, Art/crafts, etc)
i84	1	280/280.05	None	None	None	We moved here to create a lifestyle that has included solar, geothermal energy, organic gardens, bird + animal sanctuaries. We own a "heritage well".
i84	2	243/243.01	None	None	None	We are concerned about impact on habitats
i84	3	232/232	None	None	None	water
i84	4	283/283	None	None	None	health
i84	5	243/243.04	None	None	None	endangered species we see often
i84	6	280/280.02	260/260	None	None	As a local visual artist and musician now retired from teaching, a significant percent of livelihood [sic] comes from sale of work (created in home studio) in local galleries. People (tourists) come to our Area for pristine natural beauty.
i84	7	120/120.02	None	None	None	There is no need for these powerlines. Wisconsin's energy use is in decline and we would pay for, but not use the power.
i84	8	280/280.02	None	None	None	American Players Theater is one of many local cultural treasures.
i84	9	283/283	None	None	None	Health concerns abound! No significant studies on effects of constant exposure to high voltage are available.
i85	1	243/243	None	None	None	MillCreek/wetlands/prairies/frogs/birds/Plants/turtles/snakes/snails and numerous habitats.
i85	2	243/243.04	None	None	None	See Wisconsin's Natural Heritage Inventory for ranges in Arena Township having "threatened, endangered and Federal Species of Concern (SOC)"
i85	3	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property owners including developers are extremely concerned about loss of value due to ATC, ITC proposals
i85	4	283/283	244/244.02	244/244.01	None	Farmers are worried about the health impacts of CHC on humans, livestock, crops
i85	5	282/282.02	None	None	None	There are likely native American effigy in our township that haven't been catalogued
i87	1	283/283	None	None	None	health impact for humans & animals
i93	1	243/243	241/241	None	None	animals, plants
i93	2	283/283	None	None	None	health conditions
i95	1	243/243	None	None	None	They have permission to apply pesticides along the route. I worry about pollinating [sic] insect survival.
i95	2	260/260	280/280.02	244/244.01	None	These towers will be in view of many tourist business areas, might cross local farms removing pasture and forage cropland.
i96	1	232/232.01	None	None	None	water bodies
i96	2	243/243	241/241.01	243/243.01	None	animals (wild & domestic) plants habitats
i96	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Tamlyn Akins Art & Design Spring Art (Tourism event) Horribly Hilly Hundreds and other bike rides (Tourism events), large area
i96	4	280/280.02	None	None	None	Impact on Art Related-Nature Related-Tourism activities (all interconnected in Driftless area)
i96	5	283/283	None	None	None	Health impacts on my household, neighbors & communities at large.

Letter/ Form No.	Comment Number	Code #1	Code #2	Code #3	Code #4	Comment Text
i96	6	280/280.05	None	None	None	Entire area is tied to historic, cultural, natural & economic resources & would be impacted negatively
i98	1	280/280.02	244/244.01	None	None	1) Tourism Businesses and lodging in towns of Spring Green and Dodgeville 2) Governor Dodge State Park + Rock Shop 3) Bethel Horizon 4) Numerous farms including Seven Seed, Cates Family, Dolen Farms
i98	2	235/235	None	None	None	This region is known as the "Driftless Area" is a special topographic region that 500,000 years old and is unique in the USA
i99	1	244/244.02	None	None	None	My way of life - pasture for my small flock of sheep
i99	2	280/281.01	None	None	None	maple syrup trees for firewood; apple trees for food
i99	3	241/241	241/241.02	None	None	Chinquapin Oak, pale purple cornflower, oak savannas
i99	4	243/243.04	None	None	None	Blanchard's cricket frog
i99	5	243/243.02	None	None	None	Raptors - barred owls, eagles (nesting?), various hawks seen regularly at my house!
i99	6	243/243.01	None	None	None	Bats - on my property in summer/hibernating on neighbor M. Fritz
i99	7	232/232.01	None	None	None	Springs - high in density throughout area
i99	8	245/245.03	None	None	None	Natl. Wildlife refuge on Mississippi - waterfowl migrations
i99	9	243/243.01	None	None	None	Prairie remnants throughout area - at least 10 active projects underway in SW savanna region by Prairie Enthusiasts
i99	10	243/243.02	None	None	None	Nesting red-headed woodpeckers on my property
i99	11	280/ 281.0101	None	None	None	Property value decline + negative impacts on families like mine who came here specifically for the natural beauty + quiet
i99	12	280/281.01	None	None	None	Negative impact on (future) people intending to leave their property as part of a conversation conservancy or engage in joint preservation activities w/ govt. agencies MM Cole R. Graef Harrison
i100	1	232/232.01	None	None	None	water bodies, animals, plants, habitats
i100	2	232/232	None	None	None	otter creek watershed
i100	3	280/280.02	None	None	None	Fall Art Tour artists & other businesses
i100	4	282/282.01	None	None	None	The historic Union Valley School @ Cty Rd Q & Plank Rd.
i100	5	280/280.05	None	None	None	otter creek Lutheran Church @ Cty Rd Q & P
i101	1	243/243.04	None	None	None	Effects on premium quality Driftless Area - Unique in USA. Endangered & threatened species will be negatively affected by construction & maintenance of ATC powerlines.
i101	2	241/241.03	None	None	None	Lines will introduce alien & invasive species.
i101	3	241/241.03	None	None	None	I've lived in Blue Mounds/Brigham Township for 25 years. I've worked to rid our woods & grasslands of invasive species and find peace here in the country.

Appendix I: Form Master (Blank)

This page intentionally left blank

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Individual Family Business Frequent Visitor

Street Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Email _____

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

**EIS Scoping Input
Cardinal Hickory Creek**

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

Or email: comments@CardinalHickoryCreekEIS.us

Deadline: January 6, 2017

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

Loss of Property Value	Loss/diminished Environmental Assets	Loss of Tourism Related Business	
Loss of Business Income	Effects on Rare & Endangered Habitats	Impacts on Rising Energy Costs	
Effects on Personal Health	Effects on Rare & Endangered Animals	Impacts on Energy Self-Reliance	
Effects on Others Health	Effects on Rare & Endangered Plants	Compromises on Local Economy	
Effects on Livestock	Effects on Raptors & Waterfowl	Loss/diminished Cultural Assets	
Effects of Electro-magnetic Fields & Noise	Effects on Activities associated with Surface and Ground Water	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/Municipality	
Businesses negatively impacted by loss of tourism and arrested residential/business growth.	Town/Municipality	
Cultural and health impacts of concern (religion, historical assets, age, health conditions)	Town/Municipality	
3. Energy Investment Priorities	Agree	Disagree
a. I prefer investment in local, end-user improvements like energy efficiency and local renewable energy over investments that create long term debt.		
b. Investments in targeted energy efficiency, load management and distributed generation such as solar-support at substations may be superior to investments in high voltage transmission. The Rural Utility Service EIS conducted for the Cardinal Hickory Creek proposal should include comprehensive cost-benefit analysis of these non-transmission alternatives.		

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I am aware that my comments and contact information may be included in the EIS report.



Committed to the future of rural communities.

1400 Independence Avenue SW,
Mail Stop 1671, Room 2244
Washington, D.C. 20250-1571



200 West 22nd Street, Suite 200
Lombard, Illinois 60148
Telephone: (630) 705-1762