



Citizens Energy Task Force (www.cetf.us)

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MEDIA ALERT:

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***CITIZENS ENERGY TASK FORCE APPEAL CLEARS FIRST HURDLE WITH COURT
-Citizens Group Proposes Local Renewable Energy vs. More Coal Energy with CapX2020 High Voltage Lines-***

Although the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission questioned CETF's right to have an appeal heard in the Minnesota Court of Appeals, on October 15, 2009, the Court of Appeals ordered that the case will move forward to be decided on its merits.

On September 9, 2009, Citizens Energy Task Force (www.cetf.us) filed a formal appeal challenging the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission's decisions to certify the CapX2020 projects and challenged the La Crosse Project and "upsizing" the CapX2020 lines as contrary to law.

CETF filed a detailed 45-page brief [[available by clicking here](#)] on October 9, 2009, along with several hundred pages from the hearing record. "A groundswell of opposition from residents and customers in both Wisconsin and Minnesota propelled us to a formal legal appeal," stated Paula Maccabee, attorney for the non-profit citizens group CETF. "We've demonstrated major flaws in the methods used by the utilities to show a "need" for the project, including new evidence showing a significant drop in peak energy demand. The CapX2020 power line crossing the Mississippi River also violates laws and policies designed to protect national wildlife refuge areas."

Key Points of the Appeal:

- CETF argues in the brief that the Minnesota Court of Appeals should re-open the question of "need" and send the decisions approving the CapX2020 power lines back to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) because demand for electricity has declined below any of the levels the utilities studied to justify the CapX2020 power lines.
- CETF asks that the Commission's certificate of need for the La Crosse line (from the Twin Cities to La Crosse Wisconsin) be reversed due to violations of environmental law and conflicts with state and federal laws and policies to protect national wildlife refuges from power lines. Local needs for electricity can be met with local, lower voltage transmission that doesn't cross the Mississippi River in a national wildlife refuge.
- Finally, CETF challenges the authority of the Commission to upsize the CapX2020 projects, since there was no showing that they were needed.

NoCapX and UCAN, two other community groups opposed to the CapX2020 projects, have also appealed the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission decisions. Other organizations opposing the project include North American Water Office (www.nawo.org), Institute for Local Self Reliance (www.ilsr.org), Stop CapX2020 (www.stopcapx2020.com) and Mississippi River Revival.

Watch for more appeal updates as they progress. Full appeal document is posted on www.cetf.us

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Meanwhile, the eleven utilities involved with CapX2020, including Xcel Energy, Riverland Energy and Dairyland Power are currently considering power line routes which are posted on www.capx2020.com and will be announcing preferred routes for the Minneapolis/La Crosse line in Nov./Dec. 2009.

A community educational effort has also been launched in order to inform residents of both MN and WI about the importance of an energy future that involves local, clean renewable energy.

Read more at: www.powerlinetruth.org

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Citizens Energy Task Force – is a grassroots group of more than 300 citizens from both Wisconsin and Minnesota—and growing fast—who support clean, renewable and sustainable energy. Concerned citizens are encouraged to become members by visiting the website. www.cetf.us, (to view media reports about CapX go to: www.ilsr.org)

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