



Citizens Energy Task Force (www.cetf.us)

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MEDIA ALERT: November 14, 2011- For Immediate Release

**WISCONSIN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
QUESTIONS CapX2020 POWER LINE NEED.**

Madison, WI, November 14, 2011—An environmental report released last week from the Wisconsin Public Service Commission (PSC) on the CapX2020 project confirms what Citizens Energy Task Force (CETF) and other citizen groups have previously stated—the ultra-high voltage power line project is not needed.

“The conclusions of the November 8, 2011 document (*Alma—La Crosse 345KV Transmission Project Volume-Draft Environmental Impact Statement - 1 PSCW Docket 5-CE-136**) reveals PSC skepticism about the project,” explained George Nygaard, CETF intervenor spokesperson, “Projections of growth peak energy load demand submitted by CapX applicants are more than double the projections deemed realistic by PSC staff, which demonstrates a serious lack of need. The utilities have failed to demonstrate the required need for the project. The results give our area (Western Wisconsin/Southern Minnesota) a window of opportunity to promote local jobs producing energy conservation and efficiency measures as well as decentralized renewable energy options.”

Irv Balto, CETF member and Wisconsin resident said, “This indicates that current generation resources should be adequate to meet the needs of the La Crosse/Winona area.”

For over four years, in Minnesota and Wisconsin, CETF has maintained that CapX provides no benefit for the community. Local efforts at efficiency/conservation as well as a focus on renewable and locally produced energy would produce more long term employment at less cost. The PSC report shows nominal population growth for the area and a relatively stable energy demand/reliability. CETF maintains there is no local need for this project which would have to be funded by electricity rate-payers. Additionally, there is no guarantee of any amount of renewable energy on these massive high voltage and high capacity lines.

CETF is an official intervenor in the permitting process currently underway in Wisconsin. The eleven utilities application submitted to the WI Public Service Commission was initially rejected due to incomplete, missing or inaccurate information, with over seven pages of requested documentation with 96 citations where the utilities were posed questions and were required to provide more details. Comments on the Nov. 8, DEIS will be accepted through Dec. 23, 2011. Send comments to: william.fannucchi@wisconsin.gov.

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CETF is working with local townships, school boards, and counties to draft and approve resolutions opposing the CapX2020 project. The Holmen school board is considering a resolution Monday evening November 14th and the La Crosse County Board has considered a resolution which it may review again in December. The Town of Farmington (Mindoro) has already passed an opposition resolution, the Town of Holland (Holmen) has approved an opposition letter, and over 550 signatures have been collected from Western WI residents on a petition opposing the project. CETF members are organized and oppose the power line based on the lack of “need” and “benefit” to Wisconsin and Minnesota communities. Other concerns include serious impact on tourism, property values and potential health impacts for a multi-million dollar project that would be funded by local residents.

CapX2020 is a massive ultra high voltage power line project that would bring electricity from coal burning plants in the Dakotas traveling across the Mississippi River – crossing at Alma, WI then traveling south to Holmen and Onalaska, over homes, next to schools, through the La Crosse area and on to Madison. A definitive route has not yet been determined. Once in North La Crosse, CapX is proposed to link into a line that would be built by American Transmission Company called the Badger Coulee Line. This line would likely travel through scenic southwest Wisconsin farmland and possibly the Kickapoo Valley Reserve as it barrels into Madison – and then to the East, aiming for Chicago and beyond. Maps of the proposed route area are on www.capX2020.com and www.atc-projects.com

To review the DEIS, go to www.psc.wi.gov and search for docket 05-CE-136 and scroll down to the Draft Environmental Review filings.

Citizens Energy Task Force – is a non-profit grassroots organization of citizens in both Wisconsin and Minnesota—who support clean, renewable and sustainable energy. Concerned citizens are encouraged to become members by visiting the website. www.cetf.us. CETF’s educational campaign is www.powerlinetruth.org. For additional information on this project, see another intervenor’s website at www.nocapx2020.info

*Copy of the Draft EIS is attached separately.

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