

Power Line Alert

From Citizens Energy Task Force - for more information, contact Joe Morse [507-452-8232](tel:507-452-8232)

PLEASE ATTEND - Week of Jan. 9th!

COMMENT... VOICE YOUR CONCERNS!

Federal Agency (RUS) has reviewed CapX2020--Draft Results are Out!

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) of the USDA has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) related to providing financial assistance to Dairyland Power Cooperative for its share in construction of the proposed 345-kV ultra high transmission line (CapX2020) between Hampton, MN and the La Crosse area in Wisconsin. Dairyland is a participant in the project with Xcel Energy and a number of other utilities.

The Draft EIS is available at public libraries in the project area and at:

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-CapX2020-Hampton-Rochester-LaCrosse.html>.

From the 12/16/11 official notice in the Federal Register: "**Among the alternatives addressed in the Draft EIS is the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE, under which the proposed project would not be undertaken.**"

The CapX2020 power line is not needed for Wisconsin energy requirements. From the Public Service Commission (PSC) of WI 2010 Strategic Energy Assessment: "Wisconsin has a current state of excess energy capacity with a planning reserve margin of above 15% through 2016."

From the 11/8/11 PSC of WI Draft Environmental Impact Statement: "It is not clear that there will be sufficient population growth in the La Crosse/Winona area to justify the projected increase in demand for electricity presented in the CPCN (CapX2020) application."

By increasing the implementation of efficiency programs with locally produced and distributed renewable energy alternatives, the cost/benefit value and need for the CapX power line for western Wisconsin is in question.

CETF encourages citizens to consider that as part of their comments to the RUS at public hearings and in written comments the NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE would appear to be the prudent option.

WRITTEN COMMENTS on the Draft EIS can be submitted until January 30, 2012, to: Stephanie Strength; Environmental Protection Specialist; USDA - Rural Utilities Service; at: stephanie.strength.wdc.usda.gov.

PUBLIC HEARINGS are scheduled for evenings of the week of January 9, 2012 all week, with an “open house” from 5-6 p.m. and a “discussion period” from 6-8 p.m. A court reporter will be available:

January 9, 2012, 5-8 p.m.

**Alma High School Gym
S1618 State Rd 35**

Alma, WI

January 10, 2012, 5-8 p.m.

Wanamingo Community Center
401 Main Street
Wanamingo, MN

January 11, 2012, 5-8 p.m.

Cannon Falls High School Cafeteria
820 Minnesota St
Cannon Falls, MN

January 13, 2012, 5-8 p.m.

**Centerville/Town of Trempealeau Community Center
W24854 State Rd 54/93;**

Galesville, WI

January 12, 2012, 5-8 p.m.

American Legion Hall
2153rd St SW
Plainview, MN