

VILLAGE OF YORKVILLE

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Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
North Tower, 6th Floor
Hill Farms State Office Building
4822 Madison Yards Way
Madison, WI 53705

RE: Opposition to Racine County Western Feed Transmission Line Project - Docket 137-CE-209

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing on behalf of the Yorkville Village Board to voice our strong opposition to the Preferred and Alternate Routes proposed for the Racine County Western Feed Transmission Line Project, as outlined in Wisconsin Public Service Commission Docket 137-CE-209.

We are opposed to the Preferred and Alternate Routes for this project for the following reasons:

Preferred Route (Options A & B)

The Preferred Route will result in the loss of approximately 30.5 acres of prime commercial and industrial real estate along this route within the Village of Yorkville. On December 16, 2019, the Village Board adopted the I-94 Corridor Master Plan; this was followed on September 29, 2020, with Village Board adoption of the Village's 2020-2050 Comprehensive Plan.

In both plans, the properties located at the southwest corner of the I-94/I-41/STH 11 interchange were identified as a prime location for commercial and/or industrial development in line with the Village's existing Grandview Business Park and development further north at the I-94/I-41/STH 20 interchange; the easternmost 3,800 feet of transmission line right-of-way of the Preferred Route in Yorkville falls on the southern edge of these properties.

The Preferred Route will significantly impact agricultural uses, including by causing the loss of prime agricultural land to the transmission towers that will be required as part of this project, as well as through the inevitable damage to established drain tile infrastructure; continued agricultural activity in the area impacted by this route relies heavily on the proper function of that tile infrastructure. Approximately 79.5 to 82 percent of the land along this route is used for agricultural purposes. The right-of-way acquisition proposed for this route will also impact a significant percentage of grasslands, wetlands, and forested areas (26.6

acres, or 17.48%, of the Preferred Option A route, and 24.1 acres, or 15.68%, of the Preferred Option B route).

The Preferred Route will impact adjacent residential property owners along the western half of this route as well as the Wisconsin Sportsman's Association shooting facility located on STH 11. There are 12 residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed transmission line along this route. The location of this route, approximately 1,200 feet to the north of the Wisconsin Sportsman's Association shooting facility (and directly in the line of fire of it), is of significant concern, as any stray shot or bullet could critically damage a transmission tower or transmission line, leading to a potential system failure.

Alternate Route

The Alternate Route will lead to the degradation and loss of approximately one mile of secondary environmental corridor within the Village of Yorkville. The secondary environmental corridor in this area, which is identified in the Village's 2020-2050 Comprehensive Plan, represents one of the few remaining complexes of intact environmental corridors within the Village, which serve as prime habitat for a multitude of flora and fauna. The right-of-way acquisition proposed for this route will impact a significant percentage of grasslands, wetlands, and forested areas (64.2 acres, or 40.43%, of the Alternate Route).

The Alternate Route will significantly impact agricultural uses, including by causing the loss of prime agricultural land to the transmission towers that will be required as part of this project, as well as through the inevitable damage to established drain tile infrastructure; continued agricultural activity in the area impacted by this route relies heavily on the proper function of that tile infrastructure. Approximately 54 percent of the land along this route is used for agricultural purposes.

The Alternate Route will impact adjacent residential property owners along the western half of this route, especially where it crosses 57th Drive; there are six residences within 1,000 feet of the proposed transmission line along this route.

For these reasons, we emphatically oppose the placement of this project in the Village of Yorkville and strongly suggest that this transmission line project be relocated to the south to run parallel to CTH KR in the Town of Paris in Kenosha County, where it can take advantage of the right-of-way of existing utility infrastructure that has been constructed over the last decade and can originate directly from WE Energies' Paris Generating Station, rather than in Yorkville. We find anything other than this to be completely unacceptable.

Thank you for considering the concerns of Yorkville's residents and stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Douglas Nelson
President