



Midtown Greenway Coalition
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May 20, 2009

Commissioners Boyd, Reha, Pugh, O'Brien and Wergin
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission
127 7th Place East, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-2147

Re: Xcel Energy's Hiawatha Project, Docket E002/TL-09-38

Dear Commissioners:

The Midtown Greenway Coalition is a grassroots nonprofit organization whose mission is to empower communities to develop, improve, protect, and enjoy the Midtown Greenway as a green urban pathway to improve people's lives. Our board of directors has a seat for each of the neighborhoods along the Midtown Greenway across Minneapolis and our office is located adjacent to the Greenway trails at the Midtown Exchange complex near Chicago Avenue.

The Midtown Greenway Coalition's policy resolution regarding the Hiawatha Project is attached. This resolution states a series of concerns about the project, recommends that the project not be undertaken if conservation and alternatives can satisfy local electricity needs, and if the project must be installed that the high voltage transmission lines be put underground on a route other than along the Midtown Greenway. Additional entities who have adopted resolutions that include many or all of the same interests as the Coalition's resolution include the City of Minneapolis, ten neighborhood organizations, and the Midtown Community Works Partnership (a group of City and County elected officials and businesses along the Midtown Greenway/Lake Street corridor).

We strongly support the staff recommendation to set up an Advisory Task Force and further recommend that the following seats be added to the staff-recommended list of seats:

1. An energy conservation and alternative energy expert in order to share knowledge of technically and financially feasible potential project alternatives pursuant to the discussion of routes.
2. An electricity grid expert, also to share knowledge of alternatives regarding routes.

Thank you for your careful consideration of our recommendation. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Springer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "T" and a dot above the "i".

Tim Springer
Executive Director