Providing EIS Scoping Input for a 765 kV Transmission Line Proposal

The Public Service Commission of Wisconsin and the Department of Natural Resources request *Scoping Comments* from landowners and the extended public in the *Notice of Proceeding* for approximately 30-60 days after the application is submitted. These information is used in creating a *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* for the transmission line proposal. Comments can be submitted to the associated PSC docket in two ways: by using a provided, on-line, text-only form supplied by the PSC or by writing one's comments in a text application such as *Google Docs, Pages or Microsoft Word* and uploading a pdf format export on the docket. With the later method, one can include maps, charts, location images, screen shots from studies and other materials. Instructions about creating a PSC account and uploading documents are here: https://bit.ly/PSC-account-file-uploading-instructions .

Potential negative impacts referred to as, "sensitivities" tend to fall in these categories:

- Potential impacts to ecosystems, environments, animals, plants, individuals or groups of people (such as churches or schools), domestic or farm animals;
- Impacts to historical, cultural or archeological aspects of an area;
- Any economic impacts to the community, individuals, groups of people or businesses;
- Potential impacts to the operations of homes, farms and businesses, existing and planned;
- Health concerns for individuals, groups and businesses, and
- Planned, future, personal or business-related energy improvements that would be obstructed if the Commission were to choose building a 765 kV transmission line instead of increasing *Focus on Energy* rebate pools to lower demand for utility infrastructure.

Collecting Field Information for Scoping Comments

To improve thoroughness, accuracy and forcefulness, consider getting an early start on your comments. The checklist with commonly cited sensitivities in this handout can be used to identify sensitivities to further describe and locate with scientific precision, when appropriate. After identifying sensitivities of concern, one may wish to add field photographs, data/findings from historical records and personal accounts. With an early start, one may track field experiences by date or document species with smart phone tools like *Merlin* https://www.merlinbirds.org/

When establishing the risks presented by the transmission line, it is advisable to locate and cite findings from scientific papers using a tool like *Google Scholar*: https://scholar.google.com/ Be sure to include the sources of your findings and citations.

To provide an exact location: Navigate to *Google Maps* *https://www.google.com/* Enter your address into the search box in the top left corner. Use the "+" and "-" keys to adjust the scale of the map. To move the viewed area, click and hold on the map and "drag" your cursor in the desired direction. To acquire the scientific location or "geo coordinates," hover the cursor over the desired location and right-click on your mouse. In the list of options that opens, select, “Share Location. ” A window will open with two long numbers separated by a comma at the top (e.g. 43.383724, -90.778828). Click and scroll across the numbers to highlight them. Copy them into the computer 's memory, by pressing the "Control" and "C" keys at the same time. To "paste" or insert the numbers into the document you are creating, go the document, click the cursor where you want the numbers to go, and press, "Control" +"V" keys at the same time. If the sensitivity is located at a residence or place of business or other named location, include the street address as well.

To locate an area: Use the above steps to locate and record the approximate 'center' of the area of interest such as a field, wooded area or wetland. Describe the size of the area around the 'center' in approximate square feet or acres. Google map offers a tool for measuring areas. Right-click on the mouse, select, "Measure distance" at the bottom of the list. Using a series of clicks, draw a line around the border of the area making sure the last point is on top of the starting click. A shape will be created along with box displaying the number of square feet inside of the area. To convert square feet

into acres, divide the square feet number by 43,560. Instruction video on this process: https://bit.ly/google-measure-area

Compiling Your Scoping Comments

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources staff learning about realities in the field can really improve the quality of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement they will prepare with public input. Identifying the precise locations of extreme sensitivities like close proximities to occupied dwellings, sink holes and cultural artifacts are especially important. Every landowner is the expert on their own land. One does not need to be a scientist to contribute highly valuable information.

In your second run-through of your checked sensitivity list, transfer each marked sensitivity entry to a new text document such as *MS Word, Pages* or *Google Docs* for adding further description. With these applications, one can insert images, charts, maps, screen shots from studies and other graphics. Include location geo-coordinates if you can but this is not crucial. It is acceptable to include personal insights and experiences of family members, neighbors employees, visitors and experts ypu have invited to make observations.

A list of endangered animal and plant species can be found here:

List of Wisconsin Endangered and Threatened Species: https://p.widencdn.net/byxof6/ER001
Wisconsin Endangered Species Law: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/endangeredresources/laws.html

Impacts to Communities & Local Economies – This can include any community your are familiar with that would be affected by a decrease in tourist traffic for all recreational activities include fishing, hunting, canoeing, kayaking, biking, motorbike touring, wildlife sighting, hiking, jogging, picnicking, photography, camping, snowmobiling, skiing, horseback riding, golfing and attractions like museums, parks, wildlife refuges, nature centers, restaurants, motels, hotels, bed & breakfasts, grocery stores, taverns, gasoline stations, drug stores, resale/antique stores, art/craft galleries, convenience stores, roadside stands, and touring services.

Cultural Sensitivities can be in your community or a nearby community and include Native American or other historical or archeological sites of interest such as cemeteries, churches, places of worship, old homesteads, post offices, schools, wells, artesian springs, hunting and ceremony grounds. Locations with local folklore attached to them should also be mentioned.

Housing & Business Development List examples of persons and families (by last name and location) who moved to the area because of its natural beauty and other assets such as peace and quiet that could be compromised by the addition of a 765 kV transmission line. List places where future growth has been planned that could be compromised such as shopping areas, housing developments, business parks, civic improvements and other attractions. List potentially affected sites and businesses by name.

Health Concerns. Within and beyond the Study Area to about 5 miles, list locations where young, elderly or persons with special needs reside or frequent, including schools, assisted living centers, senior citizen centers, hospitals, health centers, medical centers, community centers, libraries, bus stops, rest areas, parks, civic centers, government offices. Can also mention private residences/businesses with permission.

Your Household and/or Business Energy Investment Priorities List and describe household energy improvement interests that you have made and plan to make including conservation, dwelling improvements, equipment improvements, other energy efficiency improvements, rooftop solar and battery storage.

765 kV Transmission Line Sensitivities Checklist

Name (Printed) _____

US Mail Address _____

Property Address (If different) _____

Email _____ Town _____

	On Property	Near Property	Add Location(s) & Description(s) on Additional pages
FARM & AGRICULTURE			
Active cropland	☐	☐	
Pasture / grazing land / water troughs	☐	☐	
Hay fields	☐	☐	
Livestock areas	☐	☐	
Barns / agricultural buildings	☐	☐	
Organic / specialty crops / commercial orchards / future crop expansion areas / CRP	☐	☐	
Conservation practices	☐	☐	
Drainage tile network	☐	☐	
Irrigation systems	☐	☐	
Wells / livestock watering	☐	☐	
Fences / gates (metal needs to be grounded)	☐	☐	
Field access / farm lanes / metal gates	☐	☐	
Manure / nutrient-management areas	☐	☐	
Farm equipment GPS / precision-ag technology	☐	☐	
Aerial application concerns	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	
WATER, LAND & DRAINAGE			
River / creek / stream	☐	☐	
Trout streams	☐	☐	
Springs / seep	☐	☐	
Pond	☐	☐	
Wetland	☐	☐	
Floodplain	☐	☐	
Regulatory floodway	☐	☐	
Regularly flooded areas	☐	☐	
Drainageways	☐	☐	
Steep slopes	☐	☐	
Erosion-prone areas	☐	☐	
Sinkholes / Caves / Karst features	☐	☐	
Groundwater / aquifer concerns	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	
HISTORIC & CULTURAL			
Historic building / structure	☐	☐	
Cemetery / Burial sites / Effigy Mounds	☐	☐	
Archaeological sites	☐	☐	
Ancient Habitats /Petroglyphs / Pictographs	☐	☐	
Native American cultural resource	☐	☐	
Historic landscape / feature	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	

	On Property	Near Property	Add Locations(s) & Description(s) on Additional Pages
NATURAL RESOURCES & WILDLIFE			
Woodlands / mature timber	☐	☐	
Wildlife habitat or regulated habitat	☐	☐	
Deer habitat / travel corridors	☐	☐	
Bird nesting areas (Mississippi Flyway)	☐	☐	
Falcon/Eagle nest / habitat / use	☐	☐	
Pollinator habitat / Bee hives	☐	☐	
Native prairie / vegetation	☐	☐	
Rare plants / animals	☐	☐	
Animal Habitat: Bat Roosts / Rattlesnake Dens	☐	☐	
Natural Springs / Stream / Riparian Habitat	☐	☐	
Bluff / ridge / valley landscape			
National Parks/Monuments / Scenic trails (Ice Age Trail) State Natural Areas	☐	☐	
Scenic views / scenic byways	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	
EXISTING UTILITIES & INFRASTRUCTURE			
Existing transmission/distribution lines	☐	☐	
Sensitive Electronics (weather stations, clinics, hospitals, research laboratories)	☐	☐	
Existing easements (utility, driveway access, mineral/gas rights held by others)	☐	☐	
Pipelines	☐	☐	
Telecommunications lines	☐	☐	
Communications towers (cell, satellite ground stations, television transmitter, radio broadcasting)	☐	☐	
Emergency Telecommunication Towers (using microwave connectivity)	☐	☐	
Underground utilities	☐	☐	
Private roads / bridges / culverts	☐	☐	
Solar / wind equipment	☐	☐	
Aviation infrastructure/private landing strips	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	
HEALTH, SAFETY & ACCESS			
Children / family activity areas	☐	☐	
Livestock near potential route	☐	☐	
Medical / electronic equipment concerns (pacemakers, ICD's, Insulin pumps, spinal stimulators, mechanical ventilators, x-ray/MRI machines)	☐	☐	
Potential Emergency vehicle access	☐	☐	
Potential Fire department access	☐	☐	
Construction traffic	☐	☐	
Road / driveway safety	☐	☐	
Grounding / stray-voltage / induction concerns	☐	☐	
Noise concerns	☐	☐	
Other: _____	☐	☐	

Note: Scoping comments that include non-text information such as maps, charts, articles need to be compiled in a text editing application such as Google Docs or Microsoft Word and that document converted to a pdf format and uploaded to the proper PSC docket. Direct uploading to the docket requires creating a PSC account and following the provided directions explained here: https://bit.ly/PSC-account-file-uploading-instructions For conformity, name your document, "Public Comment by First & Last Name. pdf" Make sure to include your full street address.