

Far as the eye can see
FHS students learn surveying, engineering

B3



Making the grade
FHS looks at new grading system

A3



The Journal

Saturday,
September 21, 2013

International Falls, Minnesota www.ifallsjournal.com \$1

Proposed power line focus of open house

Alternative routes for Great Northern Transmission Line discussed

BY LAUREL BEAGER
Editor

LITTLEFORK — Minnesota Power staff came to the Littlefork Community Center Wednesday to get information as much as give information about a proposal to route a power line from the Canadian Border to Minnesota's Iron Range.

One of the route alternatives proposed for Phase 1 of the Great Northern Transmission Line calls for the 500 kV transmission line to be built in 2017 about six miles from Littlefork on its way from Manitoba to about 20 miles east of Grand Rapids. After that, Phase II would propose a 345kv double circuit transmission line be built from where Phase 1 ends to near Duluth.

The project drew area residents to an open house meeting here Wednesday when about 15 people involved in the project walked attendees through a series of placards describing the project. Staff used printed aerial photos and global information system maps on computers to assist area residents in determining just where the alternative route would run.

Several people, including James Janousek, who attended Wednesday's open house, wanted to know just how close their property would be to the proposed alternative route.

"I was a little concerned," said Janousek. "My property is not too far from it."

Janousek said he's attended every meeting held locally on the project and the proposed routes have been changed as more information is brought to Minnesota Power staff, who he said have been very helpful and well equipped with maps.

The initial study area encompassed about 20,000 square miles, or about one-quarter of the state of Minnesota.

Now, Janousek said he feels more comfortable seeing a map that shows a definitive proposed route that comes near, but not on his property.

Janousek said he understands the need for the new line, but also the concerns. "Everyone wants power, but not lines in their backyard," he said.

Roger Danielson took the tour of placards and then sat at a table to write comments about the project and place them in a drop box.



STAFF PHOTOS BY LAUREL BEAGER

A couple talks to one of Minnesota Power's team members sent to Littlefork Wednesday to give and get information about an alternative route for the proposed Great Northern Transmission Line.



Roger Danielson shows how he slipped a comment card into a drop box Wednesday to give input on the proposed project.



Area resident James Janousek gets assistance from a GIS analyst Wednesday in determining how close the proposed route alternative would be to his property.

ect and place them in a drop box. He said he, too, has kept abreast of the proposed routes and said the route comes near his property, but not on it.

"It's a good thing," he said of the proposed project. "It would get electricity from water in-

stead of coal. Coal will not last forever and they're already running short."

Jim Atkinson, environmental siting and permitting manager for Minnesota Power, said coal is one of the reasons the company is proposing the project.

The transmission line is needed to change how the company gets its energy, he said. Now, about 75 percent is created by burning coal, he said. Completion of the project would allow

Powerline to A7 ➤

More information

For more information or to comment on the proposal, visit greatnortherntransmissionline.com.

KOOCHICHIING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Tis the season: cold weather testing begins next week

BY EMILY GEDDE
Staff Writer

As the summer season cools down, one of the busier seasons for the Koochiching Economic Development Authority heats up.

The organization's cold weather testing season will kick off next week with 16 weeks scheduled to test the effect of cold weather on cars and other products and services, said KEDA Director Paul Nevanen.

"We're working primarily with existing customers, but we do have a new customer this year,"

Nevanen told the KEDA Board Wednesday. "We're always trying to accommodate new customers where we can."

Nevanen said Jaguar Land Rover, the United Kingdom-based company that has a five-year agreement for a second cold box at the Falls' cold weather testing site, anticipates a successful second season in Borderland.

"I think they're impressed with how we're able to accommodate their changing needs," he said. "We anticipate a lot of activity from those folks."

In related business, during

the organization's audit, it was suggested by Ryan Jarvi, Walker, Giroux & Hahne Ltd., that KEDA allocate some of its wages from the cold weather testing fund.

"You always end up transferring money from the general fund to cover major expenses, wages included," Jarvi told board members via telephone.

Jarvi said there are multiple ways to proceed including that Nevanen and other staff "keep track of what they're working on on a daily basis" to determine how much time is spent on cold weather testing.

He also said coming up with a percentage of what to allocate based on time staff spend on cold weather testing operations would be an option, too.

"It'll reflect the amount of money you're making actually doing the testing," Jarvi said. "It won't effect the bottom line too much, it is just showing it a different way. It'll more accurately depict what kind of money you're making in the cold weather testing fund."

The board agreed to put the issue on a future meeting's agenda to discuss it further.

Jarvi said the organization was

sitting in good financial shape.

Also expected to make an appearance on next month's meeting agenda is how to move forward with the foreign trade zone.

The undeveloped site, jointly owned by the city of International Falls and Koochiching County and managed by KEDA, has been on the back burner for several months. However, interest in the FTZ is coming to the forefront after Boise Inc.'s May 2 announcement to eliminate 265 jobs at the local paper mill.

KEDA to A7 ➤

INSIDE
TO REACH US

LIFESTYLES/A5
PHONE: (218) 285-7411

OPINION/A8
FAX: (218) 285-7206

SPORTS/B1

EDUCATION/B3
ONLINE: IFALLSJOURNAL.COM OR FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

CLASSIFIEDS/B5

COMICS/B9

VOLUME 4
NUMBER 76