

## Report on ATC Cardinal-Hickory Transmission Line Survey

### Questions 1-5

1. I don't think the line should go through the town of Vermont.
2. I don't think the transmission line is necessary.
3. I don't want the transmission line to be built.
4. I don't want to foot the bill for this utility project.
5. I think there are better options for our energy future.

There were 171 total surveys that were filled out and returned. For question 1, 165 strongly agreed or agreed and 6 were neutral, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not answer. For question 2, 148 strongly agreed or agreed and 23 were neutral, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not answer. For question 3, 148 strongly agreed or agreed and 23 were neutral, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not answer. For question 4, 160 strongly agreed or agreed and 11 were neutral, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not answer. For question 5, 153 strongly agreed or agreed and 18 were neutral, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or did not answer.

	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Neutral</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Did not answer</b>
<b>Question 1</b>	159	6	0	0	3	3
<b>Question 2</b>	129	19	11	2	6	4
<b>Question 3</b>	130	18	12	3	4	4

<b>Question 4</b>	148	12	5	1	1	4
<b>Question 5</b>	143	10	10	0	4	4

**Areas of Concern**

The survey asked about concerns. There were 4 general categories, economic (cost in electric bill, loss of property value- eminent domain, increase in taxes); energy (line not needed, investment in outdated system); and environment (damage to Driftless, impact on animals, wetlands, forests); and personal, cultural and community (impact on rural, agricultural nature impact on health, family, livestock, corporate takeover of farmland.)

There were three area of concern that were picked most often. The first was “Decreased property value – threat of eminent domain”, the second was “Permanent damage to the Driftless area”, and the third was “We will pay for this line with higher utility bills for decades”. The areas that were most commonly not picked were in the Personal, Cultural, and Community category. There were 60 surveys that marked all areas of concern. 10 surveys marked all but 1 area. For these 10, the majority of those not marked were in the Personal, Cultural, and Community category. These groups were concerned then about elements of economic energy and environmental issues Another 10 surveys left an entire category blank while marking all other areas. The categories most often left blank by these 10 surveys were Energy and Personal, Cultural, and Community. There 8 surveys that marked one area in each category. 4 surveys only marked one or two areas of concern. There was also 1 survey that answered questions 1-5 but left the areas

of concern blank. The remaining 78 surveys were generally mixed in their answers for the areas of concern portions. In summary in addition to the cost, property, and Driftless concerns many had a multifaceted expression that included an understanding of and a desire for a different path of our energy.

### **Comments**

About half of the surveys had comments on the back. Common topics include ATC has not given enough information, there are better routes that the line could take, the line would be bad for the ecosystem, and the lines would damage the appearance of the driftless area. Some examples of the comments against the line:

“Our home has been for sale since May 2016. Our Realtor told us in September we are in the blue line of the northern route and we must disclose the pending project on our listing. The few interested parties to look have cited this ATC project as a primary concern and have not offered. We feel angry, stuck, frustrated, scared, upset, alarmed and heartside. Our elderly parents out of state need use and we can't move to take care of them.”

“I can't believe this is happening. No one that lives here and loves this place can understand it. We all live in this beautiful place for a reason. And it's more than just peace and quiet and nice scenery. It's the hope that we can live harmoniously

with the land in one of the few places left in this world that feels like it hasn't been manipulated and manicured by man and money. It makes me so sad when I drive north of Middleton and see the new powerlines that have blighted the rolling hills and farmer's fields. It makes me feel hopeless. I understand the world keeps moving forward at an earth-shattering pace, and that there are some necessities that produce less-than-desirable results. But I don't believe it has been proven that this one is necessary. And even if someone on the top floor of some skyscraper can prove it, I don't think it should come through an area that has managed to stay untouched for so long."

"The harmful effect of a ATC power line in the Town of Vermont include destruction of our beautiful landscape, scenery and peacefulness. The driftless region must be preserved much like its history of avoiding glaciers. The fact that energy efficiencies are becoming more widespread should weigh heavily in the decision if large transmission lines are needed."

"I am the coordinator for the Spring Art Tour which brings hundreds of people to our area annually for art works and our beautiful countryside. The ATC power

lines would seriously diminish the appeal of our landscape and negatively impact our economic well-being!”

“I have had discussion with a very intelligent and wonderful individual who once worked for the alliance that is forcing these new lines. As she said, I do not want to only be a “not in my back yard” protestor. The entities involved have not been able, or have not cared to, actually explain the fact of need – especially for this line. I don’t understand why they are able to make us swallow this poison medicine. I will be peacefully, very much against this project.”

and

“An interstate highway system for electricity is not needed. It will certainly foster a system that the highest bidder gets the power. Community scale micro-generation would be cheaper, less susceptible to outages and certainly more environmentally friendly. We have been producing all our power on-site for over 5 years. We are not going back to burning dead dinosaurs!”

There were two surveys that had comments in support of the ATC line, as well as two that thought the survey was too biased and one that stated that they were not sure what was going on but they supported whatever the outcome was. The two comments in support of the ATC line were:

“Don’t agree there is economic penalty. We all want juice.”

And

“We do feel more electric supply is necessary. So many people are constantly using electricity – building their “monster-homes”, plugged in for charging their cell phones, their electric cars, electric toothbrushes, etc. Plus so much computer and appliance usage. Everyone wants electricity but no one wants the equipment that goes into providing and transmitting it. Personally the cell phone towers aren’t my idea of beauty. Oh the crying when the power goes out though!”