

S.O.U.L.



Save Our Unique Lands

S.O.U.L., Inc.
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"SOUL is a grassroots organization whose mission is promote efficient and orderly management of power, based on the needs of Wisconsin while protecting the natural, social, and economic environments and citizens of Wisconsin and the Midwest"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2004---Proctor, MN.

Transmission line questioned at Midway Town Hall

The questions surrounding the land use permit for the Town of Midway, new easement agreements, and interests of the towns residents are just a few of the items that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting, February 12, 2004 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will take place at the Midway Town Hall, located on Midway Rd, approximately 3 miles north on Co. Rd. 13. There will be representatives attending the meeting from Minnesota Power, and possibly the American Transmission Company (ATC), who has stated they will operate the transmission line. SOUL, now a landowner in the township of Midway, will also be attending along with many other interested landowners from the town to represent their interests in their recently acquired property, which is proximate to and beneath the current transmission line corridor. Several other organizations who are also concerned about futures for the area concerning the proposed construction have also indicated they would be in attendance. The Land Use Permit had been tabled by the board at a previous meeting, but its outcome should be decided at this meeting. This is one of the permits needed for construction of the transmission line in Minnesota.

Area residents had been told by utility representatives that no construction would take place until all permits were in place in Wisconsin. Currently, there have been no permits applied for in Wisconsin, even after the PSC's approval for the project at more than twice the cost applied for. The ATC's Wisconsin filings indicate their companies cost of the Minnesota portion of the transmission line project at \$55,727,188, leaving residents with questions as to who is constructing this project. Recently, a letter sent to landowners indicated that construction on the Minnesota portion of the transmission line was to begin at an earlier date. "We are hoping this meeting will clarify the position of both the utilities and the town" stated Doug Hoffbauer, a member of SOUL of Midway, and a concerned landowner. "We have been confused by conflicting statements as to both what is to be constructed, such as the addition of fiber optics to the project, and exactly who is responsible for what in Minnesota. Hopefully we will get answers to these questions."

For more information, please contact: Win Ericson, 218-624-0555 or Doug Hoffbauer, 218-624-4159.

