



openarms

April 12, 2010

Representative Karen Clark
471 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

4-15-10
Energy
SF1537-Clark

Dear Representative Clark:

As you know, Open Arms of Minnesota recently completed an \$8.1 million capital campaign which allowed us to construct a state-of-the-art facility at 2500 Bloomington Avenue South in the Phillips neighborhood of Minneapolis. Our new building will allow us to prepare and deliver more nutritious meals to people living with chronic and progressive diseases throughout the Twin Cities.

More than just a location for our operations, Open Arms selected this specific site because of our long-term commitment to this neighborhood and our desire to contribute to the enhancement of Phillips. Running a major commercial kitchen, we understand the need for reliable energy; however, we also believe there are alternatives to the proposed power lines that are being considered for construction along the Greenway.

The Greenway is one of Minneapolis' greatest assets and is one that should be treasured. Many of our volunteers and staff use it as a transportation link to Open Arms. The installation of power lines could disrupt the use of the Greenway and permanently affect the aesthetic of this critical part of our community. I urge you to continue your efforts to consider other options, from burying the power lines to investigating alternative energy sources. Too many people have worked for too long a time to revitalize this neighborhood. Care must now be taken to make sure decisions aren't made that will set these efforts back.

Sincerely,

Kevin Winge
Executive Director

Helping people



help themselves

April 12, 2010

Representative Karen Clark
471 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298

Dear Representative Clark:

I am writing to you regarding the proposal by Xcel Energy to construct overhead high voltage transmission lines through the heart of the Phillips Neighborhood South Minneapolis.

As you know, Project for Pride in Living is very invested in Phillips, in terms of both our housing stock and in outcomes for the community. Our headquarters is located at 11th and Franklin, and we own and operate 66 units of rental housing in and around the area where the overhead lines are proposed. Most of our residents are families earning approximately \$37,000 or less annually and pay rents that are affordable to their income level. Additionally, we have developed 57 units at our Midtown Exchange Condominiums, located immediately next to the Midtown Greenway. Most of the units in this development were sold to homeowners who found the proximity to the transportation and recreational opportunities the Greenway represents to be a determining factor in their decision to purchase there.

While PPL continues to be an active partner in the Midtown redevelopment and we recognize the business needs for greater transmission capability into the area, we also recognize that the area in which the lines will be located is predominantly residential, with some of the higher density levels in the state. Major overhead transmission wires would not only look unsightly in an area PPL and other community partners have worked hard to revitalize, they may also pose a health risk to those living beneath and in close proximity to them. Overhead lines would serve to return the area to the stigmatization of being as less desirable and dissuade further investment, commercial as well as residential, and detract from redevelopment efforts that have proven so successful over the last decade. Most, if not all, of these negative impacts can be avoided if the transmission lines are placed underground.

Please convey to Xcel Energy PPL's opposition to running overhead transmission lines through the area. I'd like to thank you for your commitment to your constituents, and your ongoing efforts to ensure that the Phillips Neighborhood continues on a path toward improved living conditions for its residents.

Sincerely,

Steve Cramer
President

Project for Pride in Living (PPL)

Affordable Housing • Employment & Job Training • Support Services • Education

Project for Pride in Living • 1035 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55404 • 612.455.5100 • Fax: 612.455.5101 • www.ppl-inc.org • ppl@ppl-inc.org



Part of Fairview Health Services

April 9, 2010

Representative Karen Clark
471 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298

Dear Representative Clark,

I am the director of the Ebenezer Minneapolis Campus in Minneapolis. Our four buildings, located in the 2500, 2600 and 2700 blocks of Portland and Park Ave, have 425 apartments for seniors and 140 nursing home beds. We also serve about 20 neighborhood residents a day in our Adult Day Program on Portland Avenue.

Two of our apartment buildings (2523 Portland and 2700 Park) are HUD high rises managed by Ebenezer. The Towers apartment building on Portland is 23 floors high, while the Park Apartment building on Park has 17 floors. Loren Apartments on Park Avenue has 6 floors.

Our residents are primarily low income and all are 55 or older. Many don't have cars, relying either on public transportation or on bicycles. We have a number of residents who regularly use the greenway.

I was very disturbed to hear about proposed power lines slated to be extended above ground in our neighborhood. Extending them along the Greenway would be a great disservice to residents who rely on that area for safe, traffic free biking. If the alternative routes, which apparently would pass directly through or next to our campus, are selected I am concerned about both the health hazards caused by their proximity, and the unsightliness of these power lines in our beautiful neighborhood.

Ebenezer has a long standing tradition of providing *dignified and healthy* housing alternatives to our city's poorest seniors. The evidence of health risks to people who live close to high voltage power lines is well documented. The ugliness of their presence in a residential neighborhood is obvious. Our elderly residents deserve better.

Please convey to Excel Energy our opposition to this plan. Please ask them to explore the option of burying power lines or better yet to create initiatives that will encourage energy conservation and alternative power delivery.

Thank you for all you do to advocate for the people in your district with the many challenges they face every day. We appreciate your work.

Sincerely,

Mary Beth Davis
Ebenezer Minneapolis Campus Director



Part of Fairview Health Services

April 12, 2010

MN State Representative Karen Clark
471 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-1298

Dear Representative Clark,

As someone who has worked with residents of a senior/disabled adult community, Ebenezer Loren on Park, for the past 14 years I was appalled to hear that Excel Energy has proposed high voltage power lines along the Greenway, where some of our hardier folk bike, or perhaps more alarming, right through our campus, which includes two senior high-rise buildings.

Such a proposal would defeat the goals of the West Phillips neighborhood and its businesses and organizations to ensure all residents a safe, affordable and hospitable environment in which to live, work and play.

There must be some alternatives, for example, burying the power lines as would be required perhaps in more prestigious neighborhoods or perhaps tapping federal initiatives to create greener communities through more use of solar power or other energy conservation methods.

I urge you to communicate our neighborhood's opposition to the Excel proposal. And thank you for being our longtime legislative watchdog and advocate.

Sincerely,

Vicki MacNabb
Resident Services
LOREN ON PARK
2625 Park Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55407
(612) 871-4574