

at we don't have," Ricker said.

Jim Flynn, Bobcat's vice president of human resources, said about 240 workers at the Gwinner plant had been laid off since late 2008. About 125 workers there have been called back to work since August, and an additional 55 will resume work in a few weeks, he said.

Wahpeton factories.

Doosan purchased Bobcat in 2007 from Bermuda-based Ingersoll-Rand Co. Ltd., in a deal worth \$4.9 billion.

Doosan said at the time that the deal was the largest overseas acquisition in Korean history. It also said it planned no changes in North Dakota operations.

ND superintendent take job in Bulgaria


seas.

Johnson has been with Bismarck Public Schools for nine years. His resignation takes effect June 30. That's

when he'll head to Bulgaria to become president of the American College of Sofia.

The nearly 150-year-old school is an independent, not-for-profit co-educational secondary school, according to its Web site. The school aspires to prepare Bulgarian youth "to meet the most demanding criteria of any university in the world."

Johnson says he signed a three year contract with the new school. He says he and his wife Theresa plan to keep their Bismarck home in Bismarck and eventually return.



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Federal agency says black-tailed prairie dogs not endangered

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Black-tailed prairie dogs were denied protection under the Endangered Species Act on Wednesday after federal officials concluded the once prevalent species shows signs of rebounding.

Decades of poisoning, shootings, the plague and loss of habitat to agriculture are blamed for a dramatic drop in prairie dog numbers since the early 1900s, from roughly one billion animals to an estimated 24 million today.

In 2007, the New Mexico-based environmental activist group WildEarth Guardians petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to list the animal as threatened or endangered.

But the agency said Wednesday the population is slowly spreading despite continued pressure from sickness and deliberate killings.

"They reached a low point in approximately 1961 and have bounced back pretty good since then," said Joy Gober, the Fish and Wildlife biologist who drafted the decision.

A representative of WildEarth Guardians said a federal court challenge to the ruling was likely.

"Prairie dogs are still around but they are incredibly isolated and fragmented across 90 percent of their range," said the group's Lauren McCain.

Black-tailed prairie dogs — burrowing animals that reach a little over a foot long and weigh up to three pounds — once occupied an estimated 50,000 square miles and ranged across at least 11 Central and Western states.

Regarded by most farmers and ranchers as a nuisance, the animals are considered a keystone species among biologists. They are a primary food source for rare animals such as the black-footed ferret and their abandoned burrows serve as nests for owls.

Federal officials say the most common species of prairie dogs now occupy about 3,750 square miles within a range that stretches from Montana and North Dakota south to New Mexico, Texas and Arizona.

The denial of endangered or threatened status means the species will continue to fall under the watch of state wildlife and agriculture agencies, some of which classify prairie dogs as "pests" because they are thought to compete with livestock for forage.

U.S. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., said the denial of new protections was appropriate for animals that "threaten livestock grazing lands and potentially harbor contagious diseases."

There are few restrictions on killing the animals except in Arizona, where the species was once wiped altogether. A prairie dog reintroduction effort was launched in that state in October.

Elsewhere, however, new threats may be emerging. Earlier this year, the Environmental Protection Agency approved the expanded use of a new prairie dog poison, Rozol, over objections from the Fish and Wildlife Service.

Environmental groups such as the Audubon Society have sued to repeal the approval.

Gober, the government biologist, said her agency's concerns centered on the poison's potential danger to predators including black-footed ferrets and eagles. At least one bald eagle and two badgers have been killed by the poison and more deaths have likely gone unreported.

"Anything that might eat prairie dogs is vulnerable," Gober said.

ND general sees gains in Kosovo

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — The North Dakota National Guard general who recently took command of a large peacekeeping force in Kosovo says he sees a "noticeable improvement" in the area's security since he was last there in 2005.

Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann of Bismarck took responsibility for the 2,200-member Multi-National Task Force East on Nov. 14. The group includes 650 soldiers from North Dakota and is one of four NATO member task forces in Kosovo.

Dohrmann says conditions were calm this week as the U.N. International Court of Justice began to hear arguments on the legality of Kosovo's February 2008 declaration of independence, which Serbia rejects.

Dohrmann previously served in Kosovo in 2005 as a legal adviser with the Ohio National Guard. He says at that time, soldiers in the area were on edge following a period of intense rioting.

Begins/from page 1

love with the area.
"Today as I was showing someone the work we are going to do, a bald eagle swooped near us. I believe that is a positive sign of good things to come," Schroeder-Monda said.

Presently the company is putting in a 60-inch pipe along the base of the existing embankment. That will close Henegar Landing for five to 10 days, maybe more, depending on how things go, but according to Schroeder-Monda the landing will be open this winter for ice fishermen to have access to the lake.

The actual embankment and pump station construction will not start until March 1, 2010, due in part to Environmental Protection Agency requirements, state and local permits and the Corps submittal process.

That work should get underway about the time that all ice houses have to be off the lake. There are plans for a temporary boat landing to be located on Highway 19 for spring and summer fishing once Henegar Landing has to be closed to finish the bulk of the project this spring.

(Louise Oleson can be reached at news@devilslake-journal.com)

PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Public Service Commission
Qwest Performance Assurance Plan
Investigation

Case No. PU-06-58

Public Service Commission
Qwest Performance Assurance Plan
Investigation

Case No. PU-07-256

Public Service Commission
Qwest Performance Assurance Plan
Investigation

Case No. PU-08-920

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR COMMENT AND NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

November 25, 2009

Preliminary Statement

For telecommunications companies that have, or intend to have, an agreement with Qwest Corporation (Qwest) for interconnection services, Qwest offers a Performance Assurance Plan (PAP) option. A PAP provides for self-executing payments to the competitive local exchange carrier (CLEC) if Qwest does not provide interconnection services to the CLEC at parity to the service it provides to its own retail customers, or if Qwest fails to meet certain service benchmarks.

The PAP provides for periodic reviews to determine whether performance measures should be added to, deleted from, or modified; whether benchmark standards should be modified or replaced by parity standards; and whether to move a classification of a performance measurement to High, Medium, or Low or Tier 1 to Tier 2. Participants of the review may include Qwest, CLECs, and the Commission.

PAP revisions approved by the Commission as a result of such reviews apply to existing and future interconnection agreements that incorporate the PAP. The most recent PAP revision was effective beginning January 1, 2008, as approved in Case No. PU-06-58. That proceeding was continued in the event an ongoing multistate Regional Oversight Committee review might result in further PAP or performance measurement changes.

On June 13, 2007, the Commission joined in a multistate collaborative audit of Qwest's PAP performance reporting and payment process for calendar year 2005, Case No. PU-07-256. The Final Report for the Audit of 2005 Qwest's Performance Assurance Plans by Liberty Consulting Group was issued November 30, 2007. The report is available for viewing and downloading from the Commission's internet site at <http://www.psc.state.nd.us/database/documents/07-0256/014-010.pdf>.

On December 17, 2008, the Commission joined in a multistate review of the effectiveness of the PAP and whether its continuation is necessary, Case No. PU-08-920. The review was a multistate effort organized by the Regional Oversight Committee. On February 11, 2009, the Commission issued a Notice of Qwest Performance Assurance Plan Review and Notice of Opportunity for Comment in Case No. PU-08-920, for comments from interested

persons on trends in Qwest performance in providing interconnection, comments on the structural components of the PAP and performance measures, stakeholder recommendations and experiences with the PAP and performance measures, and comments on the competitive environment. The Notice stated that the Commission would receive written comments until March 27, 2009. On March 27, 2009, Integra Telecom of North Dakota, Inc. filed comments and petitioned to intervene.

The Regional Oversight Committee contracted with Liberty Consulting Group (Liberty) to perform the review. Based on comments received from Integra Telecom of North Dakota, Inc. and other competitive local exchange carriers and data provided by Qwest, Liberty issued its June 30, 2009 Analysis of Qwest's Performance Assurance Plans Final Report. Liberty concluded that the PAP is still serving a useful purpose. The report also offers several recommendations for changes to the PAP and performance measures, and makes several findings that may have affected Qwest's reported performance results or payments under the PAP.

The report is available for viewing and downloading from the Commission's internet site at:

<http://www.psc.state.nd.us/database/documents/08-0920/018-020.pdf>

with appendices at:

<http://www.psc.state.nd.us/database/documents/08-0920/018-010.pdf>

Comments and requests for hearing must be filed by January 15, 2010. Comments should address the following:

1. Whether there exists an omission or failure of existing performance measures to capture intended performance.
2. Where there is duplication of another performance measurement.
3. Whether such omission, failure, or duplication of a performance measure justifies the addition, modification, or removal of a performance measure.
4. Whether any benchmark standards should be modified or replaced by parity standards.
5. Whether the actual volume of data points have been less or greater than anticipated, and, if so, whether there is justification for the reclassification of a performance measurement.

Any disputes regarding adding, deleting, or modifying performance measurements will be resolved by the Commission.

A copy of Qwest's performance measures and the PAP may be obtained from the Commission. For more information contact the North Dakota Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, (701) 328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission at least 24 hours in advance.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Tony Clark, Commissioner
Kevin Cramer, Chairman
Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner

(c12:3)

12/3 Devils Lake