

Exhibit D

**Responses to
Otter Tail's Letter
to State Agencies and Officers Entitled to Notice**



North Dakota State Water Commission

900 EAST BOULEVARD AVENUE, DEPT 770 • BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505-0850
701-328-2750 • TDD 701-328-2750 • FAX 701-328-3696 • INTERNET: <http://swc.nd.gov>

January 16, 2008

Mark Bring
Otter Tail Cooperation
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

Dear Mr. Bring:

This is in response to your request for review of environmental impacts associated with the reroute of a 230 kilovolt transmission line (a small portion of the 83.8 mile Hankinson-Ellendale) that runs through Grass Lake in Richland County.

The proposed projects have been reviewed by State Water Commission staff and the following comments are provided:

- The property is not located in an identified floodplain and it is believed the project will not affect an identified floodplain.
- All waste material associated with the project must be disposed of properly and not placed in identified floodway areas.
- No sole-source aquifers have been designated in ND.

There are no other concerns associated with this project that affect State Water Commission or State Engineer regulatory responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. If you have any questions, please call me at 328-4969.

Sincerely,

Larry Knudtson
Research Analyst

LJK:ds/1570



Fargo office: 4334 18th Avenue S.W.
Suite 200, P.O. Box 9156
Fargo, ND
58106-9156
Fax: 701-232-4108

Fergus Falls office: 215 S. Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN
56538-0496
Fax: 218-998-3165

1-866-410-8780 • www.ottertail.com

December 3, 2007

Reply to Fergus Falls office
Direct: 218-998-7152

Jeffrey Towner
Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
3425 Miriam Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-7926

Dear Mr. Towner:

Otter Tail Power Company is proposing to reroute a small portion of the 83.8 mile Hankinson-Ellendale 230 kilovolt transmission line that runs through Grass Lake in Richland County. This is to request your comments or suggestions about the reroute, relative to your agency's areas of authority.

The reroute would involve only a 0.64 mile portion of transmission line in Richland County, west and north of Lidgerwood in Sections 31 and 32 in Township 131 North (Dexter), Range 52 West and Section 6 in Township 130 North (Grant), Range 52 West. The portion to be rerouted consists of H-framed wood structures, which would likely be replaced by H-framed wood or steel structures.

Since the transmission facilities were constructed in 1960, Grass Lake has significantly increased in size and depth. Two structures once adjacent to the lake are now well beyond the lake's shores. During spring, the structures are exposed to large ice floes. Rock islands designed to protect the structures have been only marginally successful, and the condition of the structures warrants prompt action to avoid a power emergency.

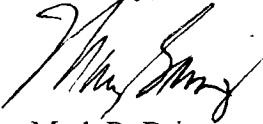
The enclosed map depicts the proposed route. The proposed corridor is one-half mile on either side of the proposed route. The anticipated construction and operation schedule is March-May of 2008.

The Hankinson-Ellendale transmission facility is an integral component of the 230 kV transmission system, integrating baseload electric generation at the Big Stone Plant in eastern South Dakota and the Hoot Lake Plant in western Minnesota, and wind generation in southeastern North Dakota; and serving retail load in southeastern North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and western Minnesota. In light of the urgency of this matter, input on the proposal is requested by December 17, 2007.

Mr. Towner
December 3, 2007
Page 2

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (218) 998-7152.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Bring
Associate General Counsel
MB/dm

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

**ECOLOGICAL SERVICES
ND FIELD OFFICE**

Project as described will have no significant impact on fish and wildlife resources. No endangered or threatened species are known to occupy the project area. IF PROJECT DESIGN CHANGES ARE MADE, PLEASE SUBMIT PLANS FOR REVIEW.

1-11-08

Date



Jeffrey K. Towner
Field Supervisor



"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

NORTH DAKOTA GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

December 13, 2007

Mark B. Bring
Associate General Counsel
Ottetail Corporation
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

Dear Mr. Bring:

RE: Otter Tail Power Company Hankinson-Ellendale 230 kV Transmission Line
Grass Lake Reroute, Richland County

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department has reviewed this project for wildlife concerns. We do not believe it will have any significant adverse effects on wildlife or wildlife habitat, including endangered species, provided no wetland acres are impacted during construction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Steve Ryke".

(for) Michael G. McKenna
Chief
Conservation & Communication Division

js

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502-1458

December 11, 2007

Mark Bring
Ottertail Cooperation
215 S. Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

RE: Hankinson-Ellendale Transmission Line – Richland County – North Dakota

Dear Mr. Bring:

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has reviewed your letter regarding the referenced activity. NRCS has a major responsibility with the Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) in documenting conversion of farmland (i.e., prime, statewide, and local importance) to non-agricultural use. It appears your proposed project is not supported by Federal funding or actions; therefore, FPPA does not apply and no further action is needed.

If you have additional questions pertaining to FPPA, please contact Steve Sieler, State Soil Liaison, at (701) 530-2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.R. Flores".

ACTING J.R. FLORES
State Conservationist

cc:
Steven Cole, DC, NRCS, Wahpeton, ND
Mike Collins, ASTC (FO), NRCS, Jamestown, ND



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640
December 10, 2007

North Dakota Regulatory Office

[NWO-2007-03760-BIS]

OtterTail Corporation
Attn: Mark B. Bring, Associate General Counsel
215 S. Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

Dear Mr. Bring:

This is in response to your letter received **December 03, 2007**, requesting Department of the Army (DA), US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) comments on a project to reroute a small portion of the 83.8 mile Hankinson-Ellendale transmission line that runs through Grass Lake. The project is located in Sections 31 and 32, Township 131 North, Range 52 West, and Section 6, Township 130 North, Range 52 West, in Richland County, North Dakota.

Corps regulatory offices administer Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act regulates work in or affecting navigable waters. Section 404 of the Clean Water Act regulates the discharge of dredge or fill material (temporarily or permanently) in waters of the United States. Waters of the United States may include, but are not limited to, rivers, streams, ditches, coulees, lakes, ponds, and their adjacent wetlands. Fill material include, but is not limited to, rock, sand, soil, clay, plastics, construction debris, wood chips, overburden from mines or other excavation activities and materials used to create any structure or infrastructure in the waters of the United States.

If this project would require a Section 10 and/or Section 404 permit, please complete and submit the enclosed Corps of Engineers permit application to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, North Dakota Regulatory Office, 1513 South 12th Street, Bismarck, North Dakota 58504. If you are unsure if a permit is required, you may submit an application, or, a letter requesting a jurisdictional determination. Include a project location map, description of work, and construction methodology when submitting either.

If we can be of further assistance or should you have any questions regarding our program, please do not hesitate to contact this office by letter or phone at (701) 255-0015 and reference project number **NWO-2007-3760-BIS**.

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota

Enclosure

**Instructions for Preparing a
Department of the Army Permit Application**

Blocks 1 through 4. To be completed by Corps of Engineers.

Block 5. Applicant's Name. Enter the name of the responsible party or parties. If the responsible party is an agency, company, corporation or other organization, indicate the responsible officer and title. If more than one party is associated with the application, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked **Block 5**.

Block 6. Address of Applicant. Please provide the full address of the party or parties responsible for the application. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 6.

Block 7. Applicant Telephone Number(s). Please provide the number where you can usually be reached during normal business hours.

Blocks 8 through 11. To be completed if you choose to have an agent.

Block 8. Authorized Agent's Name and Title. Indicate name of individual or agency, designated by you, to represent you in this process. An agent can be an attorney, builder, contractor, engineer or any other person or organization. Note: An agent is not required.

Blocks 9 and 10. Agent's Address and Telephone Number. Please provide the complete mailing address of the agent, along with the telephone number where he/she can be reached during normal business hours.

Block 11. Statement of Authorization. To be completed by applicant if an agent is to be employed.

Block 12. Proposed Project Name or Title. Please provide name identifying the proposed project (i.e., Landmark Plaza, Burned Hills Subdivision or Edsall Commercial Center).

Block 13. Name of Waterbody. Please provide the name of any stream, lake, marsh or other waterway to be directly impacted by the activity. If it is a minor (no name) stream, identify the waterbody the minor stream enters.

Block 14. Proposed Project Street Address. If the proposed project is located at a site having a street address (not a box number), please enter here.

Block 15. Location of Proposed Project. Enter the county and state where the proposed project is located. If more space is required, please attach a sheet with the necessary information marked Block 15.

Block 16. Other Location Descriptions. If available, provide the Section, Township and Range of the site and/or the latitude and longitude. You may also provide description of the proposed project location, such as lot numbers, tract numbers or you may choose to locate the proposed project site from a known point (such as the right descending bank of Smith Creek, one mile down from the Highway 14 bridge). If a large river or stream, include the river mile of the proposed project site if known.

Block 17. Directions to the Site. Provide directions to the site from a known location or landmark. Include highway and street numbers as well as names. Also provide distances from known locations and any other information that would assist in locating the site.

Block 18. Nature of Activity. Describe the overall activity or project. Give appropriate dimensions of structures such as wingwalls, dikes (identify the materials to be used in construction, as well as the methods by which the work is to be done), or excavations (length, width, and height). Indicate whether discharge of dredged or fill material is involved. Also, identify any structure to be constructed on a fill, piles or float supported platforms.

The written descriptions and illustrations are an important part of the application. Please describe, in detail, what you wish to do. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 18.

Block 19. Proposed Project Purpose. Describe the purpose and need for the proposed project. What will it be used for and why? Also include a brief description of any related activities to be developed as the result of the proposed project. Give the approximate dates you plan to both begin and complete all work.

Block 20. Reason(s) for Discharge. If the activity involves the discharge of dredged and/or fill material into a wetland or other waterbody, including the temporary placement of material, explain the specific purpose of the placement of the material (such as erosion control).

Block 21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards. Describe the material to be discharged and amount of each material to be discharged within Corps jurisdiction. Please be sure this description will agree with your illustrations. Discharge material includes: rock, sand, clay, concrete, etc.

Block 22. Surface Areas of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled. Describe the area to be filled at each location. Specifically identify the surface areas, or part thereof, to be filled. Also include the means by which the discharge is to be done (backhoe, dragline, etc.). If dredged material is to be discharged on an upland site, identify the site and the steps to be taken (if necessary) to prevent runoff from the dredged material back into a waterbody. If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked **Block 22**.

Block 23. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? Provide any background on any part of the proposed project already completed. Describe the area already developed, structures completed, any dredged or fill material already discharged, the type of material, volume in cubic yards, acres filled, if a wetland or other waterbody (in acres or square wet). if tile work was done under an existing Corps permit, identify the authorization if possible.

Block 24. Names and Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Project Site. List complete names and full mailing addresses of the adjacent property owners (public and private) lessees, etc., whose property adjoins the waterbody or aquatic site where the work is being proposed so that they may be notified of the proposed activity (usually by public notice). If more space is needed, attach an extra sheet of paper marked Block 24.

Information regarding adjacent landowners is usually available through the office of the tax assessor in the county of counties where the project is to be developed.

Block 25. Information about Approvals or Denials by Other Agencies. You may need the approval of other Federal, state or local agencies for your project. identify any applications you have submitted and the status, if any (approved or denied) of each application. You need not have obtained all other permits before applying for a Corps permit.

Block 26. Signature of Applicant or Agent. The application must be signed by the owner or other authorized party (agent) . This signature shall be an affirmation that the party applying for the permit possesses the requisite property rights to undertake the activity applied for (including compliance with special conditions, mitigation, etc.).

DRAWINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

General Information.

Three types of illustrations are needed to properly depict the work to be undertaken. These illustrations or drawings are identified as a **Vicinity Map**, a **Plan View** or a **Typical Cross-Section Map**. Identify each illustration with a figure or attachment number.

Please submit one original, or good quality copy, of all drawings on 8 1/2x11 inch plain white paper (tracing paper or film may be substituted). Use the fewest number of sheets necessary for your drawings or illustrations.

Each illustration should identify the project, the applicant, and the type of illustration (vicinity map, plan view or cross-section). **While illustrations need not be professional (many small, private project illustrations are prepared by hand), they should be clear, accurate and contain all necessary information.**

APPLICATION FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY PERMIT
(33 CFR 325)

OMB APPROVAL NO. 0710-0003
Expires December 31, 2004

The Public burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 hours per response, although the majority of applications should require 5 hours or less. This includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Department of Defense, Washington Headquarters Service Directorate of Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302; and to the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (0710-0003), Washington, DC 20503. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to any penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number. Please DO NOT RETURN your form to either of those addresses. Completed applications must be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity.

PRIVACY ACT STATEMENT

Authorities: Rivers and Harbors Act, Section 10, 33 USC 403; Clean Water Act, Section 404, 33 USC 1344; Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act, 33 USC 1413, Section 103. Principal Purpose: Information provided on this form will be used in evaluating the application for a permit. Routine Uses: This information may be shared with the Department of Justice and other federal, state, and local government agencies. Submission of requested information is voluntary, however, if information is not provided the permit application cannot be evaluated nor can a permit be issued.

One set of original drawings or good reproducible copies which show the location and character of the proposed activity must be attached to this application (see sample drawings and instructions) and be submitted to the District Engineer having jurisdiction over the location of the proposed activity. An application that is not completed in full will be returned.

(ITEMS 1 THRU 4 TO BE FILLED BY THE CORPS)

1. APPLICATION NO. NWO-2007-03760-BIS	2. FIELD OFFICE CODE	3. DATE RECEIVED	4. DATE APPLICATION COMPLETED
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(ITEMS BELOW TO BE FILLED BY APPLICANT)

5. APPLICANT'S NAME	8. AUTHORIZED AGENT'S NAME AND TITLE <i>(an agent is not required)</i>
6. APPLICANT'S ADDRESS	7. AGENT'S ADDRESS
7. APPLICANT'S PHONE NOS. W/AREA CODE	10. AGENT'S PHONE NOS. W/AREA CODE
a. Residence b. Business	a. Residence b. Business

11. STATEMENT OF AUTHORIZATION

I hereby authorize _____ to act in my behalf as my agent in the processing of this application and to furnish, upon request, supplemental information in support of this permit application.

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE

DATE

NAME, LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT OR ACTIVITY

12. PROJECT NAME OR TITLE *(see instructions)*

13. NAME OF WATERBODY, IF KNOWN *(if applicable)*

14. PROJECT STREET ADDRESS *(if applicable)*

15. LOCATION OF PROJECT

COUNTY

STATE

16. OTHER LOCATION DESCRIPTIONS, IF KNOWN *(see instructions)*

17. DIRECTIONS TO THE SITE

18. Nature of Activity *(Description of project, include all features)*

19. Project Purpose *(Describe the reason or purpose of the project, see instructions)*

USE BLOCKS 20-22 IF DREDGED AND/OR FILL MATERIAL IS TO BE DISCHARGED

20. Reason(s) for Discharge

21. Type(s) of Material Being Discharged and the Amount of Each Type in Cubic Yards

22. Surface Area in Acres of Wetlands or Other Waters Filled *(see instructions)*

23. Is Any Portion of the Work Already Complete? Yes _____ No _____ IF YES, DESCRIBE THE COMPLETED WORK

24. Addresses of Adjoining Property Owners, Lessees, Etc., Whose Property Adjoins the Waterbody (if more than can be entered here, please attach a supplemental list).

25. List of Other Certifications or Approvals/Denials Received from other Federal, State, or Local Agencies for Work Described in This Application

AGENCY	TYPE APPROVAL*	IDENTIFICATION NUMBER	DATE APPLIED	DATE APPROVED	DATE DENIED

*Would include but is not restricted to zoning, building and flood plain permits

26. Application is hereby made for a permit or permits to authorize the work described in this application. I certify that the information in this application is complete and accurate. I further certify that I possess the authority to undertake the work described herein or am acting as the duly authorized agent of the applicant.

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT

DATE

SIGNATURE OF AGENT

DATE

The application must be signed by the person who desires to undertake the proposed activity (applicant) or it may be signed by a duly authorized agent if the statement in block 11 has been filled out and signed.

18 U.S.C. Section 1001 provides that: Whoever, in any manner within the jurisdiction of any department or agency of the United States knowingly and willfully falsifies, conceals, or covers up any trick, scheme, or disguises a material fact or makes any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or representations or makes or uses any false writing or document knowing same to contain any false, fictitious or fraudulent statements or entry, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than five years or both.



John Hoeven, Governor
Douglass A. Prchal, Director

1600 East Century Avenue, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503-0649
Phone 701-328-5357
Fax 701-328-5363
E-mail parkrec@nd.gov
www.parkrec.nd.gov

December 14, 2007

Mark B. Bring
Ottertail Corporation
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

Re: Reroute a Transmission Line Proposal
Richland County, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Bring:

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department has reviewed the above referenced project proposal to reroute a portion of 230 kilovolt transmission line that runs through Grass Lake located in Sections 31 and 32, T131N, R52W; and Section 6, T130N, R52W, Richland County.

Our agency scope of authority and expertise covers recreation and biological resources (in particular rare species and ecological communities). The project as defined does not affect state park lands that we manage or Land and Water Conservation Fund recreation projects that we coordinate.

The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, there are no known occurrences within or adjacent to the project area.

Because this information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources.

Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Please contact Kathy Duttonhefner (701-328-5370 or kgduttonhefner@nd.gov) of our staff if additional information is needed.

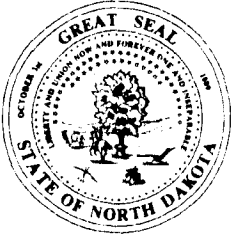
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesse Hanson".

Jesse Hanson, Coordinator
Planning and Natural Resources Division

R.USNDNHI*1905

.....
Play in our backyard!



North Dakota Department of Transportation

Francis G. Ziegler, P.E.
Director

John Hoeven
Governor

December 14, 2007

MARK B. BRING
ASSOCIATE GENERAL COUNSEL
OTTERTAIL CORPORATION
P.O. Box 9156
Fargo, ND 58106-9156

REROUTE SMALL PORTION OF 83.8 MILE HANKSINGTONS-ELLENDALE
TRANSMISSION LINE THROUGH GRASS LAKE, RICHLAND COUNTY, NORTH
DAKOTA

We have reviewed your December 3, 2007, letter.

The project referenced above will have no adverse effect on the North Dakota Department of Transportation highways.

However, if any work needs to be done on highway right-of-way, appropriate permits and risk management documents will need to be obtained from the Department of Transportation District Acting District Engineer, Kevin Gorder, at 701-239-8974.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ronald J. Henke".

RONALD J. HENKE, P.E., DIRECTOR – OFFICE OF PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

57: rjh:js

c: Kevin Gorder, Fargo Acting District Engineer

John Hoeven
Governor

Lisa K. Fair McEvers
Commissioner



State Capitol - 13th Floor
600 E Boulevard Ave Dept 406
Bismarck, ND 58505-0340

nd.gov/labor
nd.gov/humanrights

December 12, 2007

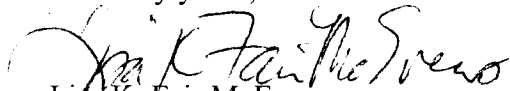
Mr. Mark B. Bring
Associate General Counsel
Otter Tail Corporation
215 S. Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538

Dear Mr. Bring,

Thank you for your letter of December 3, 2007, requesting input on a proposed reroute of a portion of a transmission line in Richland County. The North Dakota Department of Labor enforces wage and hours laws, investigates allegations of discrimination in employment, housing, public services, public accommodations and credit transactions.

The Department of Labor has no authority to issue any permits regarding land or environmental concerns. Your questions may more appropriately be addressed to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, located at 600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480. It is my understanding that inquiries of this type may be brought to either Jerry Lien or Pat Pahn at the aforementioned address or by telephone at (701) 328-2400.

Sincerely yours,


Lisa K. Fair McEvers
Commissioner



NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SECTION
Gold Seal Center, 918 E. Divide Ave.
Bismarck, ND 58501-1947
701.328.5200 (fax)
www.ndhealth.gov



December 11, 2007

Mr. Mark B. Bring
Associate General Counsel
Otter Tail Corporation
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

Re: Grass Lake Transmission Line Reroute
Richland County, North Dakota

Dear Mr. Bring:

This department has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project submitted to Dr. Terry Dwelle under date of December 3, 2007, with respect to possible environmental impacts.

This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have the following comments:

1. All necessary measures must be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions created during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise are to be dealt with in an efficient and effective manner.
2. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance, and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached.
3. Projects disturbing one or more acres are required to have a permit to discharge storm water runoff until the site is stabilized by the reestablishment of vegetation or other permanent cover. Further information on the storm water permit may be obtained from the Department's website or by calling the Division of Water Quality (701-328-5210). Also, cities may impose additional requirements and/or specific best management practices for construction affecting their storm drainage system. Check with the local officials to be sure any local storm water management considerations are addressed.

Environmental Health
Section Chief's Office
701.328.5150

Division of
Air Quality
701.328.5188

Division of
Municipal Facilities
701.328.5211

Division of
Waste Management
701.328.5166

Division of
Water Quality
701.328.5210

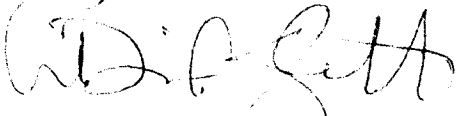
4. Noise from construction activities may have adverse effects on persons who live near the construction area. Noise levels can be minimized by ensuring that construction equipment is equipped with a recommended muffler in good working order. Noise effects can also be minimized by ensuring that construction activities are not conducted during early morning or late evening hours.

The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota.

These comments are based on the information provided about the project in the above-referenced submittal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require a water quality certification from this department for the project if the project is subject to their Section 404 permitting process. Any additional information which may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the process will be considered by this department in our determination regarding the issuance of such a certification.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please feel free to contact this office.

Sincerely,



L. David Glatt, P.E., Chief
Environmental Health Section

LDG:cc
Attach.



Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements

These represent the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Health. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect the waters of the State of North Dakota. All projects will be designed and implemented to restrict the losses or disturbances of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site.

Soils

Prevent the erosion of exposed soil surfaces and trapping sediments being transported. Examples include, but are not restricted to, sediment dams or berms, diversion dikes, hay bales as erosion checks, riprap, mesh or burlap blankets to hold soil during construction, and immediately establishing vegetative cover on disturbed areas after construction is completed. Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, or land resources will be protected against compaction, vegetation loss, and unnecessary damage.

Surface Waters

All construction which directly or indirectly impacts aquatic systems will be managed to minimize impacts. All attempts will be made to prevent the contamination of water at construction sites from fuel spillage, lubricants, and chemicals, by following safe storage and handling procedures. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances will be controlled to minimize and/or prevent silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocation, and any physical, chemical, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near these systems is forbidden without approval from this Department.

Fill Material

Any fill material placed below the high water mark must be free of top soils, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds (in toxic concentrations). This includes, but is not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill materials. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid wastes will be removed from the site and the impacted areas restored as nearly as possible to the original condition.



Fargo office: 4334 18th Avenue S.W.
Suite 200, P.O. Box 9156
Fargo, ND
58106-9156
Fax: 701-232-4108

Fergus Falls office: 215 S. Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN
56538-0496
Fax: 218 998-3165

1-866-410-8780 • www.ottertail.com

December 3, 2007

**Reply to Fergus Falls office
Direct: 218-998-7152**

Gary Preszler, Land Commissioner
ND State Land Department
1707 North 9th Street
P. O. Box 5523
Bismarck, ND 58506-5523

DEC - 5 2007

CP

Dear Mr. Preszler:

Otter Tail Power Company is proposing to reroute a small portion of the 83.8 mile Hankinson-Ellendale 230 kilovolt transmission line that runs through Grass Lake in Richland County. This is to request your comments or suggestions about the reroute, relative to your agency's areas of authority.

The reroute would involve only a 0.64 mile portion of transmission line in Richland County, west and north of Lidgerwood in Sections 31 and 32 in Township 131 North (Dexter), Range 52 West and Section 6 in Township 130 North (Grant), Range 52 West. The portion to be rerouted consists of H-framed wood structures, which would likely be replaced by H-framed wood or steel structures.

Since the transmission facilities were constructed in 1960, Grass Lake has significantly increased in size and depth. Two structures once adjacent to the lake are now well beyond the lake's shores. During spring, the structures are exposed to large ice floes. Rock islands designed to protect the structures have been only marginally successful, and the condition of the structures warrants prompt action to avoid a power emergency.

The enclosed map depicts the proposed route. The proposed corridor is one-half mile on either side of the proposed route. The anticipated construction and operation schedule is March-May of 2008.

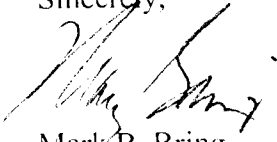
The Hankinson-Ellendale transmission facility is an integral component of the 230 kV transmission system, integrating baseload electric generation at the Big Stone Plant in eastern South Dakota and the Hoot Lake Plant in western Minnesota, and wind generation in southeastern North Dakota; and serving retail load in southeastern North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and western Minnesota. In light of the urgency of this matter, input on the proposal is requested by December 17, 2007.

The ND State Land Department has
no objection to construction of this project.
Thank You.

Mr. Preszler
December 3, 2007
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Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (218) 998-7152.

Sincerely,



Mark B. Bring
Associate General Counsel
MB/dm

TO: [illegible]
FROM: [illegible]
Thank you.