

APPROVED

DATE: 6-19-08
[Signature]

MOTION

June 19, 2008

**M-Power, LLC
Electric Generation/Wind-Griggs/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-34

**M-Power, LLC
230 kV Transmission Line Barnes/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-107

I move the Commission deem the applications complete conditioned on receiving proposed transmission line structure locations by July 21, 2008 and issue a Notice of Filings and Notice of Hearings in the applications of M-Power, LLC for a certificate of site compatibility to construct a 157.5 MW Laverne Wind Farm in Griggs and Steele Counties of North Dakota, Case No. PU-08-34; and for a waiver of procedures and time schedules, a corridor certificate and a route permit to construct approximately 13 miles of 230 kV transmission line in Barnes and Steele Counties of North Dakota, Case No. PU-08-107.

JRL

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**M-Power, LLC
Electric Generation/Wind-Griggs/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-34

**M-Power, LLC
230 kV Transmission Line Barnes/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-107

NOTICE OF FILINGS AND NOTICE OF HEARINGS

June 19, 2008

On May 16, 2008, in Case No. PU-08-34, M-Power, LLC filed an application for a waiver or reduction of certain procedures and time schedules and a certificate of site compatibility to authorize construction of a 157.5 MW Laverne Wind Farm in Griggs and Steele Counties of North Dakota as shown on the attached map. The Commission finds the application is complete.

On May 21, 2008, in Case No. PU-08-107, M-Power, LLC filed an application for a waiver or reduction of procedures and time schedules and a consolidated application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit to authorize construction of approximately 13 miles of 230 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities extending from the proposed Lavern Wind Farm in Steele County to an interconnection to be established near Pillsbury in Barnes County, North Dakota. The proposed transmission line corridor and route are shown on the attached map. The Commission finds the applications are complete conditioned on M-Power, LLC filing a map detailing proposed final transmission line structure locations on or before July 21, 2008.

M-Power, LLC requests the Commission waive or reduce procedures and time schedules set forth in North Dakota Century Code chapter 49-22 and North Dakota Administrative Code article 69-06 to allow for a single consolidated application for corridor certificate and route permit and hold one consolidated hearing on the waiver request and application for corridor certificate and route permit.

A Public Hearing on the application for a waiver and consolidated application for transmission line corridor and route filed in Case No. PU-08-107 is scheduled to begin **July 28, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. CDT in the Cooperstown Country Club, 305 Fairway Drive, Cooperstown, ND 58425.**




A Public Hearing on the application for a certificate of site compatibility filed in Case No. PU-08-34 is scheduled to begin **July 28, 2008 at 11:30 a.m. CDT in the Cooperstown Country Club, 305 Fairway Drive, Cooperstown, ND 58425.**

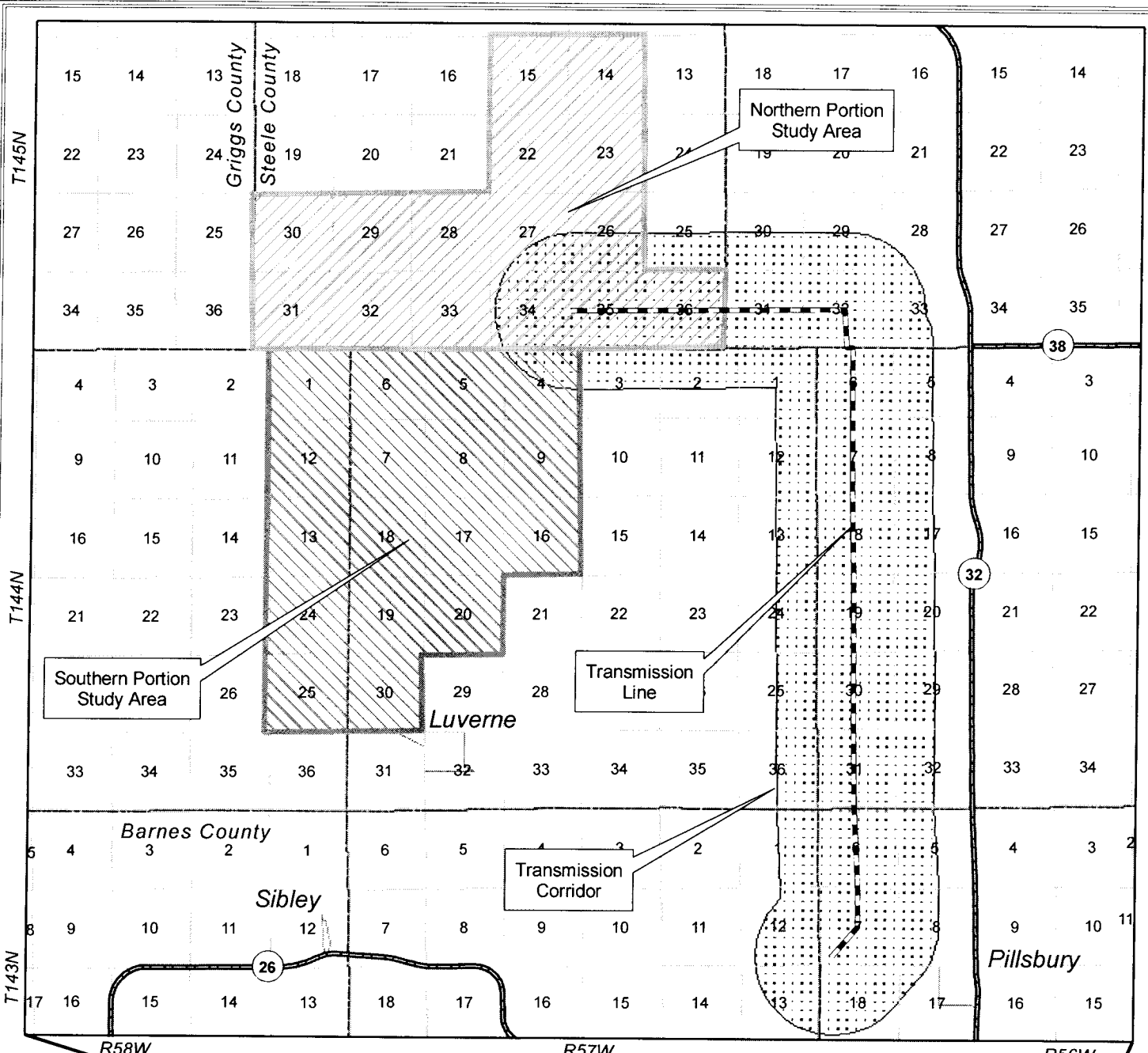
The issues to be considered in these proceedings are:

1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the proposed facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?
4. Is it appropriate for the Commission to waive procedures and time schedules as requested, including the request for a single consolidated application for corridor certificate and route permit?

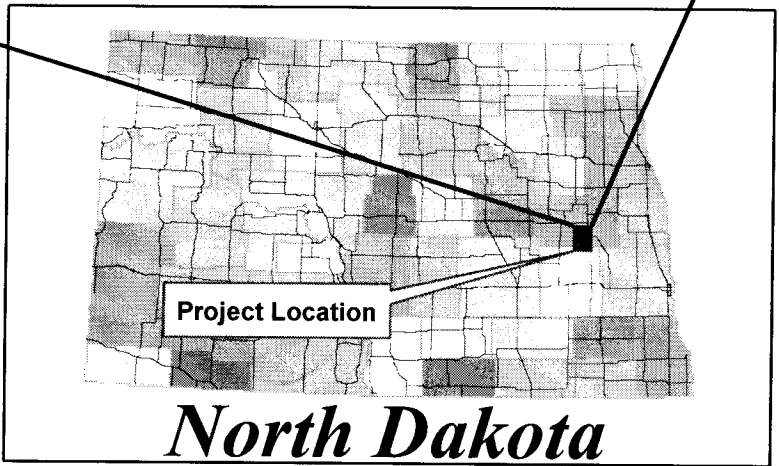
For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or braille materials please notify Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco, Executive Director, at least 24 hours in advance.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
Tony Clark Commissioner	Susan E. Wefald President	Kevin Cramer Commissioner



Luverne Wind Farm
M-Power, LLC
 &
National Wind, LLC



North Dakota



MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Wefald, Cramer and Clark

Fr: Jerry Lein

Da: June 18, 2008

Re: 6-19-08 Agenda Item SW-4 Briefing Memo – M-Power Siting Applications:
Case No. PU-08-34: Laverne Wind Farm.
Case No. PU-08-107: 230 kV Transmission Line.

Review of M-Power, LLC's applications indicate that the requirements in the Commission's application guidelines have been addressed. Therefore, I recommend the application be deemed complete. However, there are some activities still underway:

1. Micro-siting - Case No. PU-08-34: M-Power has provided preliminary turbine locations in its application and is further evaluating and refining those locations in order to provide final proposed sites prior to construction.
2. Wetlands Delineation: M-Power reviewed the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) database and aerial photos to develop preliminary turbine and transmission structure locations. Wetland delineation field work still needs to be completed before finalizing the locations.
3. Biological Habitat Survey: Central Grass Prairie, a significant ecological community, has been documented northwest of the project and M-Power will conduct habitat surveys when it does wetland delineations.
4. Class III cultural resource Study: A class I study has been completed for the project area and a Class III pedestrian study will be completed along the proposed route and in areas to be disturbed for turbine placement.
5. Avian Study: A spring avian study is in progress.

JRL

**NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**M-Power, LLC
Electric Generation/Wind-Griggs/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-34

**Ashtabula Wind, LLC
230 kV Transmission Line Barnes/Steele County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-08-107

**Summary Sheet
June 19, 2008**

Facility: Case No. PU-08-34: 157.5 MW Laverne Wind Farm consisting of 105 G.E. 1.5 MW wind turbines and associated facilities in Griggs and Steele Counties of North Dakota.

Case No. PU-08-107: Approximately 13 miles of 230 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities extending from the proposed Laverne Wind Farm collector substation to near Pillsbury, North Dakota where a new substation and a 230 kV transmission line from Pillsbury to Fargo are being constructed by Minnkota Power Cooperative in Case No. PU-08-48.

Purpose: The proposed Laverne Wind Farm would provide electric energy to meet regional needs. The proposed transmission line would interconnect the Laverne Wind Farm with the regional electric transmission grid.

Cost Estimate: Approximately \$295 million for the Ashtabula Wind Energy Center plus approximately \$5 million for the 13 mile transmission line.

Schedule: Preliminary construction is expected to begin in early fall 2008 with a projected in service date of summer 2009.

History Applications were filed May 16, 2008 in Case No. PU-08-34 and May 21, 2008 in Case No. PU-08-107.

Today's Action The Commission will vote whether to issue a Notice of Filings and Notice of Hearings, scheduling public hearings for July 28, 2008 in Cooperstown, North Dakota.

JRL