

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Wefald, Clark and Cramer
Fr: Jerry Lein
Da: April 18, 2008
Re: 4-21-08 Special Meeting: Case No. PU-08-48
Laverne to Maple River 230 kV Electric Transmission Line Siting

On April 17, 2008 Minnkota filed an amendment to its application for corridor certificate and route permit expanding the corridor and revising a portion of the southern part of the route. Additionally, Otter Tail will no longer be an owner in the project and the attached draft motion acknowledges Otter Tail's withdrawal from the proceeding.

A petition to intervene was filed by RES Americas Development Inc and PEAK Wind Development LLC on April 9, 2008. A response from the applicant is pending and that petition is not being addressed at this time.

Staff review of the amended consolidated application for corridor certificate and route permit indicates that the requirements in the Commission's application guidelines have been addressed. Therefore, staff recommends the application be deemed complete, conditioned on the filing of final structure locations prior to May 15th as previously directed by the Commission. However, there are some additional activities still underway:

1. Structure Locations: The company informs that preliminary structure locations provided in Figure 18 of the amended application are expected to be pretty-much final, subject to any adjustments resulting from pending cultural resource surveys and wetlands delineation.
2. Wetlands delineation: Preliminary wetlands inventory work has been completed and field delineations are scheduled to begin next week.
3. Cultural Resources: A class I file search has been completed and further class III pedestrian surveys are scheduled to begin within the next couple weeks.

JRL