



Pillsbury to Fargo Generation Outlet Project

Summary of Alternate Reroute Changes

After the May 22, 2008 Public Hearing and issuance of Transmission Facility No. 115, at the request of the Commission, a reroute in Rush River Township was identified and proposed by Minnkota.

Beginning on May 23, 2008, the day after the public hearing in PU-08-48, Minnkota began looking for a viable alternative route from the Northeast corner of Section 4 at pole number 358 to the east side of Section 14 at pole number 399. By May 27, 2008, Minnkota received positive feedback from significant landowners following along the proposed new route. The route is generally described as follows: Starting at the northeastern corner of the Northeast Quarter of Section 4 and moving south along the eastern section line of Section 4 and Section 9 then crossing over from the southeast corner of the Southeast Quarter of Section 9 into the Northwest Quarter of Section 15 continuing in a southerly fashion down the western section line ½ mile to the east/west center line of Section 15, thence in an easterly direction along the north side of the east/west center line of the Section and continuing through Section 14 until it crosses to the western edge of Section 13 where it would then meet pole number 401. Two new poles are required by the reroute. The pole on the western edge of Section 13 numbered 399 in the amended application of May 22, 2008 renumbered 399 is now 404.

Analysis of alternative route

- 1) Environmental concerns – This revised route does not have any greater environmental impacts than the amended route based on a windshield survey of the revised route for avoidance and exclusion areas, field surveys for biological and cultural resources, and review of aerial photography, topographic maps, and corridor data related to exclusion and avoidance areas. There are no avoidance or exclusion areas, sensitive cultural, biological or wetland resources impacted by the reroute.
- 2) Easements – Minnkota has secured all the easements along the proposed new route, except a partial interest in the S½ of NE¼ of Section 4, which Minnkota expects will be provided. The part-owner lives on the West Coast.
- 3) This proposed new route segment in Rush River Township would require additional tree removal in Section 15 and Section 14. Current landowner contacts in these sections indicate that they are willing to have Minnkota remove the trees to construct the power line.
- 4) This proposed route segment in Rush River Township does move the line a full one ~~and a half~~ miles from the Olson property in Section 2, Rush River Township.

- 5) The proposed new route allows Minnkota to utilize other easements in Rush River Township already acquired. Any other significant changes to this reroute or route considered in the Amended Application would probably add additional costs to the line and cause delay in the project.

Both the amended route and the proposed alternative segment of the reroute in Rush River Township are viable routes that meet or exceed the requirements of the State of North Dakota for transmission line routing. The reroute is a feasible solution and affords Minnkota an opportunity to satisfy landowners.

Minnkota recommends that the Commission approve this new route segment.