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RECEIVED

August 12, 2008

AUG 13 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Members of the Public Service Commission  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard; Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: *Case Number PU 08-48*

This morning, August 12, 2008, Minnkota Power Cooperative filed a Supplement to Tree and Shrub Inventory Plan in PU-08-48. Minnkota asks that the Commission consider the following additional matters with regard to the Supplement:

- (1) In locations where the circular sample plot was used, shrub numbers were estimated by counting shrubs within the representative circular area and then calculating the approximate number of shrubs within the area to be cleared. Data was collected from multiple sample plots within each site and results were averaged to calculate the estimated number of shrubs within each site. As indicated in the submission this morning, the method only applies to shrubs and only where growth was too dense to allow direct counting (in nine locations).
- (2) By using the methods described above, and as outlined in the inventory plan filed by Minnkota on June 11, 2008, Minnkota completed its inventory of areas that would be cleared during construction. Minnkota's inventory identified a substantially large number of colony-forming shrub species, which primarily reproduce by either suckers or rhizomes (roots). These include buffalo current, chokecherry, dogwood, plum, pussy willow, sandbar willow, western snowberry, and Woods rose. Sandbar willow was by far the most abundant species in the inventoried area. Sandbar willow is a common, native suckering shrub that the United States Department of Agriculture regards as a weedy or invasive species that may displace desirable vegetation if not properly managed.

McCain and Associates, Inc., 2818 Gateway Avenue, Bismarck, ND 58501, inventoried trees and shrubs for Minnkota Power, and proposed the following specific recommendations following their inventory with regard to sandbar willows: "Sandbar willow should be cut flush with ground level where necessary to accommodate construction. These areas should then be allowed to regenerate naturally. No replacement or mitigation is recommended for this species."

100 PU-08-48 Filed: 8/13/2008 Pages: 4  
Letter Regarding Additional Items Relating to Tree &  
Shrub Supplemental Inventory

Minnkota Power Coop., Inc.

Due to Minnkota's clearing method, which involves cutting vegetation off at the ground surface and leaving root systems intact, the above-listed shrub species are expected to fully recover and should not require replacement by plantings. As a result, Minnkota is not proposing to replace any colony-forming shrub species that were inventoried. Rather, Minnkota will monitor those areas to document shrub species recovery, and would supplement with plantings as specified in the Commissions Order in the event those shrub species do not recover.

All other trees and shrubs cut during construction will be replaced and monitored to document the success of plantings, as specified in the Commissions Order.

Thank you for your consideration of these matters.

Very truly yours,

PEARCE & DURICK

By



Jerome C. Kettleison

JCK/ef

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

APPLICATION TO THE NORTH DAKOTA )  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION FOR A )  
WAIVER OF PROCEDURES AND TIMELINES, )  
AND CONSOLIDATED CERTIFICATE OF )  
CORRIDOR COMPATABILITY AND ROUTE )  
PERMIT, PILLSBURY-FARGO GENERATION )  
OUTLET PROJECT )

Docket No. PU-08-48

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA )  
 ) ss.  
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH )

Evelyn Froebe, being first duly sworn on oath, does depose and say: That she is over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to the above-entitled matter;

That on the 12th day of August, 2008, this affiant served a true and correct copy of the following document in the above-captioned action:

1. Supplemental Letter to Supplement to Tree and Shrub Inventory Plan.

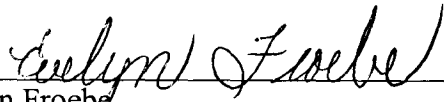
That copies of the above document were enclosed and secured in an envelope and addressed as follows:

Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building  
600 E. Boulevard Avenue; Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

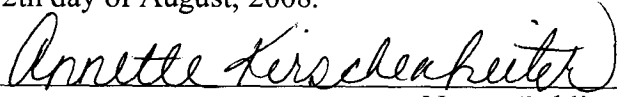
Hand-Delivered – Original and 7 Copies

To the best of affiant's knowledge, information and belief, such address as given above was the actual post office address of the party intended to be so served.

That the above documents were duly served in accordance with the provisions of the North Dakota Rules of Civil Procedure.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelyn Froebe

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 12th day of August, 2008.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Notary Public

