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October 28, 2010

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2010

Hand-Delivered

Darrell Nitschke
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Re: *Reports Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan: (1) Survival Rate, Oct. 2010, Trees Planted 2009; (2) Tree/Shrub Planted in 2010; (3) Remaining Trees to be Planted in 2011; and Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2*
Case Number: PU-08-48

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

With this letter, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. submits for filing its *Reports Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan: (1) Survival Rate, Oct. 2010, Trees Planted 2009; (2) Tree/Shrub Planted in 2010; and (3) Remaining Trees to be Planted in 2011* for PU-08-48 Generation Outlet from Pillsbury to Fargo, North Dakota with Exhibits 1 and 2 and *Affidavit of Service*.

Should you have any questions with respect to this filing, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

PEARCE & DURICK

By 

JEROME C. KETTLESON

Phone: (701) 333-0104

JCK/ji
Enclosures

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PU08-48

REPORTS REGARDING TREE/SHRUB REPLACEMENT PLAN:

1. SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2010, TREES PLANTED 2009;
2. TREE/SHRUB PLANTED IN 2010;
3. REMAINING TREES TO BE PLANTED IN 2011

The Public Service Commission of North Dakota in its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, attachment C-1, paragraph nos. 10, 11, 12, and 13, in PU08-48 directed that Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. submit a Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan for the replacement of the trees/shrubs along the generation outlet from Pillsbury, North Dakota to Fargo, North Dakota in PU08-48. Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. filed its Replacement Plan on July 14, 2009 and thereafter the Plan was approved by motion of the Public Service Commission on July 29, 2009. The Plan required that Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. replace each tree/shrub to be mitigated on a 2 for 1 basis. The Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. in its Replacement Plan indicated the total trees/shrubs to be replaced at 20,078.

1. SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2010, TREES PLANTED IN 2009

In its first planting season, 2009, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. arranged for and had planted 8,283 trees/shrubs as more fully described as to type and location in its July 14, 2009 filing with the Commission. The Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order of the Public Service Commission also required that planted trees/shrubs be inspected once each year for three years on or about October 1 to determine the survival rate of the trees/shrubs and to determine whether additional plantings of trees/shrubs is necessary based on the survival rate.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. hereby submits that after a physical inspection of the 2009 planting of 8,283 trees/shrubs by Cass County Soil Conservation District, it found the one-

year survival rate to be in excess of 90 percent, which is above the survival rate required in the Tree Plan. Even though the survival rate is in excess of the rate required in the Tree Plan, Minnkota, with the assistance of the Cass County Soil Conservation District (Tony Peterson), made available to the landowners for replacement planting, 100 replacement trees, which the cooperating landowners will plant.

2. TREE/SHRUB PLANTING IN 2010

In its July 14, 2009 submittal to the Public Service Commission, Minnkota Power Cooperative indicated a plan to plant 11,795 trees during the planting season of 2010. The farmers and the locations were set out on Exhibit 5 to the July 14, 2009 submittal to the Public Service Commission. During the actual planting season of 2010, the plans of several farmers and several prospective tree planting areas changed and 9,753 were planted as set out on Exhibit 1 to this Report, some in different areas than originally planned. Exhibit 1 indicates the location of the tree plantings, the farmer for whom the trees were planted, and the species of trees planted. Exhibit 2 is a map showing where the trees /shrubs were planted. The planting was completed in conjunction with the Cass County Soil Conservation District in Fargo. The 9,753 trees have been planted as indicated and will be reported upon as to survival rate on or about October of 2011, as directed in the PSC's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in 2008. The tree types planted were agreed upon between Cass County Soil Conservation District, Minnkota, and the individual farmers, taking into account the Order of the Public Service Commission as to place and type.

3. REMAINING TREES TO BE PLANTED IN 2011

Of the 20,078 trees/shrubs, there remain for planting, 2,042. Minnkota is in the process of attempting to place those trees with eligible landowners in Cass/Barnes County generally

along the line of the generation outlet from Pillsbury to Fargo, as directed. Minnkota will have the final plan for planting in place in this regard by early spring of 2011.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. asks that the Public Service Commission accept its report as to:

1. The survival rate in October 2010 of trees/shrubs planted in 2009;
2. The type location and number of trees/shrubs planted in 2010-- 9,753; and
3. Remaining 2042 trees to be planted in 2011.

DATED this 21st day of October, 2010.

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

By 

Paul R. Mahlen
Property and Right-of-Way Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. 13200
Grand Forks, ND 58208

PEARCE & DURICK

By 

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2010 Summary of Tree and Shrub Inventory

| Tree Name from McCain (According to Tree from Norway) | American elm (Northern/Cane Hackberry) | Aspen | Birch, Paper | Box elder | Bristly gooseberry | Buckthorn | Buffalo currant (Golden currant) | Caragana | Chokecherry (Shubert Chokecherry) | Cotoneaster | Dogwood (Redosier Dogwood) | Green ash | Junberry | Lindon, American | Lindon, Little Leaf | Peachleaf willow | Plains cottonwood (Saskatoon Cottonwood, Native Cottonwood) | Plum (Black Cherry Nanking Cherry) | Pussy willow | Red cedar (Black Hills Spruce, Colorado Blue Spruce) | Russian olive (Common Lilac, Lilac, Viburnum) | Sandbar willow | Siberian elm | Sugar maple (Amur Maple, Silver Maple) | Sumac, Smooth | Walnut, Black | Willow | Western snowberry | Woods Rose | Total |
|--|---|-------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------|----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|---|--|--------------|--|---|----------------|--------------|--|---------------|---------------|--------|-------------------|------------|-------|
| From McCain | 2737 | 10 | 0 | 664 | 10 | 2 | 695 | 906 | 340 | 2 | 45 | 2057 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 534 | 84 | 520 | 375 | 3 | 27 | 618 | 30 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 324 | 30 | 25 | 10039 |
| 2 for Every 1 | 5474 | 20 | 0 | 1328 | 20 | 4 | 1390 | 1812 | 680 | 4 | 90 | 4114 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1068 | 168 | 1040 | 750 | 6 | 54 | 1236 | 60 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 648 | 60 | 50 | 20078 |
| Remaining After 2009 | 2738 | 20 | 0 | 499 | 20 | 4 | 1184 | 1726 | 146 | 4 | 0 | 1958 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 883 | 0 | 125 | 434 | 0 | 0 | 1236 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 648 | 60 | 50 | 11795 |

| Land Owners Requesting Trees | American elm | Aspen | Birch, Paper | Box elder | Bristly gooseberry | Buckthorn | Buffalo currant | Caragana | Chokecherry | Cotoneaster | Dogwood | Green ash | Junberry | Lindon, American | Lindon, Little Leaf | Peachleaf willow | Plains cottonwood | Plum | Pussy willow | Red cedar | Russian olive | Sandbar willow | Siberian elm | Sugar maple | Sumac, Smooth | Walnut, Black | Willow | Western snowberry | Woods Rose | Total |
|-------------------------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|-----------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| Wenzloff Hows/Sec 36 | | | | | | | | 211 | | | | 164 | | | | | | 158 | | 134 | | 479 | | | | | | | | 1146 |
| Fowler Rush River/Sec 30 | | | | | | | | | 111 | | | | | | | | 128 | 113 | | 81 | | | | | | | 33 | | | 466 |
| Meittanen Arthur/Sec 33 | | | | 64 | | | | | 74 | | | | | | 64 | | 26 | | | | | 155 | | | | | 136 | | | 519 |
| Steffes Arthur/Sec 33 | 918 | | | | | | | 865 | | | | | | 519 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2302 |
| Thompson Rich/Sec 15 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 130 | | | 168 | | 260 | | 100 | | | | | | | | 658 |
| Uland Raymond/Sec 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 73 | | 134 | | | | | | | | | | 207 |
| Thompson Rich/Sec 14 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 60 | | | | | | | | 60 |
| Tusdal Lake/Sec 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 47 | | | 38 | | 32 | | | | | | | | | | 117 |
| Longlet Arthur/Sec 36 | 49 | | 61 | | | | | 82 | | | | | | | | | | | | 123 | 66 | 123 | 69 | | | | | | | 573 |
| Burkholder Pleasant/Sec 19 | 260 | | | | | | | | | | 1170 | | | | | | 557 | | | 1340 | | | | | 378 | | | | | 3705 |
| Subtotal | 1227 | 0 | 61 | 64 | 0 | 0 | 1158 | 185 | 0 | 1170 | 164 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 760 | 0 | 711 | 550 | 123 | 2107 | 123 | 803 | 0 | 378 | 0 | 0 | 169 | 0 | 0 | 9753 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-----------|------------|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|----------|--------------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|--------------|-------------|------------|-----------|-------------|----------|----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Subtotal of Trees | 1511 | 20 | -61 | 435 | 20 | 4 | 1184 | 568 | -39 | 4 | -1170 | 1794 | 0 | 0 | -760 | 883 | -711 | -425 | 311 | -2107 | -123 | 433 | 60 | -378 | 0 | 0 | 479 | 60 | 50 | 2042 |
| Remaining | 1199 | 0 | 61 | 123 | 0 | 0 | 1170 | 39 | 39 | 0 | 1170 | 1794 | 0 | 0 | 760 | 711 | 711 | 425 | 0 | 2107 | 123 | 425 | 0 | 378 | 0 | 0 | 313 | 0 | 0 | 11548 |
| Remaining Number to be Planted | 312 | 20 | 0 | 312 | 20 | 4 | 14 | 529 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 172 | 0 | 0 | 311 | 0 | 0 | 8 | 60 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 166 | 60 | 50 | 2042 |

| Tree Substitution | |
|-------------------|--|
| American Elm * | Littleleaf linden 760 Paper birch 61 Sugar maple 378 Oak, Red 918 Oak, Bur 49 Poplar, Hybrid 260 Total 2426 |
| Box Elder | Russian olive 123 Pear, McDermand 64 Total 187 |
| Green ash | Red cedar 2107 |
| Peachleaf willow | Cottonwood 711 |
| Pussy Willow | Almond, Russian 123 |
| Sandbar Willow | Plum 425 Plum, American 634 Cotoneaster, Pekin 169 Total 1228 |
| Willow | Green ash 313 Cranberry, Highbush 136 Total 449 |

| Shrub Substitution | |
|--------------------|---|
| Buffalo currant | Dogwood 1170 |
| Caragana | Chokecherry 39 Nannyberry 82 Buffaloberry 211 Total 332 |

Summer 2010 Tree/Shrub Replacement Locations

| <u>Name</u> | <u>Township</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1 Wenzloff, Bob | Hows | 36-139-54 |
| 2 Fowler, Renee | Rush River | 30-141-51 |
| 3 Meittanen, Eric | Arthur | 33-152-52 |
| 4 Steffes, Greg | Arthur | 33-142-52 |
| 5 Thompson, Ralph | Rich | 15-142-54 |
| 6 Uland, Jim | Raymond | 6-140-50 |
| 7 Thompson, Ralph | Rich | 14-142-54 |
| 8 Tusdal, Jamie & Bruce | Lake | 4-142-55 |
| 9 Longlet, Scott | Arthur | 36-142-52 |
| Burkholder, Bert | Pleasant | |



