

March 14, 2013

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



Re: 2012 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan: (1) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2009; (2) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2010; (3) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2011; (4) Trees/Shrubs Planted in 2012; and Exhibits 1 & 2

Case No. PU-08-48

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

With this letter, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. submits for filing its *2012 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan: (1) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2009; (2) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2010; (3) Survival Rate, Oct. 2012, Trees/Shrubs Planted in 2011; (4) Trees/Shrubs to be Planted in 2012* for PU-08-48 Generation Outlet from Pillsbury to Fargo, North Dakota, with Exhibits 1 & 2 and an *Affidavit of Service*.

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

Sincerely,


Joel E. Larson
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Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PU-08-48

REPORT REGARDING TREE/SHRUB REPLACEMENT PLAN:
SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED 2009
SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED 2010
SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED 2011
TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2012

The Public Service Commission of North Dakota (the Commission) in its Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and Order, attachment C-1 (Order) in PU08-48 directed that Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) submit a Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (Replacement Plan) for the replacement of the trees/shrubs along the generation outlet from Pillsbury, North Dakota to Fargo, North Dakota. Minnkota filed its Replacement Plan on July 14, 2009 and thereafter the Replacement Plan was approved by motion of the Commission on July 29, 2009.

The Commission's Order required that Minnkota replace each tree/shrub to be mitigated on a 2-for-1 basis. In its Replacement Plan, Minnkota indicated the total trees/shrubs to be replaced is 20,078.

The Order of the Commission also required that planted trees/shrubs be inspected once each year for three years to determine the survival rate of the trees/shrubs and to determine whether additional plantings of trees/shrubs are necessary based on the survival rate. The Order required Minnkota to submit a report regarding the condition of replacement planting. Minnkota filed a report on October 28, 2010 titled 2010 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (2010 Report). Minnkota filed a report on February 20, 2012 titled 2011 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (2011 Report). Minnkota hereby submits this 2012 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (2012 Report).

**1. SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2009
(THREE-YEAR INSPECTION)**

In its first planting season of 2009, Minnkota arranged for and had planted 8,283 trees/shrubs as more fully described as to type and location in its Replacement Plan. In its 2010 Report, Minnkota identified the one-year survival rate of these plantings to be in excess of 90 percent (which is above the 75 percent survival rate sought in the Replacement Plan).

Minnkota hereby submits that, after a physical inspection of the 2009 planting trees/shrubs by Cass County Soil Conservation District conducted in 2012, it found the three-year survival rate to be in excess of 95 percent. Minnkota will report upon the four-year survival rate of these planting on or about October 2013, as directed in the Commission's Order.

2. SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2010 (TWO-YEAR INSPECTION)

In its Replacement Plan, Minnkota proposed a plan to plant 11,795 trees during the 2010 planting season. As indicated in the 2010 Report, because the plans of several farmers and several prospective tree planting areas changed, Minnkota arranged for and had planted 9,753 trees/shrubs in 2010.

Minnkota hereby submits that, after a physical inspection of the 2010 planting of 9,753 trees/shrubs by Cass County Soil Conservation District conducted in 2012, it found the two-year survival rate to be in excess of 95 percent, which is above the survival rate required in the Replacement Plan. Minnkota will report upon the three-year survival rate of these planting on or about October of 2013, as directed in the Commission's Order.

3. SURVIVAL RATE, OCT. 2012, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2011 (ONE-YEAR INSPECTION)

In its 2010 report, Minnkota proposed a plan to plant 2,042 trees during the 2011 planting season. During the actual planting season of 2011, the wet planting conditions precluded all the planned trees/shrubs from being planted. Therefore, 1,360 trees/shrubs were planted in 2011 as set forth in the 2011 Report.

Minnkota hereby submits that, after a physical inspection of the 2011 planting of 1,360 trees/shrubs by Cass County Soil Conservation District conducted in 2012, it found the one-year survival rate to be in excess of 95 percent, which is above the survival rate required in the Replacement Plan. Minnkota will report upon the two-year survival rate of these planting on or about October of 2013, as directed in the Commission's Order.

4. TREE/SHRUB PLANTING IN 2012

In its 2011 Report, Minnkota indicate it had 682 trees that remained to be planted according the Replacement Plan approved July 29, 2009. In the 2012 planting season, 1,149 trees/shrubs were planted as set out in Exhibits 1 & 2, for a grand total. Exhibits 1 & 2 indicate the location of the tree plantings, the farmer for whom the trees were planted, and the species of trees planted. The planting was completed in conjunction with the Cass County Soil Conservation District in Fargo. 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 Commission as to place and type. Minnkota will report upon the survival rate of these planting on or about October of 2013, as directed in the Commission's Order.

5. ALL TREES PLANTED AS ORDERED IN TREE/SHRUB REPLACEMENT PLAN

The Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (Replacement Plan) for the replacement of the trees/shrubs along the generation outlet from Pillsbury, North Dakota to Fargo, North Dakota is complete. The plan called for the planting of 20,078 trees. Minnkota had planted 8,283 tree in 2009, 9,753 trees in 2010, 1,360 trees in 2011 and 1,149 tree is 2012. This is a total of 20,545, in exceeding the Replacement Plan by 467 trees. Minnkota will again report on the survival rates after the October 2013 inspection.

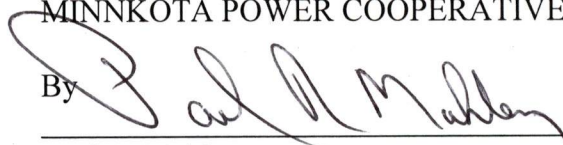
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. asks the Public Service Commission accept this 2012 Report as to:

1. The survival rate in October 2012 of trees/shrubs planted in 2009;
2. The survival rate in October 2012 of trees/shrubs planted in 2010;
3. The survival rate in October 2012 of trees/shrubs planted in 2011;
4. The type, location, and number of trees/shrubs planted in 2012, in the amount of 1,149.

DATED this 12th day of March, 2013.

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

By



Paul R. Mahlen
Property and Right-of-Way Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
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Generation Outlet from Pillsbury to Fargo

Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan: Plantings and Inspections

PSC Docket PU-08-48

Planting Year	Number of Trees Planted	2010 Inspection (% Survival)	2011 Inspection (% Survival)	2012 Inspection (% Survival)	2013 Inspection (% Survival)	2014 Inspection (% Survival)	2015 Inspection (% Survival)
2009 Planting	8,283	90%	95%	95%			
2010 Planting	9,753		95%	95%			
2011 Planting	1,360			95%			
2012 Planting	1,149						
Total	20,545						

Report Filed with PSC	Filed	Docket Item
2010 Inspection	October 28, 2010	147
2011 Inspection	February 23, 2012	152
2012 Inspection		
2012 Inspection		
2013 Inspection		
2014 Inspection		
2015 Inspection		