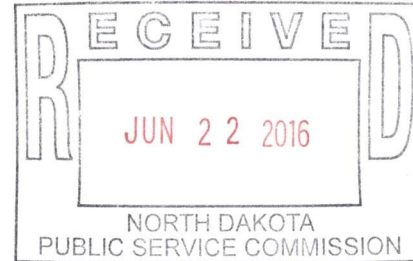


September 22, 2016



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

**Re: 2016 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan:
(1) Survival Rate, Sept. 2016, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2011;
(2) Survival Rate, Sept. 2016, Trees/Shrubs Planted 2012; and Exhibit 1**

Case No. PU-08-48

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

With this letter, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. submits for filing its 2016 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan for PU-08-48 Generation Outlet from Pillsbury to Fargo, North Dakota, with Exhibit 1 and an Affidavit of Service. The final planting year for this project was 2012 and this report shows a greater than 75 percent survival rate beyond three years as required by the Replacement Plan. It is Minnkota's position that this is the final Tree/Shrub report to be filed for PU-08-48.

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

Sincerely,


Joel L. Larson
Staff Attorney
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Phone: (701) 795-4275
jl Larson@minnkota.com

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
PU-08-48

REPORT REGARDING TREE/SHRUB REPLACEMENT PLAN:
SURVIVAL RATE, SEPT. 2016, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED 2011
SURVIVAL RATE, SEPT. 2016, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED 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 PU-08-48 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. As indicated in the 2012 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan (and subsequent reports), Minnkota had planted 20,545 trees/shrubs, exceeding the anticipated replacement amount and there is a greater than 75% survival rate beyond three years (See Exhibit 1).

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. Minnkota filed a report on February 20, 2012 titled 2011 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan. Minnkota also filed a report on March 14, 2013 titled 2012 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub

Replacement Plan. Minnkota errantly failed to provide a tree/shrub report for 2013 and 2014. Minnkota filed a report on October 1, 2015 titled 2015 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan. Minnkota hereby submits its proposed final filing titled 2016 Report Regarding Tree/Shrub Replacement Plan for docket PU-08-48.

1. SURVIVAL RATE, SEPT. 2016, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2011 (FINAL INSPECTION)

As indicated in earlier reports, Minnkota arranged to have 1,360 trees/shrubs to be planted during the 2011 planting season. 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 September 2016, it found the five-year survival rate to be at 82 percent, which is above the survival rate required in the Replacement Plan. It is believed this is the final year of reporting for the 2011 trees/shrubs pursuant to the Commission's Order.

2. SURVIVAL RATE, SEPT. 2016, TREES/SHRUBS PLANTED IN 2012 (FINAL INSPECTION)

As indicated in earlier reports, 1,149 trees/shrubs were planted in 2012. Minnkota submits that, after a physical inspection of these trees/shrub by the Cass County Soil Conservation District conducted in September 2016 the survival rate was 83 percent. This is higher than the required survival rate in the Replacement Plan. It is believed that this is the final year of reporting for the 2012 planted trees/shrubs.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. asks the Public Service Commission to accept this

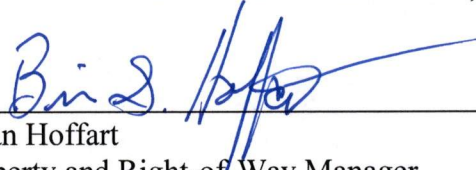
2016 Report as to:

- 1. The survival rate in September 2016 of trees/shrubs planted in 2011;**
- 2. The survival rate in September 2016 of trees/shrubs planted in 2012;**

DATED this 22 day of September, 2016.

MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.

By



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

Exhibit 1

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)	2016 Inspection (% Survival)
2009 Planting	8,283	90%	95%	95%				
2010 Planting	9,753		95%	95%	95%			
2011 Planting	1,360			95%	95%	-	85%	82%
2012 Planting	1,149				90%	-	85%	83%
Total	20,545							

Report Filed with PSC	Filed	Docket Item
2010 Inspection	October 28, 2010	147
2011 Inspection	February 23, 2012	152
2012 Inspection	March 14, 2013	153
2013 Inspection	October 2015	158
2014 Inspection	-	-
2015 Inspection	October 2015	158
2016 Inspection	September 2016	

