

October 2, 2009

RECEIVED

OCT 05 2009

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Mr. Darrel Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Avenue, Department 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power
Bison I Wind Project
Case No. PU-09-151**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Minnesota Power hereby submits an original and ten copies of Notes from Preconstruction Conference and Notice of Construction Commencement date in the above-referenced case.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at the above-listed number.

Sincerely,



David R. Moeller

kl
Enc.

c: Jim Atkinson, Minnesota Power
Ron Gullicks, Minnesota Power
Todd Mattson – HDR Engineering, Inc.

38 PU-09-151 Filed: 10/5/2009 Pages: 3
**Preconstruction Conference Notes & Notice of
Construction Commencement Date**

Allete, Inc.

David Moeller, Atty

State of North Dakota Public Service Commission

Notes from Preconstruction Conference Notice of Construction Commencement Date

ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power
Bison I Wind Project
Case No. PU-09-151

Minnesota Power hereby provides the North Dakota Public Service Commission notice that it will commence construction on or about **Monday, October 5, 2009** for the Bison I Wind Project.

In accordance with North Dakota Public Service Commission's (PSC) Order Point 6, Mr. Jerry Lein from the PSC conducted a preconstruction conference with Minnesota Power on September 29, 2009 at approximately 2:30 p.m. Attendees from Minnesota Power were the following: Ron Gullicks, Jim Atkinson, Bob Marchand, Frank Fredrikson, and David Moeller.

Mr. Lein and representatives of Minnesota Power discussed each Order point of the PSC's Order approved at its September 29, 2009 agenda meeting. Except as noted below, there was no further discussion or clarification necessary on specific Order points.

1. The Certificate of Site Compatibility includes the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications that is deemed attached to and part of the Order.

3. Mr. Lein and Minnesota Power clarified that the three alternative turbines included in Minnesota Power's site plan filed with the PSC are already authorized to be constructed if alternative sites are required, subject to notice requirements.

5. Minnesota Power has obtained approval for all required permits, but has not yet received the written permit from Oliver County. Upon receipt of that written permit, Minnesota Power will submit to the PSC copies of the Morton and Oliver county permits. In addition, Minnesota Power clarified that various road crossing permits will be obtained later. Finally, any general wetlands permits will be filed prior to any impacts on wetlands.

7. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed expectations for the weekly construction report and notification procedures. Also, it was clarified that when construction activity is suspended for a winter season, the last update prior to suspension should note the suspension and further weekly reports are not necessary until construction resumes in the spring.

12. Mr. Lein noted that the "exception as authorized by Morton and Oliver counties" is new language to the PSC's wind facility orders.

18. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein clarified that if a fence or gate is removed at the request of a landowner and the landowner requests that the fence or gate not be replaced that Minnesota Power should provide the PSC notice of such waiver along with documentation of the landowner's consent to deviate from Order Point 18.

30. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein clarified that for construction drawings, "construction" should be interpreted as providing engineering design drawings prior to beginning construction on the turbines and substation structures and Minnesota Power was not expected to provide construction drawings for the roads and other site work. In addition, Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed the process for obtaining prior approvals for any changes to surveyed locations for turbines and the substation.

Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications

2. Paragraph 2 contains a typo and should include "3-" before the word "inch".

10. Mr. Lein noted that under Paragraph 10, PSC approval is necessary for the tree replacement plan.

13. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed Paragraph 13 and that if landowners do not want replacement trees/shrubs planted on their property that Minnesota Power should obtain a written waiver to that extent.