



January 31, 2011

VIA U.S. MAIL & EMAIL

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

RE: Bison 1 Wind Project
Oliver/Morton Counties
Siting Application
Case No. PU-09-151

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please find attached Minnesota Power's report regarding an environmental incident and follow-up regarding the above-referenced case pursuant to PSC Order Point 25.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

David R. Moeller

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Enc.

c: Ron Gullicks, Minnesota Power
Jim Atkinson, Minnesota Power
Dave Schmitz, Minnesota Power

Minnesota Power

Environmental Incident Report

Bison 1 Wind Project

Oliver/Morton Counties

Siting Application

PSC Case No. PU-09-151

Name of Permittee and Project: Minnesota Power – Bison 1 Wind Project

Property Location:

Morton County

Latitude N474098.47 and Longitude E1712915.30

Minnesota Power Wind Tower #31

Date of Event:

January 25, 2011

Nature of Event:

Transformer for wind turbine #31 exploded for unknown reasons. Some mineral oil burned, some captured in concrete pit and some absorbed by snow and gravel.

Name of Person Receiving Information of Event: Todd Simmons

Name of Person Reporting to the PSC: David Moeller

Phone Number of Person Reporting to the PSC: 218-723-3963

Action Taken:

Incident reported to the North Dakota Department of Health and North Dakota Department of Emergency Services on January 25, 2011. Oil contained. Environmental cleanup actions and investigation of cause continues.

Environmental Incident Report

This report has been submitted.

North Dakota Department of Health
Environmental Health Section
1.701.328.5210 or 1.701.328.5166

North Dakota Department of Emergency Services
1.701.328.8100
1.800.472.2121 State Radio 24-Hour Hotline

If this is an emergency, or for additional assistance, please call the Health or Emergency Services Department at the numbers shown above

This form is NOT for RCRA-exempt oilfield related incidents
(for RCRA-exempt oilfield incidents click here)
(if you are not sure which form to use click here)

Fill out information as completely as possible
Error messages appear to the right of the field
Use the Tab key or mouse to move between fields
Pressing the Enter key while in the form will submit the report
Required fields are shown in Red

Location Information:

County Morton
Township
Range
Section
Quarter
QQSection
QQQSection

Location Description (911 address or location from nearest town)
Latitude N474098.47 and Longitude E1712915.30. Minnesota Power Wind Tower # 31.

Distance to Nearest Residence or Occupied Building 1 Units Miles

Incident Information:

Date 1/25/2011
(mm/dd/yyyy) If unknown, enter date of discovery
Time 1400
hhmm 24-hour time, no colon
Type Other (fill in box)

Spill Of Mineral Oil: Some Burned

Estimated Duration 45 Units minutes

Estimated Volume 550 Units gallons

Substance released or of concern (include trade and/or chemical name if applicable)

Mineral oil (No PCBs). Oil is contained. Cleanup is underway.

Agriculture Related? No

Is this substance on EPA's Extremely Hazardous Substance list? No

To find out if this substance is on the EHS list, Click Here

Describe Cause

The transformer for wind turbine # 31 exploded for reasons unknown at this time. Some of the mineral oil burned. About 100 gallons of oil was captured in a concrete pit. Snow and gravel absorbed additional oil. Some oil may also remain in the transformer.

Action Taken and Recommended/Planned Future Action

(how spill was contained, soil excavated, emergency approval to burn contaminant, evacuation of nearby personnel, etc.)

Spill is contained as described above. The plan is to pump the concrete pit and manage that recovered oil as Used Oil (possibly with Tri B Oil). The plan is to landfill the oily snow and gravel at the Bismarck MSW Landfill (spoke with Joe Keeler landfill manager and left a phone message for Steve Pillotson of the ND Dept of Health). I also reported the spill to Curt Erickson (bv phone) of the ND Dept of Health.

Where will recovered wastes be disposed?

As discussed above. Free oil recovered will be managed as Used Oil, possibly by Tri B Oil of Mandan ND. Oily snow and oily rock/soil to be landfilled at the Bismarck MSW landfill.

Impact Information:

Fatalities 0

Injuries 0

Medium affected 05 - air and soil

Immediate Risk Evaluation (explosive atmosphere, immediate health hazards, etc.)

The oil is no longer burning-the fire is out. Main risk is therefore passed. Oil is contained so the environmental risk has also been minimized.

Potential Environmental Impacts

(describe impacts to, or likelihood of impacts, to surface water, ground water, soils, etc.)

The oil that burned (unknown quantity) may have provided some soot to the air from incomplete combustion. Crushed rock and adjacent soil affected as was adjacent snow. All will be excavated and landfilled. Vertical oil penetration limited by concrete and by underlying clay soils.

Responsible Party Information:

Responsible Party Minnesota Power
 Address (Line 1) 5198 30th Street
 Address (Line 2)
 City New Salem
 State/Province ND - North Dakota
 Zip 58563
 Contact First Name Todd
 Contact Last Name Simmons
 Contact Telephone (701) 426-7820
 Contact Email

Property Owner if not the Responsible Party

Has or will the incident be reported to property owner? Unknown

Reporting Information:

First Name William
 Last Name Fraundorf
 Date Reported 1/25/2011
 (mm/dd/yyyy)
 Time Reported 1600

hhmm 24-hour time, no colon

Other agencies that have or will be notified

- NDDDES
- State Fire Marshal
- State Highway Patrol
- Local Fire Department
- Local Law Enforcement
- Local Emergency Manager

Other none

To see if this incident is required to be reported to the National Response Center (NRC) Click Here

Has or will the incident be reported to the NRC ?? 1-800-424-8802 Unknown

Additional E-Mail Recipients to send report to

wfraundorf@allete.com

tsimmons@mnpower.com

.....
dschmitz@allete.com

.....
atait@allete.com

Official Use Only:

State Agency Person Who Received Call First Name

.....
Last Name

Department of Emergency Services Incident Number

Send this email to Department of Mineral Resources

No

Pressing the submit button will send an E-Mail version of this completed Environmental Incident Report to NDDH Environmental Health Section and ND Dept. of Emergency Services personnel

Submit