MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kalk, Cramer and Fetch

Fr: Jerry Lein

Da: October 5, 2012

Re: Bison I & II and Transmission Line Tree and Shrub Mitigation
Case Nos. PU-09-151, PU-09-587 and PU-11-57

Minnesota Power reports removing 28 trees and 368 shrubs along transmission line right-of-way, 1 tree and 8 shrubs for its Bison I project and no trees or shrubs for Bison II. Minnesota Power is required to replace these stems at a ratio of 2 for each 1 removed, but decided to actually plant a 3:1 ratio to account for mortality associated with the effort. As a result, replacement plantings total 87 trees and 1128 shrubs.

Minnesota Power reports that many of the landowners preferred plantings not occur on their land so it developed an alternate planting site located in T140N, R86W, Section 4, in Morton County.

I recommend the Commission approve the plan.

JRL

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82 **PU-09-587** Filed: 10/5/2012 Pages: 1
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102 **PU-11-57** Filed: 10/5/2012 Pages: 1
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