Public Service Commission
State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS
Julie Fedorchak
Randy Christmann
Brian P. Kalk

Executive Secretary
Darrell Nitschke

600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480
Web: www.psc.nd.gov
E-mail: ndpsc@nd.gov
Phone: 701-328-2400
ND Toll Free: 1-877-245-6685
Fax: 701-328-2410
TDD: 800-366-6888 or 711

September 18, 2015

Mr. David R. Moeller, Attorney - Legal Services
Minnesota Power
30 W Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802-2093

RE: Case Nos. PU-09-587 and PU-11-620
Post Construction Inspection Reports

Dear Mr. Moeller:

As per the North Dakota Public Service Commission orders and Certification Relating to Order Provisions, the Commission retains the right to conduct construction inspections. The North Dakota Public Service Commission retained a third-party vendor to conduct these inspections. Below we provide a weblink to the third-party post construction inspection reports for your review and a link to the Commission's orders in these proceedings. We also list actions recommended in the post construction inspection reports for follow-up by the Company to confirm compliance with the Commission orders.

PU-09-587
On March 10, 2010, the North Dakota Public Service Commission issued an order in this case authorizing the Company to construct 22 miles of 230 kV Transmission line in south central North Dakota. As per the post construction inspection report, the following actions should be undertaken with information documenting these actions provided to the Commission:

- Compliance with National Electric Safety Code. (Order Point 6)
- ND Highway Patrol Overheight/Overweight Permit (Order Point 6)
- ND Department of Transportation Risk Management Documents. (Order Point 6)

The construction report can be found at:
http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/09-0587/087-020.pdf

79 PU-11-620 Filed 09/18/2015 Pages: 2
Letter re post construction inspection report
Public Service Commission

89 PU-09-587 Filed 09/18/2015 Pages: 2
Letter re post construction inspection report
Public Service Commission

The Commission Order can be found at:
http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/09-0587/032-050.pdf

Note that because some shrubs needed to be replanted in 2012, the Commission will need to have the Company to submit a report on survivability in 2015 to ensure there was a 75 percent survivability.

PU-11-620
On May 30, 2012, the North Dakota Public Service Commission issued an order in this case authorizing the Company to construct 11 miles of 230 kV Transmission line from the Bison Wind Project substation to a new substation in Mercer County, North Dakota. The third party post construction inspection report was issued on November 4, 2014. On November 13, 2014, the Commission received additional documentation from the Company to complete the missing items noted in the inspection.

The Company filed its Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan for this project on July 23, 2015. The Commission anticipates that the Company will be filing annual reports at least through 2018 to ensure that there is a three year 75 percent survival rate.

With the exception of future tree and shrub reports, please forward your response to the recommended actions above, confirming these activities are complete, and describe actions and timelines for activities that are not complete. Please provide this documentation within 30 days.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 701-328-1035.

Sincerely,

Jerry Lein
Public Utility Analyst