

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Allete, Inc / Square Butte Electric Cooperative  
Transfer of Corridor Certificates & Route Permits  
Siting Application**

**Case No. PU-09-631**

**ORDER REISSUING CERTIFICATES AND PERMITS  
October 28, 2009**

On June 26, 1996, in Case No. PU-551-95-451, the Commission issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 70 and Route Permit No. 79 to Square Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Square Butte) authorizing a 0.5 mile reroute around McPhail's Lake in Kidder County, North Dakota of Square Butte's existing +/-250 kV DC electric transmission line that extends 463 miles from Center, ND to near Duluth, MN.

On March 9, 2000, in Case No. PU-551-00-56, the Commission issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 76 and Route Permit No. 86 to Square Butte authorizing a second reroute, approximately 1.5 miles in length around McPhail's Lake, of Square Butte's existing Center to Duluth 250 kV DC electric transmission line.

On October 27, 2000, in Case No. PU-551-00-407, the Commission issued Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 78 and Route Permit No. 88 to Square Butte authorizing a 1.2 mile reroute around Horsehead Lake in Kidder County, North Dakota of Square Butte's existing Center to Duluth 250 kV DC electric transmission line.

On August 18, 2009, Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., and Square Butte filed a joint application for transfer to Minnesota Power of Certificates of Corridor Compatibility Nos. 70, 76 and 78 and for transfer of Route Permit Nos. 79, 86 and 88. Applicants report entering into agreements to transfer ownership of Square Butte's Center to Duluth 250 kV DC transmission line to Minnesota Power.

On September 9, 2009, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until October 20, 2009 for receiving written comments or requests for hearing. No response was received. The notice stated that the issues to be considered are whether Minnesota Power agrees and is able to comply with the terms and conditions of the certificates and permits issued to Square Butte and whether the requested transfers are compatible with the public interest.

Minnesota Power is a public utility that provides retail electric service to approximately 144,000 customers in northeastern Minnesota under the regulatory jurisdiction of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. Minnesota Power is an experienced electric generation, transmission and distribution utility with the experience and resources to own and operate the Center to Duluth electric transmission line.

The Commission finds Minnesota Power agrees and is able to comply with the terms and conditions of the siting certificates and route permit currently issued to Square Butte.

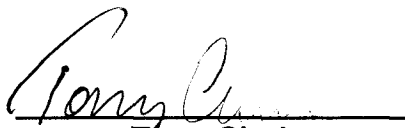
The Commission finds the requested certificate transfers compatible with the public interest.

### Order

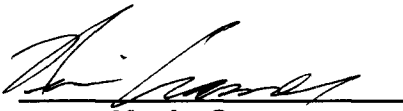
The Commission Orders:

1. The joint application of Square Butte Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Minnesota Power for transfer of Certificate of Site Compatibility Nos. 70, 76, and 78, and Route Permit Nos. 79,86 and 88 is granted.
2. Certificate of Site Compatibility Nos. 70, 76, and 78, and Route Permit Nos. 79, 86 and 88 are reissued to Minnesota Power effective with the closing date of the asset transfer. Documents will be reissued to Minnesota Power upon notification that the transaction is complete.

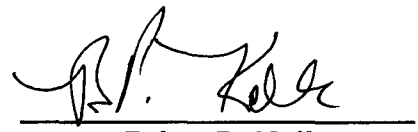
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