

kota State Spelling Bee on March 25, 2011, in Bismarck. The competition included 99 students from both Class A and Class B schools.

continued competing head to head for 11 more rounds. Elliot Stone from Burleigh County was named the 2011 ND State Spelling Bee

## National Distracted Driving Month Brings Awareness to the Dangers of Distracted Driving

The North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) is bringing awareness to the dangers of distracted driving during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month in April. During the month, the NDDOT will work to raise the public's awareness of the dangers of distracted driving with a television ad focusing on the dangers of texting and driving along with community-level outreach activities including distribution of window clings for vehicles that read "I DNT TXT N DRV."

"Distractions such as texting while driving take a driver's eyes off the road for at least four seconds at a time, long enough to travel the length of a football field," says Mark Nelson, NDDOT Safety Division Director. "Under those circumstances, there is no time to react to a stopped car, a stop sign, or anything else."

In fact, in 2009, nearly 5,500 people were killed in the U.S. and almost a half million were injured in crashes related to distracted driving. Eighteen percent of those fatal crashes involved the use of a cell phone.

Although cell phone use is one of the most prevalent aspects of

distracted driving, other forms of distracted driving include eating or drinking, changing radio station, CD or MP3 player, talking to passengers, grooming and more.

National statistics demonstrate the risks associated with distracted driving are extensive:

- Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times more likely to get into crashes causing injuries. (Insurance Institute for Highway Safety)

- Cell phone use while driving is comparable to driving drunk. Using a cell phone while driving, whether hand-held or hands-free, delays a driver's reactions as much as being legally drunk (having a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent). (University of Utah)

- Drivers under 20 years of age account for the largest percentage of distracted drivers - 16 percent of all drivers under age 20 involved in fatal crashes were reported to have been distracted while driving. (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)

"Each person plays a role in stopping distracted driving," adds Nelson. "No text or call is worth a life. Do your part."

## Keep Smiling!

Wallace, Rural Arts Initiative curator for the North Dakota Museum of Art.

The NCAC's newest event in conjunction with the student show is a two-hour, packed with fun, Chili Cook-Off. Contestants will be preparing their favorite chili recipe for the public to test taste for cash prizes. The cook-off will be held in the Pekin Community Center from 3 to 5 p.m.

*Reading is good for the mind!*

## PUBLIC NOTICE

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
Minnkota Power Coop, Inc.

345 kV Transmission Line - Center to Grand Forks

Siting Application

Case No. PU-09-670

NOTICE OF FILING AND NOTICE OF HEARINGS

March 24, 2011

On February 18, 2011, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) filed an application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for Transmission Facility Corridor for approximately 260 miles of 345 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be constructed from the Center Substation near Center, North Dakota to the Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota, as shown on the attached map.

Minnkota requests the Commission approve a 1,000 foot-wide corridor under N.D. Admin. Code Section 69-06-04-02(b). If a corridor certificate is granted then a separate route permit application and hearing is required before designating a transmission line route within the approved corridor.

Three separate public hearings will be held with each covering an overview of the project, but focusing on specific portions of the project in the specific areas of each hearing. A Public Hearing on the application will be held:

May 3, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at the Grand Forks County Building Conference Room, 151 S 4th Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Grand Forks, Nelson and Steele Counties

May 4, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at the Chieftain Conference Center Tepee Room, 60 4th Ave. S, Carrington, ND 58204. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Eddy, Foster, Griggs, eastern Sheridan and Wells Counties

May 13, 2011, 9:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall, 805 Main Ave. Washburn, ND 58577. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Burleigh, McLean, Oliver and western Sheridan Counties.

The issues to be considered are:

1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?

2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?

3. Will the proposed facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?

4. Is it appropriate for the Commission to approve a 1,000 foot-wide corridor as requested in the application?

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Kevin Cramer, Commissioner

Tony Clark, Chairman

Brian P. Kalk, Commissioner

## Aneta Star

(USPS 545-120)

Volume 57 - Number 33

Friday, April 8, 2011

Published each Thursday by Ness Press, Inc.

122 North Main Street, Fordville, ND 58231 - 701-229-3641

e-mail nespres@polarcomm.com + Fax 701-229-3217

Gunnard Ness, Publisher

Truman Ness, Editor

Periodicals postage paid at the post office

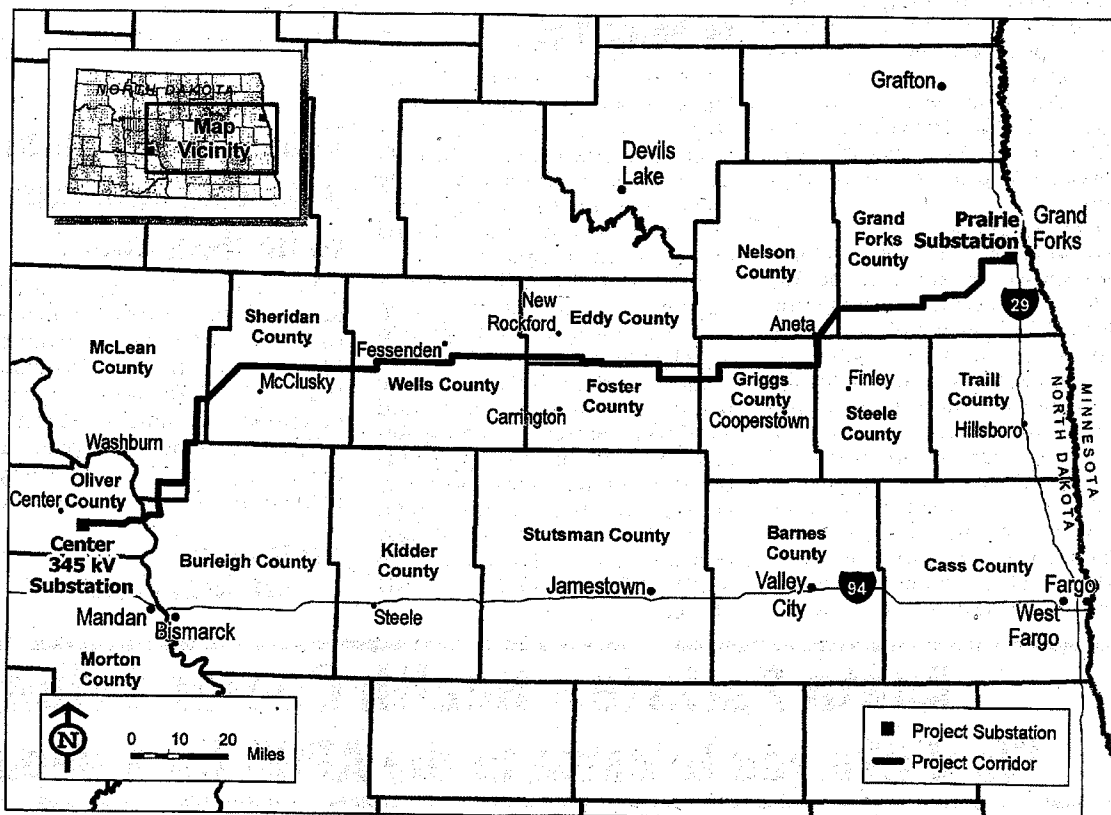
Main Street, Fordville, ND 58231

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Aneta Star

Box 157, Fordville, ND 58231

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year .....	\$23.00
Six months .....	\$14.00
Nine month student rate .....	\$14.00
OUT OF STATE	
One Year .....	\$26.00
Six Months .....	\$17.00



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