

215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496
218 739-8200
www.otpco.com (web site)

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June 7, 2011

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

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION **OTTER TAIL**
ENERGY SERVICES

**RE: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
345 kV Transmission Line –
Center to Grand Forks – Siting
Application
Case No. PU-09-670**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please accept this letter of support in the above-referenced docket that is presently pending before the Commission. Otter Tail Energy Services Company (“OTESCO”), a subsidiary of Otter Tail Corporation, is currently in the advanced stages of developing a 61,400 acre wind project site in Sheridan County, North Dakota. Through OTESCO, two projects known as Sheridan Ridge Wind I and Sheridan Ridge Wind II (collectively “Sheridan Wind”) have carried out substantial engineering, design, environmental, public relations, and advance permitting work.

The purpose of this letter is to state OTESCO’s support of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota’s) Center to Grand Forks Project (CGF). Investments such as CGF offer the additional high voltage transmission infrastructure that is absolutely necessary to accommodate the transmission of power generated in North Dakota, which may include current and future wind projects. This is not to mention the reliability enhancement that the CGF project will bring to the regional grid and to all North Dakota customers.

OTESCO has completed its review of the potential impact of Minnkota’s proposed route in the Sheridan County area that includes some of the same parcels already secured by OTESCO for the Sheridan Wind projects. Our analysis has concluded that the Sheridan Wind projects and the CGF project can coexist in very close proximity to each other. Not only is Minnkota’s proposed 345 kV transmission line project compatible with our current wind farm layout, it may enhance our wind farm project and others by providing additional transmission capacity, reliability improvement, and regional voltage support as we continue to develop North Dakota’s vast energy resources to their best potential. As such, we strongly support it.

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Hrdlicka
Manager Permitting & Design
Otter Tail Energy Services Company

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Letter of support