

Appendix G
Public and Agency Coordination

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The public and agency coordination efforts that began over two years ago assisted Minnkota with identifying the best possible Project Route for a transmission line within the Project Corridor described in this application.

Keeping the public and agencies informed about the Project’s status has been a key component of the route selection process. Throughout the process Minnkota pursued a public outreach effort that provided comment opportunities for landowners, federal and state agencies, and local government units. In general, this section discusses Minnkota’s outreach efforts during the time period from submittal of the Corridor Certificate Application to submittal of this Route Permit Application.

Minnkota engaged interested stakeholders in the route development process through a variety of tools including direct communication with landowners, a Project-specific web site (www.minnkotacgf.com), and a Project-specific information phone line (800-473-5679). To continue the coordination, Minnkota mailed quarterly newsletters to interested stakeholders who requested to be on the mailing list. This list included members of the public, agencies, and non-government organizations. Minnkota will continue to notify the public of Project milestones through Project completion.

The RUS continues to consult with the USFWS through the Section 7 consultation process and SHPO through the Section 106 consultation process. In addition, as requested by the Commission in the Certificate of Corridor Compatibility Order, Minnkota coordinated with Grand Forks Prairie Partners and Audubon Dakota through a letter, email, and field walk.

Table 1 lists the public and agency coordination effort during the time period from submittal of the Corridor Certificate Application to submittal of this Route Permit Application.

Table 1. Public and Agency Coordination

Public	Meeting/Publication Date
Newsletter #1	3/14/2011
Newsletter #2	5/30/2011
Newsletter #3	9/26/2011
State and Federal Agency	
NDGF Wilbur Boldt WMA easement	Began contacting the NDGFD in June 2011 and received notice that the easement was approved by Governor Dalrymple on 11/22/2011
NDGF GIS data update	March 2011
NDPR Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant project update	9/23/11
NDPR GIS data update	11/4/2011
ND State Engineer – Sovereign Lands Permit	11/16/2011
USBOR	Began conversations with the USBOR in June 2011 and received notice on 10/28/2011 that the USBOR would waive their requirements to eliminate all structures from their property and grant a permit upon completion of application and submittal of fees

Public	Meeting/Publication Date
USFWS – Discussions with RUS regarding the Section 7 consultation and draft BA	Ongoing
USFWS GIS data update	4/29/2011
USFWS easement crossing permitting	Meeting - 5/6/2011 Discussions - Ongoing
USFWS field review of easements	9/12-9/16, 2011
NRCS – Seed mix recommendation discussion	5/16/2011
NRCS - Form AD-1006	5/23/2011
SHPO – Discussions with RUS regarding the Section 106 consultation, PA, cultural resources sites, and architectural properties	Ongoing
SHPO review letter on PA (included in Appendix C)	6/7/2011
SHPO concurrence letter on the Historic Building Inventory (included in Appendix E)	9/8/2011
Native American Tribes and Communities	
PA review	5/31/2011
Section 7 consultation meeting	6/22/2011
Non-Government Organization	
Audubon Dakota	Letter – 9/26/2011 Email – 10/27/11
Grand Forks Prairie Partners	Letter – 9/26/2011 Email – 10/26/2011 Field Review – 11/3/2011

County and Township Conditional Use Permit Status

Starting in fall 2010, Minnkota met with county commissioners from the 11 counties and self-permitting townships. Table 2 lists the status of the county and township conditional use permits.

Table 2. Conditional Use Permit Status

County/Township	Conditional Use Permit Approval
Oliver Co.	Yes
Painted Woods Twp – Burleigh Co.	Yes
Wilson Twp – Burleigh Co.	Yes
McLean Co.	Yes
Sheridan Co.	Yes
Wells Co.	Yes
Eddy Co. ¹	Yes
Foster Co.	Yes
Griggs Co.	Yes
Addie Twp – Griggs Co.	Yes
Sharon Twp – Steele Co.	Yes
Franklin Twp – Steele Co.	Yes
Nelson Co.	Yes
Grand Forks Co.	Yes
Fairfield Twp – Grand Forks Co.	(See Note 2)
Logan Twp – Grand Forks Co.	(See Note 2)
Lorretta Twp – Grand Forks Co.	(See Note 2)

Notes:

¹ Eddy Co. does not have formal process, but has issued letter from County Commissioners authorizing approval.

² Townships with planning & zoning authority in Grand Forks Co. requested delay in local permitting process until Grand Forks Co. approval was authorized.

Comment Summary

Minnkota collected public comments from the web site, letters, and hot line to identify concerns about the Project or routing suggestions. Tables 3a and 3b provide a summary of the form and topic of the comments received to date.

Table 3a. Comment Summary

Media	07/01/2011 to 11/14/2011	Pre-07/01/2011	Total To Date
Email		22	22
Hotline	1	93	94
In person		3	3
Letter	1	49	50
Meeting Comment Form		33	33
Phone		28	28
Public Meeting		1	1
Website	11	87	98
Total	13	316	329

Table 3b. Comment Summary

Topic	07/01/2011 to 11/14/2011	Pre-07/01/2011	Agency	Public
Access		1		1
Agricultural Impacts		13	3	10
Cost		2		2
Cultural Resources		12	10	2
EMF		2		2
Employment	2	26	1	27
Endangered Species		5	3	2
Environmental Impacts	2	21	7	16
General		43	5	38
Mail List	6	92	3	95
Management Areas		11	8	3
Permitting		3	2	1
Project Need		2		2
Property Values		2		2
Recreation		3	3	
Routing	4	126	11	119
ROW		49	3	46
Safety		4		4
Visual/Aesthetics		1		1
Surface Water		3	2	1

Topic	07/01/2011 to 11/14/2011	Pre-07/01/2011	Agency	Public
Wetlands		3	3	
Wind Development		2		2