

January 20, 2012

VIA HAND DELIVERY

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

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2012

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On December 2, 2011, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (“Minnkota”), filed a Transmission Facility Route Permit Application (“Application”) and accompanying Request for Modification of the Project Corridor and for Waiver of Procedures and Time Schedules (“Corridor Modification and Waiver Request”) with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) for its Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project (“Project”). Since that time, Minnkota has determined that an adjustment to one of the requested corridor modifications is required, as well as four minor right-of-way alignment adjustments.

With respect to the corridor adjustment, Modification 3, discussed on pages 4 and 5 of the Corridor Modification and Waiver Request, needs to be adjusted slightly to the north in order to accommodate a routing request from the landowner. A revised Exhibit 1c is enclosed, which depicts the Project Corridor approved by the Commission (September 7, 2011), the initial Proposed Modified Corridor (November 18, 2011), and the Proposed Modified Corridor Change (January 13, 2012). The corridor proposed remains on the same landowner’s property and, thus, no new landowners are affected.

In addition, four minor right-of-way alignment adjustments have been made in order to accommodate landowner requests or to avoid cultural resources, and revised versions of the relevant pages of Figure 2 from the Application are enclosed depicting the original alignment and the adjusted alignment. The four adjustments are described below:

Attorneys & Advisors / Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.

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fax 701
www.fre

125 PU-09-670 Filed: 1/20/2012 Pages: 13
**Adjustment to modified corridor and right-of-way
alignment and adjustments**

1. McLean County: A structure was shifted slightly to the west in Section 36, Township 143 North, Range 81 West in McLean County in order to avoid a cultural resource site (*see* Figure 2: Page 4 of 50);
2. Wells and Eddy Counties: A segment of the right-of-way approximately 17.5 miles long running east-west and extending from Section 28, Township 148 North, Range 70 West in Oshkosh Township, Wells County to Section 28, Township 148 North, Range 67 West, in Rosefield Township, Eddy County was shifted approximately 50 feet to the south in order to accommodate landowner routing requests (*see* Figure 2: Pages 22 of 50 through 25 of 50);
3. Eddy County: The right-of-way was shifted north to the section line in Sections 27 and 28, Township 148 North, Range 67 West in Rosefield Township, Eddy County, and then turns south and east in the NW/4 of Section 27, rather than turning south and east in the NE/4 of Section 27 (as originally proposed). These adjustments were made in order to accommodate the landowner's routing requests (this is the same area in which the Proposed Modified Corridor Change discussed above is located) (*see* Figure 2: Page 25 of 50);
4. Grand Forks County: The right-of-way was shifted slightly to the north in Sections 14 and 15, Township 151 North, Range 51 West in Brenna Township, Grand Forks County in order to accommodate landowners' routing requests (*see* Figure 2: Page 50 of 50).

Except for adjustment number 3, all of the adjustments are within the Proposed Modified Corridor (November 18, 2011) set forth in Minnkota's Application, and no new landowners are affected by any of the adjustments. In addition, adjustment number 4 results in one less home being located within 500 feet of the proposed transmission line. The other siting criteria information provided in the Application and in the Corridor Modification and Waiver Request remains unchanged by the adjustments. The adjustments noted above will be incorporated into the final plan and profile set that Minnkota will file with the Commission at least one (1) week prior to the first public hearing.

Finally, Minnkota has determined that Laydown Area 7 was inaccurately depicted on the figures provided with the Application. The correct location of Laydown Area 7 is depicted on Figure 2: Page 50 of 50, provided herewith.

In addition to the originals, enclosed are ten (10) copies of this letter, the above-referenced documents and an affidavit of service, as well as a CD containing electronic versions of the same. By copy of this letter, the auditors for each county in which any part of the proposed Project corridor will be located are being served with a copy of the above-referenced documents.

Mr. Darrell Nitschke
January 20, 2012
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Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/ms

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Leslie Korgel, McLean Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Mr. Kevin Glatt, Burleigh Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Shirley A. Murray, Sheridan Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Janell Rudel, Wells Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Mary Ripplinger, Eddy Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Mr. Roger Schlotman, Foster Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Cynthia Anton, Griggs Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Linda Leadbetter, Steele Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Mr. W.J. Davidson, Nelson Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Debbie Nelson, Grand Forks Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Ms. Judith Hintz, Oliver Co. Auditor (*w/ encl. – via U.S. Mail*)
Mr. Gerad Paul (*w/ encl. – via e-mail*)
Mr. Mike Hennes (*w/ encl. – via e-mail*)
Mr. John Graves (*w/ encl. – via e-mail*)
Mr. Wally Lang (*w/ encl. – via e-mail*)
Mr. Brian Hunker (*w/ encl. – via e-mail*)

Janell Rudel
Wells Co. Auditor
700 Railway St N
PO Box 37
Fessenden, ND 58438-0037

Mary Ripplinger
Eddy Co. Auditor
524 Central Ave
New Rockford, ND 58356-1652

Roger Schlotman
Foster Co. Auditor
1000 5th St N
PO Box 104
Carrington, ND 58421-0104

Cynthia Anton
Griggs Co. Auditor
808 Rollin Ave SW
PO Box 511
Cooperstown, ND 58425-0511


Linda Leadbetter
Steele Co. Auditor
201 Washington Ave W
PO Box 275
Finley, ND 58230-0275

W.J. Davidson
Nelson Co. Auditor
210 B Ave W, Suite 201
Lakota, ND 58344-7410

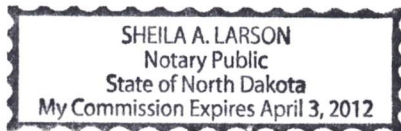
Debbie Nelson
Grand Forks Co. Auditor
151 S 4th St
PO Box 5726
Grand Forks, ND 58206-5726

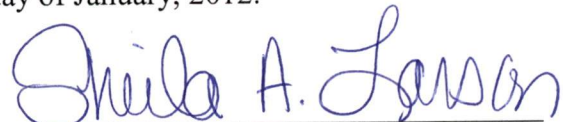
Judith Hintz
Oliver Co. Auditor
115 West Main
PO Box 188
Center, ND 58530-0188

and depositing the same, with postage prepaid, with the United States Postal Service at Bismarck, North Dakota.


Tammy St. Vincent

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 20th day of January, 2012.




Notary Public

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