CENTER TO GRAND FORKS 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

SCOPING REPORT

March 2010



U.S. Department of Agriculture
Rural Utilities Service

EXHIBIT E

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List of Acronyms

Abbreviation	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
ACSR	Aluminum conductor steel reinforced
ACSS	Aluminum conductor steel supported
AES	Alternatives Evaluation Study
CFR	Code of federal regulations
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
EA	Environmental Assessment with scoping
EMF	Electric and Magnetic Fields
FAA	Federal Aviation Administration
HVDC	High Voltage Direct-Current
kV	Kilovolt
MCM	Thousand Circular Mills
MCS	Macro-Corridor Study
Minnkota	Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
MW	Megawatt
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOI	Notice of Intent
OPGW	Optical Ground Wire
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PPA	Power Purchase Agreements
Project	Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project
PSA	Public Service Announcement
PSC	Public Service Commission
ROW	Right-of-Way
RUS	Rural Utilities Service
STATSGO	State Soil Geographic Database
SSURGO	Soil Survey Geographic Database
SVC	Static VAR Compensator
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TW	Trapezoidal Wire
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service

1.0 Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)'s Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is considering a request for funding for a proposal by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The proposal is for the planned Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project (Project), an approximately 260-mile-long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in North Dakota. As specified in RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures, as codified in 7 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1794, the proposed Project requires the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) with scoping (7 CFR 1794.24[b][1]). Accordingly, scoping meetings with the public, federal, state, and local agencies, and tribal governments were held between November 16 and November 19, 2009. This scoping report identifies and summarizes comments received during the scoping period from November 20 to December 18, 2009 and identifies what will be evaluated in the EA.

This report describes the proposed Project, outlines the agency and public scoping meetings and materials, and provides a summary of the comments received at those meetings, which were held between November 16 and November 19, 2009. In addition, this document includes ten appendices containing supplementary information.

2.0 Project Description

Minnkota is proposing to construct an approximately 260-mile-long 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in North Dakota between the Center 345 kV Substation (located northeast of the Milton R. Young Generation Station, near Center, North Dakota) and the Prairie Substation (located west of Grand Forks, North Dakota) (Figure 2-1, page 5). The proposed Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Project) is needed to replace the capability of transmitting the output of Milton R Young Station Unit 2 over an existing high voltage direct-current (HVDC) transmission line, and to improve regional electrical system reliability. The proposed Project could also support wind generation development in North Dakota.

The proposed Project would consist of the following six major components.

- **345 kV High Voltage Transmission Line** – The proposed Project consists of approximately 260 miles (based on the average length of typical routes within the Macro-Corridors) of new, high voltage alternating current transmission line to run from the Center 345 kV Substation at the Milton R. Young Generation Station near Center, North Dakota, to the Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota. A crossing of the Missouri River in central North Dakota would be required. The proposed Project would deliver existing baseload generation to Minnkota's cooperative members. While final engineering and design has not been completed, the line would likely be constructed with single-pole steel structures (Table 2-1). Typical structures would be approximately 150-feet-high and placed approximately 1,000-feet apart. The typical right-of-way (ROW) for a single pole 345 kV line would be approximately 150-feet-wide. It is anticipated that the proposed Project would use 795 MCM (thousand circular mills - conductor diameter) or 954 MCM aluminum conductor steel reinforced (ACSR) or aluminum conductor steel supported (ACSS) conductors (bundled) to minimize corona. The conductor size may need to be modified once the preferred route is selected and additional electrical optimization studies are completed. In addition, a fiber-optic cable would be part of the static line for the entire 260 mile transmission line length.
- **Center 345 kV Substation Upgrades** – Most upgrades would occur within the existing substation's fenced boundary (ownership shared with Otter Tail Power Company). This would involve installing new 345 kV circuit breakers, 345 kV dead-end structures, a new 345/230 kV transformer and associated bus work, new 345 kV switches and associated foundations, steel structures, and control panels. A line reactor for open line voltage control may also be required. If the reactor is required a 22,500 square foot addition to the north end of the substation would be needed.
- **Additional 230 kV Tie Line** –This approximately 1,500-foot-long 230 kV tie line would parallel the existing tie line on Minnkota-owned property. It would be needed to complete a transmission-to-transmission interconnection with the Square Butte 230 kV Substation.
- **Square Butte 230 kV Substation Upgrades** – Existing 230 kV circuit breakers and line terminal equipment would be re-allocated from the existing HVDC tie line to the new 345 kV interconnect as part of the agreement with Minnesota Power.

- **Prairie Substation Upgrades** – All upgrades would occur within the existing Minnkota-operated substation's fenced boundary. This would involve installing new 345 kV circuit breakers, 345 kV dead-end structures, two new 345/230 kV transformers and associated bus work, new 345 kV switches and associated foundations, steel structures, and control panels. New 230 kV circuit breakers would be added to accommodate interconnecting with the existing 230 kV ring bus. Existing transmission line termination would need to be moved to convert the ring bus into a breaker-and-a-half bus arrangement.
- **Fiber Optic Regeneration Stations** – Two or more fiber optic regeneration stations would be required along the transmission line route to re-amplify the protection and control signals carried in the optical ground wire (OPGW). Each station would require a 50 foot by 50 foot fenced area and small control building to house the electronic equipment.

Table 2-1. Typical Characteristics of 345 kV Transmission Line Structures

345 kV Transmission Line	Details
Voltage (kV)	345 kV
ROW width (feet)	150
Span (feet)	1,000
Range of structure heights (feet)	120 - 150 (single circuit) 120 - 175 (double circuit)
Number of structures per mile	5 – 7
Minimum ground clearance beneath conductor (feet)	35 - 40
Depth of concrete footings for the poles (feet)	20 – 40
Diameter of concrete footings for the poles (feet)	7 – 10

The cost of constructing the proposed 345 kV line is estimated to be in the range of $1.1 to $1.8 million per mile in 2009 dollars (including ROW, permitting, and other ancillary costs) with a total estimated cost for line construction of approximately $286 million. An additional estimated $37 million would be required to modify the terminus substations near Center and Grand Forks, North Dakota, for a total estimated Project construction cost of $323 million for a 260 mile line. Minnkota has a target completion date for the proposed Project of January 1, 2013.

Studies are underway to address third party impacts to neighboring transmission systems as well as to address the needs of potential interconnection customers who have requests listed on Minnkota's interconnection queue[1]. Figure 2-2 (Page 5) identifies areas of potential project upgrades due to interconnect requests. The results of these studies may indicate a need to increase the overall scope of this proposed Project. Such scope changes could include the addition of one or more of the following eight project components. The cost of these proposed Project additions would be borne by the beneficiaries of the additions.

[1] Current requests are for wind energy development projects.

- Tap the proposed Project in the area of Finley, North Dakota, and develop a 345 kV transmission line section between Finley and Fargo. Develop a new 345 kV substation near Finley.
- Increase conductor size or type on the base Project between Center and Finley. The use of ACSS or ACSS/TW (aluminum conductor steel supported/trapezoidal wire) can raise the thermal capability without increasing conductor diameter.
- Insert a series compensation station at the tap point near Finley to lower the effective impedance of the line and increase transfer capability.
- Convert all structures between Center and Finley to double-circuit-ready structures to accommodate a future second 345 kV circuit.
- Add a second 345 kV circuit between Center and Finley.
- Add phase shifting transformers to the Square Butte 230 kV Substation to decrease flows into the 230 kV system at Center.
- Add shunt capacitors to the Jamestown 345 kV Substation to increase transfer capability.
- Add an SVC (Static VAR compensator) to the Maple River Substation to increase transfer capability.

RUS environmental review of the proposed Project was initiated by submittal of an Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and a Macro-Corridor Study (MCS) from Minnkota (www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm#Minnkota_Power_Cooperative,_Inc._). These studies were approved by RUS on October 22, 2009 and made available for the public and agencies to review and provide comment. The AES was developed to define the proposed Project need and summarize the studies and transmission alternatives that were used to develop the Project need. The purpose of the MCS was to identify and define potential transmission line corridors and show end points. The transmission line corridors were developed based upon environmental, engineering, economics, and permitting opportunities and constraints. These documents outlined the need for the proposed Project and determined potential corridors.

Figure 2-1. Project Area and Macro-Corridors

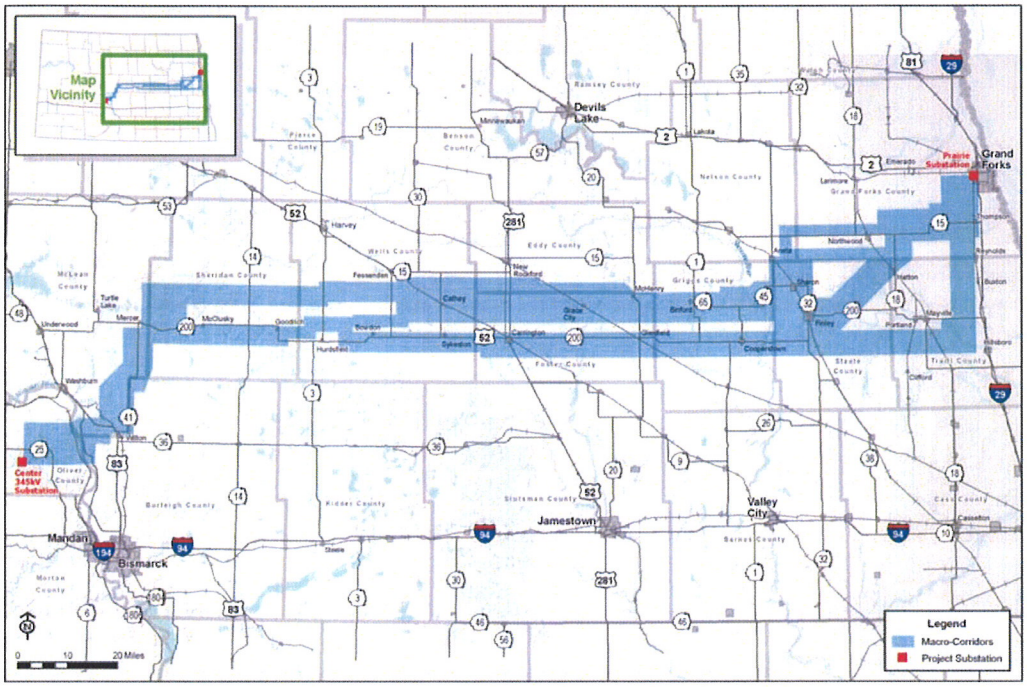
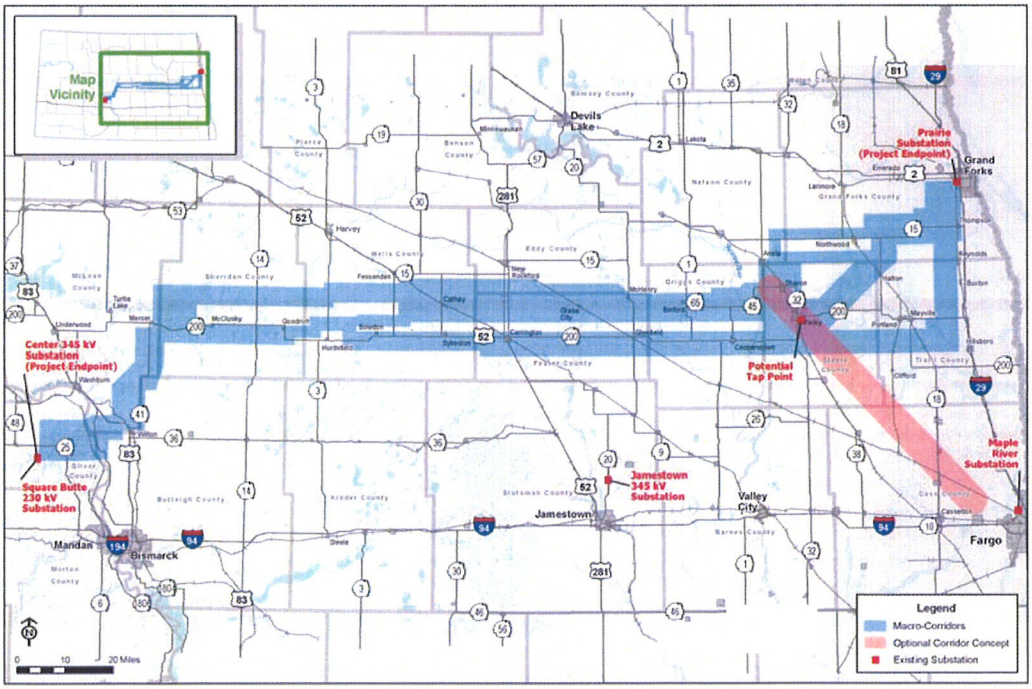


Figure 2-2. Potential Project Upgrade Areas due to Interconnection Requests



2.1 Summary of the Alternative Evaluation Study

The AES assesses different technological alternatives such as no action, load management, conservation, baseload generation, intermediate generation, peaking generation, and several transmission alternatives. The outcome of the AES stated that the solution for meeting the energy demand and voltage stability needs of the Red River Valley region was to construct a new 345 kV transmission line between Center and Grand Forks, North Dakota.

The Milton R. Young Generation Station has two generating units, Young 1 and Young 2. Currently, Young 2 output is carried over a dedicated HVDC transmission line from central North Dakota to eastern Minnesota. Over the next few years, two main actions will take place through amendments of the power purchase agreements (PPA) between Square Butte Electric Cooperative, Minnkota, and Minnesota Power, as follows:

- Rights to the existing HVDC transmission line from the Milton R. Young Generation Station to Duluth, Minnesota, have been transferred to Minnesota Power. Beginning in 2013 it will no longer be available to carry the full generation output of Young 2.
- Rights to the total output (455 MW) of Young 2 will be transferred to Minnkota over time.

With the reassignment of the HVDC system, Young 2 power will need to be moved over the alternating current transmission system to Minnkota's service territory. As discussed in the AES, system studies have shown that the transfer capacity on the alternating current system needs to be increased between Young 2 and Minnkota's service territory, and that a new 345 kV transmission line from Young 2 to the Prairie Substation would be the best solution. A new line between these endpoints would also improve voltage stability and load serving capability to the northern Red River Valley. This would not be new generation, but a change in how the power is delivered to the users.

2.2 Summary of Macro-Corridor Study

The MCS was developed to identify macro-corridors within which the transmission line could be built. Upon consultation with a broad range of stakeholders, including the public, local, state, and federal agencies, and tribal governments with an interest in the Project area, Minnkota identified potential macro-corridors, which could be assessed during RUS's scoping process. The macro-corridors were established with the intention that multiple route options could be developed that pass a limited number of residences, minimize environmental impacts, cross rivers near existing linear infrastructure, and avoid conflicting land uses. Figure 2-1 illustrates the macro-corridors presented in the AES and MCS and reviewed during the scoping process.

The AES and MCS were released for public review and comment on October 22, 2009. The public was able to access the documents on both the RUS and Minnkota's Project websites. Hard copies of the documents were available for review at the scoping meetings and distributed to the following libraries:

- Aneta Public Library, 11995 19th St, Aneta, ND 58212-0088
- Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library, 515 N. 5th St, Bismarck, ND 58501-4057
- Oliver County Auditor, 115 West Main, Center, ND 58530
- City of Carrington Library, 55 9th Ave, Carrington, ND 58421-2017
- Griggs County Library, 902 Burrel Ave, Cooperstown, ND 58425-0546
- Goodrich Public Library, 122 McKinley Ave, Goodrich, ND 58444-0175
- Grand Forks Library, 2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201-6324
- Harvey Public Library, 119 10th St, Harvey, ND 58341-1531
- Mayville Library, 52 Center Ave, Mayville, ND 58257-1299
- Sheridan County Auditor, 215 East 2nd St, McClusky, ND 58356-1510
- New Rockford Public Library, 811 1st Ave N, New Rockford, ND 58356-1510
- Turtle Lake Public Library, 107 Eggert Street, Turtle Lake, ND 58575-0540
- Washburn Public Library, 705 Main Ave, Washburn, ND 58577-0637
- Northwood Public Schools and City Library, 300 35th St, Northwood, ND 58267

3.0 Minnkota's Pre-Scoping Process

Beginning in March 2009, Minnkota launched a pre-scoping public involvement campaign for the proposed Project. This was an effort to inform and gather data from the public, agencies, and tribal governments on the proposed Project. Minnkota held five public open house meetings in May 2009, presented the proposed Project at thirteen county commissioner meetings, met with a variety of state and federal agencies at a North Dakota Inter-Agency meeting, sent letters to tribal representatives, and held an additional open house meeting in August 2009.

The objective of this outreach was to educate interested stakeholders on the purpose and description of the proposed Project and gather information to develop potential corridors for the MCS. To achieve this objective, Minnkota publicized the proposed Project and public meetings through press releases, local advertisements, informational postcards to the public, and letters to county commissioners, agencies, townships, and tribes. A toll-free Project information hotline and website were established to offer resources and to collect input.

Table 3-1 provides a list of comments received by topic during the pre-scoping phase of the proposed Project. All pre-scoping comments received are located in Appendix A.

Table 3-1. Pre-Scoping Comments by Topic

Comment Topic	Number of Comments
Mailing List Request	57
Routing	34
General Public Involvement	25
ROW	5
Employment	4
Wind Development	2
EMF	1
Management Areas	1

4.0 RUS's Agency & Tribal Government Scoping Process

4.1 Federal, State, and Local Agencies

RUS held an agency scoping meeting for interested federal, state, and local agencies in a presentation meeting format. The agency scoping meeting was held on November 19, 2009 at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) office at 3425 Miriam Avenue, Bismarck, North Dakota.

4.1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the scoping meeting was to provide the agencies with information regarding the proposed Project and to discuss the following items:

- Project permitting concerns
- Scoping of environmental issues to be analyzed in the RUS environmental review and documentation of the Project (RUS Bulletin 1794A-603)
- Roles and expectations of the lead and cooperating agencies
- Schedule

4.1.2 Notification

RUS notified federal and state agencies of the proposed Project by mailing letters on November 2, 2009, that detailed the role of the RUS in the proposed Project, invited recipients to the agency scoping meeting, outlined the availability of the MCS and AES, specified the dates and locations of the public and agency scoping meetings, provided contact information for the RUS representative assigned to the proposed Project, and detailed the process for submitting comments (Appendix B).

4.1.3 Agency Attendance

A total of nine participants representing the following agencies signed in at the agency scoping meeting (Appendix B):

- Bureau of Reclamation
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation
- North Dakota State Water Commission
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office
- Federal Highway Administration

4.2 Tribal Governments

The MCS and AES discussed in Sections 2.1 and 2.2 of this report were submitted to all tribal chairs and Tribal Historic Preservation Offices for review.

4.2.1 Purpose

RUS is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. §§ 470f, and its implementing regulations, 36 C.F.R. §§ 800.3-800.7, require federal

agency consultation with Indian Tribes that may be affected by the proposed Project. RUS is coordinating consultation with the tribal governments.

4.2.2 Invitation to Consult

RUS invited the following tribal governments to participate in government–to-government and Section 106 consultation for the proposed Project. The tribal governments were also invited to field meetings in September 2009 at the Missouri and Sheyenne rivers due to a higher potential for cultural resources, and are being consulted during the preparation of a Programmatic Agreement. The two letters sent to the tribes are included in Appendix C.

- Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
- Bois Forte Ojibwe
- Crow Creek Sioux
- Flandreau Santee Sioux
- Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
- Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe
- Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Lower Brule Sioux
- Lower Sioux Community
- Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe
- Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
- Northern Cheyenne nations
- Oglala Sioux
- Red Lake Band of Chippewa
- Rosebud Sioux
- Santee Sioux
- Cheyenne River Sioux
- Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate
- Spirit Lake Tribe
- Standing Rock Sioux
- Three Affiliated Tribes
- Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
- Upper Sioux Community
- White Earth Band of Ojibwe

No tribal government participated in the scoping meetings or attended the September 2009 field meetings. Following these meetings, the Applicant contacted each tribe directly to determine its interest in the Project. This effort identified other tribes that may have an interest in consulting. These additional tribes were contacted and are included in the list in Table 4.1. RUS received letters and oral communication from several tribal governments that have expressed interest to participate in the Section 106 process for this project. RUS will continue to consult with the tribal governments as indicated in Table 4-1.

Table 4-1. Tribal Government Consultation List

Tribe	Consultation Status
Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation	Consulting party
Bois Forte Ojibwe	Declined invitation
Crow Creek Sioux	No response to date
Crow Tribe of Indians	No response to date
Flandreau Santee Sioux	Declined invitation
Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	No response to date
Grand Portage Band of Ojibwe	No response to date
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	Declined invitation
Lower Brule Sioux	No response to date
Lower Sioux Community	No response to date
Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe	Consulting party
Northern Cheyenne Nations	Consulting party
Oglala Sioux	No response to date
Prairie Island Indian Community	No response to date
Red Lake Band of Chippewa	Declined invitation
Rosebud Sioux	Undecided
Santee Sioux	Consulting party
Cheyenne River Sioux	Undecided
Sisseton Wahpeton Oyate	Consulting party
Spirit Lake Tribe	No response to date
Standing Rock Sioux	No response to date
Three Affiliated Tribes	Undecided
Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa	Consulting party
Upper Sioux Community	No response to date
White Earth Band of Ojibwe	Consulting party

4.3 Agency and Tribal Government Comments

The following federal, state, and local agencies and tribes provided written scoping comments that were mailed to RUS or Minnkota:

- Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- North Dakota Department of Health – Environmental Health Section
- North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
- U.S. Department of Interior – National Park Service
- U.S. Department of Transportation – Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

The comments discussed environmental topics including but not limited to cultural resources, management areas, recreation, routing concerns and suggestions, and general environmental impacts (Table 4-2). All agency and tribal government comments submitted during the scoping period are provided in Appendix D.

Table 4-2. Agency and Tribal Government Comments

Comment Topic	Number of Comments
Cultural Resources	3
Cumulative Impacts	1
EA vs. EIS	1
Environmental Impacts	3
General	1
Management Areas	3
Recreation	2
Routing	2
Visual Resources	1

5.0 Public Scoping Process

RUS held six public scoping meetings, as listed in Table 5-1 below, using an open house format. Four of the public scoping meetings—Grand Forks, Carrington, Wilton, and Center—were held between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Cooperstown and McClusky meetings were held between 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Table 5-1. Public Scoping Meeting Dates, Times and Locations

<table>
<tr><th>Monday
November 16, 2009</th><th>Tuesday
November 17, 2009</th><th>Wednesday
November 18, 2009</th><th>Thursday
November 19, 2009</th></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Grand Forks, N.D.
Alerus Center
Eagle Room 10
1200 S 42nd St
5 - 8 pm</td><td>Cooperstown, N.D.
Cooperstown City Hall
611 9th St
10 am - 1 pm</td><td>McClusky, N.D.
McClusky Community Hall
117 Ave B North
10 am - 1 pm</td><td rowspan="2">Center, N.D.
Center Civic Center Building
312 N Lincoln Ave
5 - 8 pm</td></tr>
<tr><td>Carrington, N.D.
The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60
4th Ave South,
Highway 281
5 - 8 pm</td><td>Wilton, N.D.
City of Wilton Memorial Hall
105 Dakota Ave
5 - 8 pm</td></tr>
</table>

5.1 Purpose

The purpose of the public scoping meetings was to provide the public with information regarding the proposed Project, answer questions relating to the proposed Project and environmental review process, identify concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction and operation of the proposed Project, and gather information from the public to determine the scope of issues to be addressed in the RUS environmental review and documentation of the proposed Project (in accordance with RUS Bulletin 1794A-603). The notification process, public scoping meeting, and process for collecting public comments are described in the following sections.

5.2 Scoping Meetings Notices

Several methods were used to notify the public of the scoping process and meetings, including a *Federal Register* notice, legal notices in newspapers, paid advertisement in newspapers, meeting invitation post cards mailed first class, public service announcements (PSAs) on radio and television, Minnkota's toll-free project information line, and the Project website used by Minnkota to provide additional outreach to the public and stakeholders in the proposed Project area.

The Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an EA and hold scoping meetings was published in the *Federal Register* on October 30, 2009. The NOI included a summary of the proposed Project, public scoping meeting information, 30-day public comment period start and end dates, and RUS contact information.

In addition to the NOI, a legal notice was published in the legal section and a paid advertisement was published in the news section of 14 newspapers within the Project area. A press release was distributed to the publications. Table 5-2 lists the names of the publications and dates of the advertisements and legal notices.

Table 5-2. List of Newspapers

Newspaper	County	Publish Date
Center Republican	Oliver	4-Nov-09
McLean County Independent	McLean	4-Nov-09
The Bismarck Tribune	Burleigh	7-Nov-09
Foster County Independent	Foster	4-Nov-09
Grand Forks Herald	Grand Forks	7-Nov-09
Griggs County Courier	Griggs	6-Nov-09
The Herald-Press	Wells	7-Nov-09
Lakota American	Nelson	4-Nov-09
McClusky Gazette	Sheridan	4-Nov-09
New Rockford Transcript	Eddy	2-Nov-09
Steele County Press	Steele	6-Nov-09
Steele Ozone and Kidder County Press	Kidder	4-Nov-09
Traill County Tribune	Traill	6-Nov-09
The Fargo Forum	Cass	7-Nov-09

The NOI is included in Appendix E. The newspaper notices, press release, and PSA are included in Appendix F. The public postcard is included in Appendix G. The Project website is <www.minnkota.com> and the toll free information line is 800.473.5679. The website address and toll-free information line number were provided on all published materials.

5.3 Public Scoping Meetings

An open house format was used to encourage discussion and information sharing and to ensure that the public had opportunities to speak directly with RUS and Minnkota representatives. Stations were set up around the room and staffed with representatives from RUS, Minnkota, or Project consultants. Information stations included:

- Sign-in and Welcome Table
  - Welcome Board
  - Sign-in Sheets
  - RUS Meeting Handout
  - RUS Comment Form
  - Project Fact Sheet

- A series of Project information boards including
  - RUS Overview
  - NEPA Requirements
  - Environmental Assessment Process
  - Project Overview
  - Map of Macro-Corridors
  - Typical Transmission Line Construction
  - Public Participation Information

- Large aerial maps displaying the Project macro-corridors were available for the public to review and mark with comments

- Resources Table
  - Project Frequently Asked Questions
  - Factsheets – Electric and Magnetic Fields, Wind Developers, Stray Voltage
  - Project Business Cards
  - AES and MCS

Sign-in Sheets (Appendix H) and comment forms (Appendix I) were made available to all scoping meeting attendees. Appendix I contains copies of the materials used at the Public scoping meetings including the information boards, large aerial maps, and handouts.

5.4 Public and Non-Government Organization Comments

A total of 27 public and non-government organization comments (excluding map comments) were received during the scoping comment period beginning on November 20, 2009 and ending December 18, 2009. RUS requires a 30-day scoping comment period following the public scoping meetings. Comments collected during the public and agency scoping meetings were included in the scoping comment period. The comments received after the deadline were not included in this report, but will continue to be collected and considered by the RUS. Public comments were submitted using comment forms, letters, e-mails, telephone, online comment submission, and the toll-free Project information line. All comments received by Minnkota were submitted to the RUS for review. A summary of the public and non-government organization comments (excluding map comments) received are organized by topic and provided below in Table 5-3. Eleven topics were discussed within the comments. Note that many of the public comments received discuss more than one topic, explaining why the total comment count in Table 5-3 equals more than the number of comments received during the scoping period.

Each comment was listed as a separate topic and entered into the comment management database. Each comment is only entered into the database once, but is listed under all topics discussed within that comment. The comments received during the scoping period were separated into two main categories; public and non-government organization scoping comments, and agency and tribal government scoping comments. Agency and tribal government scoping comments are discussed in Section 3.5 and Appendix D. All

public and non-government organization scoping comments (excluding map comments) received are located in Appendix J.

Table 5-3. Public and Non-Government Organization Scoping Comments by Topic

Comment Topic	Number of Comments
Agricultural Impacts	3
Cost	2
Cultural Resources	1
Endangered Species	1
Environmental Impacts	3
General Public Involvement	1
Mailing List Request	3
Management Areas	2
Routing	14
Right-of-Way	5
Safety	3

Following is a discussion by topic of the specific resources addressed within each comment.

5.4.1 Agriculture

Three (3) comments were received regarding various aspects of agriculture. The commenters expressed concerns about potential impacts to agricultural lands and livestock, difficulty with farming around pole structures, and potential interference with GPS navigation systems on equipment and other farm communication tools. A common theme from the public was to avoid farmland that is in production and instead use pasture or non-cultivated land for routing. Potential impacts to irrigation systems were an additional concern.

5.4.2 Cost

Two (2) comments were received regarding cost, including the need for annual payments and concerns of land value depreciation of property with poles.

5.4.3 Cultural Resources

One (1) comment was received regarding cultural resources. This was a map that identified cultural resource sites on private property within the macro-corridors.

5.4.4 Endangered Species

One (1) comment was received regarding endangered species. A landowner expressed concerns regarding the whooping crane migration corridors that are located within the macro-corridors.

5.4.5 Environmental Impacts

Three (3) comments were received regarding environmental impacts. Comments identified private conservation areas that have used conservation practices to enhance

wildlife habitat and discussed concerns regarding the affect of the proposed Project on these areas. Additional comments were made regarding old growth tree areas and wetland features within the Project area.

5.4.6 General Public Involvement

One (1) comment was received regarding general public involvement. It was a name correction for future public mailings.

5.4.7 Mailing List Request

Three (3) mailing list requests were received. The toll-free Project information line and website allowed visitors to provide their contact information to be added to the Project mailing list.

5.4.8 Management Areas

Two (2) comments were received regarding the correction of a wildlife management area boundary within the Project area.

5.4.9 Routing

Fourteen (14) comments were received regarding routing concerns and routing options for the proposed Project. Comments included a recommendation to review future land use plans, protection of shelter belts, and to increase the distance of structures from residences. General comments requested that the Project not be routed near the commenter's property. Additional suggestions included the possibility of undergrounding the transmission line, following section lines, and avoiding routing cross country.

5.4.10 Right-of-Way

Five (5) comments were received regarding right-of-way. Notification of surveys as common courtesy prior to survey completion was requested. General comments requested proper clearance area between structures and fencing for farm equipment to maneuver around structures. One commenter requested that Minnkota purchase their entire property.

5.4.11 Safety

Three (3) comments were received regarding safety concerns for people working under the transmission lines and noted that accidents can occur when there are obstacles in the fields.

5.4.12 Mapping Comments

Comments were written directly on the large aerial sheet maps of the macro-corridors that were made available at the public open house meetings. The majority of comments concerned boundaries of landowner's property. Other comments included:

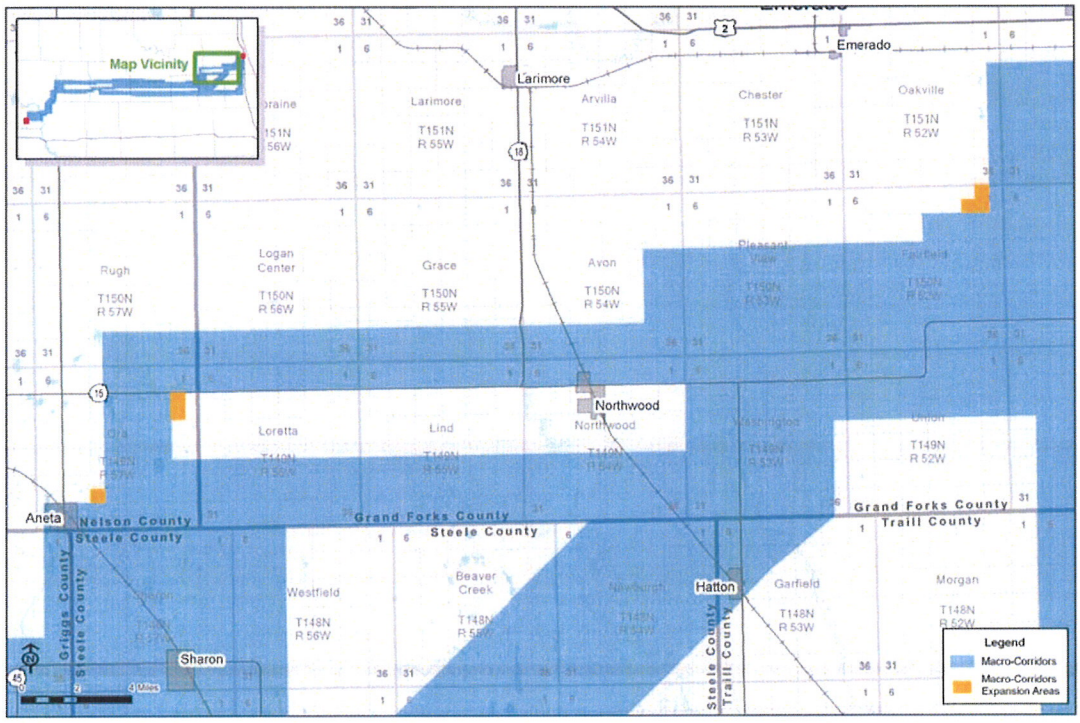
- Locations of center-pivot irrigation systems
- Locations of cultural resources
- Private businesses
- Mining operations
- Land management areas
- Areas of strong Project opposition

6.0 Macro-Corridors Expansion Areas

Through the scoping process, three areas beyond the macro-corridors as presented in the MCS were identified as expansion areas. The three expansion areas are shown in Figure 6-1 and provide additional routing options for the Project. All landowners within the expansion areas have been notified of the Project. The legal land descriptions of the three expansion areas are:

- SW ¼ of section 28 of T149N R57W – Ora Township in Nelson County
- W ½ of section 7 of T149N R57W – Ora Township in Nelson County
- W ½ of section 1 and SE ¼ of section 2 of T150N R52W – Fairfield Township in Grand Forks County

Figure 6-1. Macro-Corridors Expansion Areas



7.0 Project Status

Based on the initial scoping process and additional comments received, RUS has decided to continue in its preparation of an EA and anticipates that distribution of the Draft EA should occur in early summer 2010. A public review and comment period on the Draft EA would occur in the same timeframe. In addition, RUS would engage in necessary agency consultation and coordination regarding potential affects to resources, pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. RUS would continue to review and respond to substantive comments. An agency (RUS) decision regarding the outcome of the NEPA process should be reached in 2010.

8.0 Tentative Environmental Assessment Schedule

The current schedule for developing the EA and the anticipated completion is provided in Table 8-1. This schedule is subject to change as the Project proceeds.

Table 8-1. Tentative EA Schedule

Federal EA Milestones	Date
Submit Alternative Evaluation Study and Macro-Corridor Study to RUS	October 2009
Hold Public Scoping Meetings for EA	November 2009
Publication of RUS Scoping Report	March 2010
Route Public Meetings (held by Minnkota)	April 2010
Publish Draft EA	May - June 2010
Comment Period on Draft EA	June 2010
Publish Final EA and issue agency (RUS) decision	July - August 2010

9.0 Additional Environmental Review Requirements

Minnkota would be required to obtain approvals from a variety of federal, state, and local agencies prior to constructing the proposed Project. During development of the MCS, permitting and regulatory requirements were reviewed to identify jurisdictional authorities.

Agencies with primary approval/permitting authority include RUS and North Dakota PSC. Table 9-1 identifies permits, approvals, and other project coordination that may be needed by federal agencies, tribal governments, the state of North Dakota, counties, and townships. This preliminary listing of regulatory requirements is subject to change as the proposed Project proceeds.

Table 9-1. Required Permits, Approvals, and Coordination

Agency	Permit, Regulatory Compliance, or Coordination
Federal	
Rural Utilities Service	NEPA Compliance and Approval of Financial Assistance, Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act coordination, and Native American Consultation
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, and Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act of 1972
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	Sections 401 and 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
Federal Aviation Administration	Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration, and FAA Form 7460-2, Notice of Actual Construction or Alteration
Department of Agriculture – Natural Resources Conservation Service	Farmland Conversion Form - Form AD-1006
State	
Public Service Commission	Certificate of Site Compatibility, Certificated of Public Convenience and Necessity, and Route Permit
Game and Fish	Protection of Wildlife, Fish and Recreation Areas
Parks and Recreation	Natural Heritage Inventory
State Historical Society	Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act coordination
Department of Transportation	Road Approach/Access Permit, and Utility Permit/Risk Management Documents
Counties	Conditional Use Permits
Townships	Conditional Use Permits

10.0 Conclusion

The intent of the information within this Scoping Report is to identify potential Project affects and concerns that would be addressed in the EA document. All comments within this Scoping Report will be considered while developing the EA.

Appendix A: Pre-Scoping Meeting Materials & Comments

May 2009 Meetings

Public open house meetings were held in May 2009 to announce the project to the public and begin a dialog between Minnkota and the residents within the preliminary study corridors. Additionally, Minnkota attended County Commissioners meetings to give an overall presentation on the purpose and need of the project to elected officials.

Meeting Announcements

For a series of five open house meetings, Minnkota used several forms of communication to educate the public on the project and announce opportunities for involvement. These outreach efforts included a press release and local newspaper advertisements. Minnkota's communication efforts were to invite all members of the public that were located within one mile of the preliminary study corridors.

Press Release

Minnkota published a press release on April 29, 2009 in a number of local print media. Table 1 displays a list of media outlets that received the press release.

Table 1 – May 2009 Media Distribution List

County	Newspaper	Ad Run Date
Burleigh County	Bismarck Tribune	5/6/2009
Eddy County	Devil's Lake Journal	5/5/2009
Eddy County	New Rockford Transcript	5/4/2009
Foster County	Foster County Independent	5/11/2009
Grand Forks	Grand Forks Herald	5/5/2009
Griggs County	Griggs County Courier	5/8/2009
Kidder County	Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press	5/6/2009
Oliver County	Center Republican	5/7/2009
McLean County	McLean County Journal	5/6/2009
McLean County	Washburn Leader-News	5/6/2009
Nelson County	Valley City Times-Record	5/5/2009
Nelson County	Lakota American	5/6/2009
Sheridan County	The Jamestown Sun	5/4/2009
Steele County	Steele County Press	5/6/2009
Traill County	Hillsboro Banner	5/8/2009
Traill County	Traill County Tribune	5/9/2009
Wells County	McClusky Gazette	5/6/2009

Newspaper Advertisement

Minnkota advertised the open house meetings in several local newspapers within the preliminary project area. The advertisement included the time, date, and location of each open house meeting, the toll-free project information line, the project website address, and general project information. The advertisements were scheduled to run a few days prior to the open house meetings. All advertisements were placed in the media outlets listed in Table 1.

Mailings

Approximately 90 letters were mailed out to all county commissioners, townships with permitting jurisdiction and involved agencies. In addition, 12,800 postcards were mailed to all known residents within one mile of the preliminary study corridors.

Agency Letter

Minnkota mailed 16 Agency letters on April 27, 2009. The letters included a project introduction and requested review of resources and potential project impacts within the preliminary study corridors .

County Commissioner Letter

Letters were mailed to all County Commissioners within the preliminary study corridors and follow-up phone calls were made to confirm attendance at the County Commissioner Meetings. Minnkota mailed 17 County Commissioner letters on April 22, 2009. The letter included a project introduction and resource information for public involvement.

Township Letter

Minnkota mailed 57 Township letters on April 22, 2009. The letter included a project introduction and resource information for public involvement. It also included a preliminary explanation of the permitting process.

Postcard

Minnkota mailed out approximately 12,800 postcards on April 29, 2009. The postcard was mailed to all residents within one mile of the preliminary project area. In addition, postcards were sent to 28 mayoral offices. The postcards included the time, date and location of each open house meeting, the toll-free project information line, project website address, and general project information.

Meetings

County Commissioner Meetings

Minnkota attended 13 County Commissioner Meetings. Table 2 provides the county in which the meetings were held, the meeting date, and the Minnkota and HDR, KLJ or KBM representative that attended the meetings.

At each meeting, Minnkota introduced the project to the commissioners with a presentation that covered the project need, project description and location, agency involvement, community concerns, and contact information.

Table 2 – County Commissioner Meetings

County	Meeting Date	Minnkota Representative	Representative
McLean	4/20/2009	Mike Hennes	KLJ – Steve Miller
Eddy	4/21/2009	Kelly Anderson	KLJ- Duane Phillips
Foster	4/21/2009	Paul Mahlen	KLJ - Steve Miller
Grand Forks	4/21/2009	Josie Olson	KLJ – Terry Fasteen
Trail	4/21/2009	John Graves	HDR – Dave Schmitz
Nelson	4/ 29/2009	Josie Olson	KLJ – Duane Phillips
Burleigh	5/4/2009	John Graves	HDR – Dave Schmitz
Griggs	5/5/2009	Kelly Anderson	HDR – Dan Schmidt
Kidder	5/5/2009	Paul Mahlen	KLJ – Duane Phillips
Sheridan	5/5/2009	Mike Hennes	HDR – Dave Schmitz
Steele	5/5/2009	Josie Olson	HDR – Brian Hunker
Wells	5/5/2009	Mike Hennes	HDR – Dave Schmitz
Oliver	5/7/2009	John Graves	HDR – Michelle Bissonnette

Public Meetings

Minnkota held five public open house meetings to educate the public on the purpose and need for the project, the public's role in the routing process, and to gather pertinent public input regarding the transmission line planning. Five meeting locations were determined throughout the proposed project area. The locations were spread out along the proposed corridors to increase meeting participation. Meeting locations, dates and number of attendees can be found in Table 3.

Table 3 – May 2009 Public Open House Meeting Locations, Dates and Attendees

Meeting Location	Meeting Date	Number of Attendees
Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center 838 28th Avenue West Washburn, ND 58577	5/6/2009	17
Wing Public School Lunchroom 4th and main, Wing, ND 58495	5/7/2009	22
The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60 4th Avenue South, Highway 281, Carrington, ND 58421	5/12/2009	48
Griggs County Central High School, Gymnasium 1207 Foster Avenue NE, Cooperstown, ND 58425	5/13/2009	36
Red River High School, Commons, Door #1 2211 17th Avenue S. Grand Forks, ND 58420	5/14/2009	38
	Total	161

Public Meeting Materials

Minnkota developed materials to help facilitate discussions at the Public Open House meetings including hand outs, information boards, project video and large maps of the preliminary project area.

Handouts

Minnkota used a series of educational materials to describe the project overview, planning, and resources available for the public. The handouts included the Center for Grand Forks Project Sheet, Frequently Asked Questions, an EMF Fact Sheet, a Stray Voltage Fact Sheet, a Minnkota Brochure, and Project Business Cards.

Boards

Minnkota set up a series of poster boards to provide project information. The boards included an open house welcome, general project background and purpose, project timeline, photos and engineering drawings of typical 345 kV structures, routing selection information, and opportunities for public involvement through the project process.

Project Video

Minnkota developed an eight minute project video that provided an overview of Minnkota and the purpose and need of the project. The video was rolling throughout the duration of the open house meetings.

Maps

Minnkota provided large aerial maps (34x44 inch) of the entire preliminary study corridors to allow the public to identify their property in relation to the proposed project corridors.

Meeting Plan

A meeting plan was developed to organize general meeting information, open house locations, materials, set-up, and staff contact information.

August 2009 Meeting

Public open houses were held in May 2009, but mailings to the western part of the project area were delayed and not received in time to provide advanced notice of the meetings. Additionally, at this milestone in the project the study corridors changed in several areas, particularly in the western part of the project. Because of these reasons, Minnkota decided to host an additional open house meeting in Center, ND to display project materials, answer questions and address concerns.

Meeting Announcements

To announce the open house meeting held in Center, North Dakota, Minnkota used several forms of communication including a press release and local newspaper advertisements.

Press Release

Minnkota published a press release on August 3, 2009 in a number of local print media. A distribution list for the press release is located in Table 4.

Table 4 – August 2009 Media Distribution List

County	Newspaper
Burleigh County	Bismarck Tribune
Eddy County	Devil's Lake Journal
Grand Forks	Grand Forks Herald
Kidder County	Steele Ozone & Kidder County Press
Oliver County	Center Republican

McLean County	McLean County Journal
McLean County	Washburn Leader-News
Nelson County	Valley City Times-Record
Nelson County	Lakota American
Sheridan County	The Jamestown Sun
Traill County	Traill County Tribune
Wells County	McClusky Gazette

Newspaper Advertisement

Minnkota advertised the open house meeting in three local newspapers within the area near Center, ND (See Table 5). The advertisement included the time, date and location for the open house meeting, the toll-free project information line, the project website and general project information. The advertisements were scheduled to run a few days prior to the open house meeting.

Table 5 – Newspaper Advertisement Media Outlets

County	Newspaper	Run Date
Burleigh County	Bismarck Tribune	09/13/2009 & 09/20/2009
McLean County	McLean County Independent	09/13/2009 & 09/20/2009
Oliver County	Center Republican	09/10/2009 & 09/17/2009

Mailings

Invitation Letter

Minnkota mailed out 938 Invitation Letters to all addresses within the preliminary study corridors west of the Missouri River and all addresses within 10 miles east of the Missouri River within in the preliminary study corridors. This mailing also included 50 new addresses that were added to the contact list due to the changes in the preliminary study corridors for the entire project area. The purpose of the letter was to inform recipients of the change in the preliminary study corridors and to inform them of another opportunity to provide input at an open house meeting.

Meeting

The Center, ND open house meeting was held at the Center Civic Center Building. Listed in Table 6 is the meeting location, date and amount of attendees.

Table 6 – August 2009 Open House Meeting Location, Date and Attendees

Meeting Location	Meeting Date	Number of Attendees
Center Civic Center Building 312 N Lincoln Ave Center, ND 58530	8/20/2009	53

Public Meeting Materials

To help facilitate discussion at the August 2009 open house meeting Minnkota provided the same series of educational materials as the May 2009 open house meetings. These materials were used to educate the public on the project and announce opportunities for involvement. In addition, Minnkota provided an updated study corridor map and updated large aerial maps to show the modified preliminary study corridors.

Meeting Plan

A meeting plan was developed to organize general meeting information, the open house location, materials, set-up, and staff contact information.

Project Resources

Website

A website was developed to provide project information to the public. It can be accessed through the Minnkota website at www.minnkota.com. The website launched on April 13, 2009. From the day it launched until November 16, 2009, the website has had 3118 visitors, 2111 of which are unique visitors (See Table 7). The majority of visitors viewed the project video and the preliminary project map. The website provides the following information:

- Home Page – General project information, project announcements, and project video
- Project Page – Detailed project information and preliminary corridor map
- Contact Us Page – Project manager contact information and links to log a comment or be added to the project mailing list.
- Resources Page – Glossary of terms and public meeting materials
- FAQ Page – List of frequently asked questions and answers

Minnkota has continued to update the website as further information is available about the project.

Table 7 - 2009 Web Hits

Type	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	To Date
Visits	68	809	395	410	411	303	419	303	3118
Unique Visits	53	571	246	262	264	210	257	246	211
Project Video	27	395	65	41	52	39	39	41	705

Toll-Free Project Information Line

Minnkota has established a toll-free project information line (800-473-5679). The toll-free project information line provides an opportunity for the public to receive general project information, to sign-up for the mailing list and leave a comment. The toll-free project information line launched on April 13, 2009 and has continually been modified to include updated project information along with the open house meeting times, dates and locations.

Incoming Comments

Minnkota has been collecting comments from the public to understand concerns or routing suggestions within the project area. The public can log a comment on the website, leave a comment on the project information line, email, mail or phone a comment to Minnkota, fill out a comment form during open house meetings or voice a comment to a CGF representative. Table 8 below indicates that as of November 13, 2009, Minnkota received 129 comments. Table 9 shows the various topics under which comments are coded.

Table 8 - Pre-Scoping Comments

Media	To Date
Email	6
Hotline	64
In Person	1
Letter	3
Meeting Comment Form	8
Phone	14
Website	33
Total	**129**

Please note: Comments may have more than one category assigned

Table 9 – Comment Categories

Topic	To Date
Mailing List Request	57
Routing	34
General Public Involvement	25
ROW	5
Employment	4
Wind Development	2
EMF	1
Management Areas	1

Response Protocol

In order to streamline the tracking, integration, and response to comments received from the public on this project, Minnkota developed a comment management protocol. All comments were addressed in one of three ways; a personal phone call, a personal email, or a mailing from defined response packets. All response packets are outlined in Table 10.

Table 10 – Pre-Scoping Response Packets

Packet	Description
A	Initial Postcard Response Letter
B	Generic Response Letter
C	Procurement Letter
D	Corridor Changes
E	Missed Contact
F	Wind Generation

Pre-Scoping Comments

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Total Comments: 121

Public and NGO Pre-Scoping Comments

EMF

From Jim Quirk: Bill is a ham radio operator, concerned about the effect of CGF construction on low-horizon operation - - the base background noise level. Bill is also an electronic engineer who works in the basement of his home with embedded computer systems. Bill has attended past public information meeting(s) on CGF. But he said the moderators had minimized the interference issue without addressing it for his specific situation. I was hoping that a Minnkota engineer could contact him and address his concerns. He is otherwise willing to provide PTS.

Employment

I would like to be an approved vendor for this particular project. We do latticed steel so I wanted the contact information for Michael Hennes. My phone number is 609-213-3776. Right now we do a 500kv latticed steel project in Pennsylvania. It's a 180-mile-long 500kv line.

Hello, my name is Matthew Gross. I'm with Gross Mechanical in St. Louis, Missouri. My phone number is 314-645-0077 ext 3037. I'd like to find out more information about future work coming out of the Minnkota Power plant. Again, my name is Matthew Gross. My phone number is 314-645-0077 ext 3037. I'd like someone to give me a call back as soon as they can.

Please add ILB to your mailing list when requesting RFP's for powerline construction with requirements of 220kV and above.

Hi, this message is for Michael Hennes. Michael, my name is Amy Cord and I represent Operating Engineers Local 49 Fringe Benefit Plans. I'm actually calling to check and see if one of our deliquent contractors is doing some work on this particular project - the Center to Grand Forks project. It's called CJ Crane Service, CJ Construction or CJ Rigging. They've had three different names. I'd appreciate it if you'd return my call.

Good Afternoon. I am trying to reach the responsible person with regard to manpower, access control, and timekeeping on the {PROJECT]. We would like to have the opportunity to present our solution to your project team. I hope you will share the information below and we would appreciate your consideration as an access control solution. If you'd like to speak to a certified MAC sales representative call 1-888-388-7768 or visit us online at www.SecuredByMAC.com.

General

It may be of interest to you on Big Stone II Transmission site in Northwestern South Dakota. Ottertail didn't buy it.

General Public Involvement

I'm from Wing and I would like to say on your postcards you mailed, you have the Wing Public School listed and the city of Tuttle as the city and that is way wrong. How are people around here supposed to know which town to go to if you don't even have the right school and the town listed on the publications that you're mailing in the mail?

I'm wondering if you're going to Wilson township or Grass Lake or Stivert. I'd like to talk to somebody. I just got notice today. There's a meeting out in Tuttle but I live so far away and I don't like to go unless it's going to involve me. It's important someone talk to me. I don't want to drive that far if I don't have to.

We just received the post card May 7, as to the meetings, and a person cannot just drop everything to attend a meeting in my area, on that short of notice, I do not know if this has anything to do with our land, but it would be nice to know.

I'd like a little bit more information. We only got the meeting dates today in the mail and the only ones we could have attended is the one in Center. You've got the Wing Public School in Tuttle - I didn't know the Wing Public School was in Tuttle. We can't make it on this short notice so I don't know if this meeting has anything to do with us. It would have been a little bit nicer if you could have sent us the information on the meeting dates not the day after or the day of but a week or two ahead of time. There's no way we can attend Carrington, Cooperstown or Grand Forks. Their too far for us to travel and we're out of the Wilton area. I don't even know if this pertains to us. I was just not happy to get this in the mail today to discover that the closest meeting was at Tuttle tonight which is even quite a ways from us.

I would like more information on this project line. I'm sorry - I just got your card today so I missed the meeting at Washburn.

We got a card regarding your open house but we received the card after the open house so please send us some information or give us a call.

I'd like more information on this line beings we got the card the day after the meeting in our area -- which isn't very helpful. Please get back to us on this project.

I got an announcement yesterday in the mail for a meeting that was held the day before which didn't do me a whole lot of good. It's a little frustrating. It feels like an "unvitation" when it comes a day later and there's no way we can possibly go the metting. I'd like to see you guys do another meeting so we could come and actually see what's going on. Please add me to the mailing list. I'm not coming out for or against the project but it would be nice to be informed. Thank you.

I didn't get this notice until after this event occurred so I'm wondering where this will fall in relation to my property

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Watching video on Internet doesn't work well with slow-speed Internet. Should consider maps or other large files for slow-speed Internet also

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Should be an opton on 800 number that you could get a person. Especially around the time of the open houses or meetings to answer questions

---

We did not receive your postcard notice of the meeting time and date till after the meeting was past and visiting with other land owners they did not receive theirs till after the meeting also. Please contact us with the info on this issue.

Concerned about the conception of the transmission line from Center to Grand Forks. We did receive a postcard in the mail of the meeting that there was going to be some discussion on this. We didn't receive it until after the meeting was over here in Washburn. I also visited with some other area landowners here. They did not receive theirs until after the meeting was past also. I would like someone to contact us. My phone number here is 701-794-3351 and it would be Wade Staigle (stag-lee). Look forward to hearing from you.

This is Dorothy Jean Hetland, wife of David R.Hetland, who passed away August of 08. You were notified of his death. I'd appreciate no more mailings to him. It's very, very hard to handle. If you need to talk to me, my phone number is 701-636-4768. Thank you very much.

I would like a synopsis of comments made at the public meetings held in May. Thank you.

We are totally opposed to this. We have a 40-acre tract as do all our neighbors around there. There are homes. We don't want any transmission lines running across our property where our horses are or where our home is. You might take a look at some of the land around there that is very open land. This is not open land where we are near. We are opposed to this. We are also very angry that you have chosen to do this meeting mid-week, on a Thursday night, when the majority of us work in town, in Bismarck. You scheduled this meeting in Center rather than closer to our area if it's going to affect us. We suggest we want a public meeting held in Wilton or Washburn at a decent time where working people who work in Bismarck/Mandan area are able to make the meeting. How else are we going to be able to voice our concerns and upset over about just getting this letter stating you're going to do this. Come hell or high water that we'll let you do this if we have to hire an attorney. We've spoken to the neighbors up and down the road - nobody wants it. Again, I walk under the power lines already in existence anywhere on our little gravel road and my dog's hair stands on end. My husband has been witness to the fact that he's actually seen a pickup start once under these things. It actually started on its own. We don't want these power lines anywhere near our property or our animals. I certainly don't want it affecting my property values. We want to hear some response from you and we want to know when there's going to be another meeting closer to us so we can attend and voice our opinion.

Also under: Routing

My comment relates to your open house this evening in Center. According to my rural newspaper this week, previous meetings were held in Washburn, and Wing. I have subscriptions to the Bismarck Tribune & Washburn Leader, but saw no advance notice of those meetings listed. How were they advertised? I wouldn't mind driving to Wing or Washburn for information, (if I had been informed) but judging from your map of the proposed corridors, a Bismarck meeting would have serviced a larger portion of the affected landowners along the transmission line. What use was a meeting at Washburn, when that corridor is now eliminated? Will you continue having meetings on this project without contacting area newspapers (or landowners) well in advance, so landowners aren't properly kept informed? Somebody dropped the ball on this one.

Also under: Mailing List Request

I have written an email but received no reply so I thought I'd try again to get some questions answered. Why has Minnkota eliminated all other routes but the one in the Wilton area but failed to have a information meeting in Wilton.Second I live west of Wilton and own land west and north of town. A reprehensive for Minnkota stop and talked to me about the transmission line but knew nothing about the area. The area west and north of Wilton is fast becoming a rural/urban area with many 40 acre and smaller developments and occupied homes. A power line in this area would severely damage the growth of Wilton and lower the land values in the region. I strongly appose any transmission line being built in this area and see no reason why I must travel 50 miles to talk about it.

Also under: Routing

I want to talk to somebody, not this recording. I want some information....I want some information....hello...

Number is 363-2339.

Hello...nobody there to talk to . I'd like to talk to the project manager.

Hello, in the Fargo Forum appears an ad regarding the study for your proposed project will be at the Veteran's Memorial Library in Bismarck. However we have had patrons in looking for this information and we have not received it as of yet. Please send the information as soon as possible. Thank you. Also there is no way to leave a recorded comment on your voicemail, which is extemely frustrating to users.

I would like to know if these six meetings will be set up so interested people can come and go as necessary. I work and would like to come to the meeting but can't stay for 3 hrs. So can I come and ask my questions and then leave without missing anything really important?

She informed me that the information she received regarding a meeting at the Alerus was addressed to Rodney Partlow. She informed me that he is recently deceased as of August 16, she said the property is now in her name, would greatly appreciate it if we would send future correspondence in her name.

I'm not real happy. I'm receiving information about your project in Grand Forks. It's coming to my address in Fayetteville, NC. It's sad that you keep cutting down trees and sending information to people who have no interest in this project. Please take my name off your mailing list. Please do me a favor, and yourself...and the environment and take my name off the list. It's unconscionable that someone doesn't go through the records to make sure people who are getting your mailings deserve to get them. I don't deserve to get them, I live in NC. I won't be coming back to ND. Please take my name off your list.

Mailing List Request

I would like to be on the mailing list for project information, please.

I'd like to be added to your mailing list for this project. If I could speak to someone, I'd like to ask a couple questions.If you could return my call I'd appreciate it.

I would like to be apprised of what's going on in my neighborhood.

I would like to have information on the project.

Please add me to your mailing list for the "Center to Grand Forks Project" Thank you.

We got the card today and I understand the meeting was in Washburn last night. Was it held? Either way, I'd like to be added to the mailing list.

We just received our card today, May 7th, that there was a meeting yesterday. Well, we were not able to attend. It is over. So I'd like to be on the mailing list for future informational meetings in the area.

Please add me on the mailing list for project information.

I would like more information on the project.

We got your flyer to go to one of these meeting places but we were unable to attend. We'd like to have more information to learn if this includes us where we live. Thank you!

I would like to request information on this project

I would like to be added to the mailing list

I'd like to be on the mailing list for information on this proposed power line.

Live in home with existing 115 kV line. Would like the new line to go south of that. Also have land in Section 30 and north half of 31. Pasture & farming by Hutchinson Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Keep us informed with other meeting notices. Heard there is going to be 49 more turbines (wind) by Wilton (south side of Hwy 36).

Also under: Routing

I missed your meeting over at the schoolhouse. I did have some questions I would like to ask. Was this a meeting to sell stock? I would like that package of information. I'm not a computer person so I can't check the computer. Thank you very much.

David called to indicate that his land is under the care of a trustee with two other siblings. A Judy Joyce and a contact for the trustee Charles Peterson. David would like to be added to the mailing list

Also under: ROW

Sister of David Johnson

Also under: ROW

Trustee for land owned by David Johnson, Judy Joyce, et al

Also under: ROW

My first comment on your project is why were there no informational meetings held in WILTON.I live west of Wilton and own land west and north of town in a area that is fast becoming an urban/rural area. With many 40 acre and smaller plots being devolved and houses occupied.Land in this area should not be considered for a power line for it would not only damage the future growth of Wilton but also drastically lower property values. I am strongly opposed to the use of this region as a transmission line site.

Also under: Routing

My comment relates to your open house this evening in Center. According to my rural newspaper this week, previous meetings were held in Washburn, and Wing. I have subscriptions to the Bismarck Tribune & Washburn Leader, but saw no advance notice of those meetings listed. How were they advertised? I wouldn't mind driving to Wing or Washburn for information, (if I had been informed) but judging from your map of the proposed corridors, a Bismarck meeting would have serviced a larger portion of the affected landowners along the transmission line. What use was a meeting at Washburn, when that corridor is now eliminated? Will you continue having meetings on this project without contacting area newspapers (or landowners) well in advance, so landowners aren't properly kept informed? Somebody dropped the ball on this one.

Also under: General Public Involvement

Have moved out of state and would like to receive all new information as it happens. Thank You Jane Benz

---

Own 480 acres in ND, Sheridan County, Fairview Township. Land is on a ridge and think it would be great for wind energy. I am interested in knowing what we can do to get a wind study done. Can you give me some direction in that? Thank you

Also under: Wind Development

Management Areas

This landowner mentioned to me about some new project along the Missouri river. It is called Northern Plains National Heritage area and it may or may not effect the line

Routing

What part of Grand Forks County is proposed for the new transmission line?

Do you have a map where the new line will be located?

I am interested in viewing the route of the proposed transmission line. I own 23 quarters of land(3680 acres) in the general area that may be considered for routing. Most of my land lies in the Northern part of Griggs County. I recently received a card in the mail advising of pending meeting sites with dates. Because I am a 100% disabled veteran, it is difficult for me to get around, which is why I am requesting proposed routing material at home. Thanks very much.

I looked at the map you provide on your resources page and it does not clearly define the route that the proposed line will run. Can you please update that map and make it explicitly visible where this line will run? Otherwise my family has no way of knowing whether or not this will affect us. If you can't do this, I would like you to personally send me a map with the lines drawn out so I know where thi s will be going. Thank you.

I got a card from you that is the power line going through my land or close to my land. I would like more information on this and I don't know if I can make it to the keetings that you've got in the evenings. Thank you very much.

I'd like to receive more information on this power line.

Where can we find a map of your specific planned route?

I would like a better idea of where these lines are coming through since I seem to be in the path from what I can tell you your web page.

Is there anybody there I could actually speak to that answers phones or is all you get a computer voice? I'd like some information on where the transmission line is going to run through the counties and townships in the North Dakota area. Thank you.

I just got an announcement in the mail here today about a meeting you're having in the Washburn area. I didn't get it until today, on Thursday, and the meeting was last night. I was just curious if this line is going to be close to this other transmission line that runs through here that one runs right past our yard.I hadn't heard anything in the past about another line coming in. I sure would have been at the meeting last night if I had received this card in time. I'm just curious where it's going to go.

Why do we get these cards two days after the meeting is over with? We would like to know where this transmission line is going - on what section, what quarer, what direction? How are we supposed to make a comment on your www.minnkota.com when we can't even afford computers out here? Not everybody can afford to own a computer. And what good do these cards do when it's after the meeting is over with? Yes, I want information on it. I want to know where this thing is going and when, and why and where. Thanks you.

Will the new line affect my land - 4 miles south of Washburn? I would like that information. Thank you.

Requesting Project Information -- Corridor Map

Requested call on Hotline, Add son to database. Close comment ID 12 after mailing.

I am a land owner in Wells County. What is your proposed route from Center to Grand Forks?

Live in home with existing 115 kV line. Would like the new line to go south of that. Also have land in Section 30 and north half of 31. Pasture & farming by Hutchinson Lake Nat'l Wildlife Refuge. Keep us informed with other meeting notices. Heard there is going to be 49 more turbines (wind) by Wilton (south side of Hwy 36).

Also under: Mailing List Request

Look at the ex. 345 to Jamestown area and then 230 to Grand Forks. The northern corridors proposed go through prime farmland vs. range land. (Owns land throughout Cathay Twp)

I'd like some more information on the proposed route of the line. I farm quite a bit of land between Larimore and Northwood and I'm just wondering what your route is planned for and stuff. I wasn't on your mailing list. Neighbors of mine got letters but I never got one.

We own land in Sheridan, County. I'd like to have someone call me. We have other properties along that corridor also.

Harvey is a land owner in Ball Hill Township in Griggs County. Is concerned about t-line routing near his property. Already has MPC 69 kV line in "back yard". Suggests that we use Hwy 200 corridor or go cross country. Harvy did not receive original mailing.

Also under: ROW

I'd like to comment on your power line plan on coming through by...I have Alliance running a mile along fields I own. I have Dome running a mile along fields I own. I have MDU running a mile along fields I own and now I have the Red River Valley Water Supply project wanting to run a mile along fields I own. I absolutely do not want poles running across my land I own. I've had enough. That's my comment on it. I know you're contacting farmers in the area about running it. I wish you guys would go on lands I don't own. Thank you.

I'm interested in your project, the reason being I got a map from you and I've got land in both corridors north and south of McClusky. I have a farm north and a farm south. They belonged to my mother but I'm the POA for them. I'm interested in your project. The only thing I'd like to remind you guys is let's not just run a transmission line up there. Let's put some towers on the way up there too because we need to get some of the benefits off that too. Give me a call if you have any questions.

We are totally opposed to this. We have a 40-acre tract as do all our neighbors around there. There are homes. We don't want any transmission lines running across our property where our horses are or where our home is. You might take a look at some of the land around there that is very open land. This is not open land where we are near. We are opposed to this. We are also very angry that you have chosen to do this meeting mid-week, on a Thursday night, when the majority of us work in town, in Bismarck. You scheduled this meeting in Center rather than closer to our area if it's going to affect us. We suggest we want a public meeting held in Wilton or Washburn at a decent time where working people who work in Bismarck/Mandan area are able to make the meeting. How else are we going to be able to voice our concerns and upset over about just getting this letter stating you're going to do this. Come hell or high water that we'll let you do this if we have to hire an attorney. We've spoken to the neighbors up and down the road - nobody wants it. Again, I walk under the power lines already in existence anywhere on our little gravel road and my dog's hair stands on end. My husband has been witness to the fact that he's actually seen a pickup start once under these things. It actually started on its own. We don't want these power lines anywhere near our property or our animals. I certainly don't want it affecting my property values. We want to hear some response from you and we want to know when there's going to be another meeting closer to us so we can attend and voice our opinion.

Also under: General Public Involvement

My first comment on your project is why were there no informational meetings held in WILTON.I live west of Wilton and own land west and north of town in a area that is fast becoming an urban/rural area. With many 40 acre and smaller plots being devolved and houses occupied.Land in this area should not be considered for a power line for it would not only damage the future growth of Wilton but also drastically lower property values. I am strongly opposed to the use of this region as a transmission line site.

Also under: Mailing List Request

We would like to stress that we are totally against any electrical transmission lines invading our property. We would also like to point out that we have been residents of our address since December of 2006, and we were never informed of any meetings in May of 2009. Unfortunately, because we work in Bismarck and Mandan, we are not able to make a 6:00 meeting in Center, ND on August 20, 2009 and have asked our neighbors the Paulson's to deliver this letter to you.
The transmission lines are not only an eyesore, but we feel they are environmentally unsafe to human or animal inhabitants that live near them.
We have walked our dogs right under lines that cross 28th St NW to the south of us, and our short-haired dog's hair literally stands straight up from the electrical current coming from them. Radios and cell phones don't function while going near them.
We are also very concerned how their placement will affect our property value. We do not live on a large open land area on 28th St NW. Homes are built close to the road on 40 acre tracts that are deep not wide. When looking at the map, it appears that the transmission lines will run right along 29th St NW or at least within throwing distance. Our hope is that you will find an alternative route that does not encroach upon residential properties. We feel that encroachment is an invasion of private property, and we will fight to see that it does not happen.

My wife and I own 400 acres on Section 9-142-81, this is the total acres that we own. Seventy acres is cropland, of which 46 acres are irrigated. Most is irrigated by gated pipe. The southeast area of section 9 is irrigated using a Heinzman-Traveler Big Gun that puts out 800 gallons per minute. The rest of the land is mostly cottonwood forest, which includes some of the oldest cottonwood trees in the state. It also includes a mile of river frontage. The forest and the riverfront have a unique value that is irreplaceable. If you put a power line through this land it will decrease the value of it; you will also destroy our livelihood and our security in our declining years, as well as the cottonwood trees that we cherish. At 76, I'm too old to start over.

If Minnkota's power line crosses section 9 twp-142 range 81, it would be within a half a mile of Basin's power line. That would put most of my irrigated fields between these two lines; working my fields with all the static electricity would be a hazardous job.

Opposed to project. Build the tower (wind) in the valley. Will take condemnation and than a yearly rental with updated loses periodically. Oour land value is based more on its aesthetic value than agricultural which has increased 30 fold in past 20 years. Based on that it shouldn't take much of a lawyer to tie things up in court.

We are opposed to having this be constructed anywhere near our property. We already have high transmission line going within a half mile and natural gas line going through our property.

I have written an email but received no reply so I thought I'd try again to get some questions answered. Why has Minnkota eliminated all other routes but the one in the Wilton area but failed to have a information meeting in Wilton.Second I live west of Wilton and own land west and north of town. A reprehensive for Minnkota stop and talked to me about the transmission line but knew nothing about the area. The area west and north of Wilton is fast becoming a rural/urban area with many 40 acre and smaller developments and occupied homes. A power line in this area would severely damage the growth of Wilton and lower the land values in the region. I strongly appose any transmission line being built in this area and see no reason why I must travel 50 miles to talk about it.

Also under: General Public Involvement

We do not want this transmission line near our property. We live in a neighborhood made up of 12 40 acre parcels. There curently are 7 homesteads built with more planned. The neighbors we have talked to feel the same way as we do. We currently have a 230kv line running within a 1/2 mile of our properties and a natural gas line rumnning through them. Enough is enough! Keep us informed of the progress on this project.

Just a little input I think that the lines best route would be just a half mile or so north of Highway 200 from Mercer to McClusky. I have land on the north side of Pickardville that you have gotten a signing release for a I a'm in favor of it going on sec 11 146 78. Please let me know if this may be your way to go. Dale C. Jorgensen McClusky

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How am I affected? Local land owners informed me of a Transmission Line Project from Center to Grand Forks . However, as a land owner with existing power lines in the discussed area, I have not been notified of any construction project. Specifically, I own the NW 1/4 of section 26, Township 147, Range 56.

From Paul Mahlen: received a phone call from a Harvey Benson, 30 hwy 1, Hannaford,ND 58448. He asked about a map with the line on it. I told him we are still looking at corridors maps. He would like a copy of the corridor map for twp 145 R 58-64 and twp 146 r 58-64 near Hannaford.

ROW

Harvey is a land owner in Ball Hill Township in Griggs County. Is concerned about t-line routing near his property. Already has MPC 69 kV line in "back yard". Suggests that we use Hwy 200 corridor or go cross country. Harvy did not receive original mailing.

Also under: Routing

David called to indicate that his land is under the care of a trustee with two other siblings. A Judy Joyce and a contact for the trustee Charles Peterson. David would like to be added to the mailing list

Also under: Mailing List Request

Sister of David Johnson

Also under: Mailing List Request

Trustee for land owned by David Johnson, Judy Joyce, et al

Also under: Mailing List Request

We respectfully decline to let Minnkota Power or its agents or representatives to enter any of our property for the purpose of studying, surveying, testing or planning etc. for its wind energy CGF project. There are too many unanswered questions for the landowner regarding this project, including: specific location, compensation to the landowner, and the effects of the proposed power line to those individuals who have to farm or live near them. All of this land currently has crop on it, and it is not convenient for personnel to be on our property, We also allow limited hunting on our property, and your proposal would be disruptive to this activity.

Wind Development

I'd just like to answer two questions: that line built from Center to Grand Forks - is that going to carry wind power or is that for coal power? And if it's for coal power, where is the wind power going to? And why? Thank you. Call me.

Own 480 acres in ND, Sheridan County, Fairview Township. Land is on a ridge and think it would be great for wind energy. I am interested in knowing what we can do to get a wind study done. Can you give me some direction in that? Thank you

Also under: Mailing List Request

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Total Comments: 17

Agency and Tribal Pre-Scoping Comments

Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe

...The Bois Forte Band is not aware of any cultural or religious properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and does not with to comment further on this project...

Federal Aviation Administration - Bismarck Airports District Office

...The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) requires notification for construction or alterations as required by Federal Aviation Regulations, Part 77, Objects Affecting Navigable Airspace...We recommend that when the proposed power line is to be located such that it requires notification per CFR Title 14 Part 77 that you coordinate the proposal with both the Bismarck Airports District Office and with the private-use airport...

Job Service North Dakota

Job Service North Dakota administers the employment service and unemployment insurance programs. We have no comments regarding the proposed project and have no applicable permits that are required from Job Service North Dakota.

Leech Lake Tribal Historic Preservation Office

...I have reviewed the documentation; after careful considertaion of our records, I have determined that the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe does not have any concerns regarding sites of religious or cultural importance in this area...

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe - Executive Branch of Tribal Government

...Based on available information the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is aware of the intentions of Minnkota Power Cooperative Inc. to construct 225 miles of transmissions line from Center, ND to Grand Forks, ND...

North Dakota Department of Transportation - Office of Project Development

...The project referenced above will have no adverse effect on the North Dakota Department of Transportation highways...

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

...Our primary concern is the possible disturbance of native prairie and wetland areas during construction of the transmission line. We ask that work within these areas be avoided to the extent possible, above-ground appurtenances not be placed in wetland areas, and disturbed areas be reclaimed to pre-project conditions. The department manages several Wildlife Management Areas within or adjacent to the preliminary project corridors. A special use permit would be required to cross these lands... We recommend overhead lines be marked when placed over perennial streams of sited in close proximity to large wetland complexes to minimize possible avian impacts...

North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service

Topics covered: Farmland Protection Policy Act, Form AD-1006, Wetlands conversion

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

The North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) has reviewed the above referenced project proposal to construct a high-voltage transmission line with a corridor through Oliver, Mclean, Burleigh, Sheridan, Kidder, Wells, Foster, Eddy, Griggs, Nelson, Steele, Grand Forks, and Traill Counties. The proposed north route of the project through Oliver and McLean counties includes properties containing significant natural, historic, scenic and cultural resources. These properties include Cross Ranch State Park and the Cross Ranch Nature Preserve in Oliver County and the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center (owned by NDPRD) located in McLean County near Washburn. The Sakakawea Scenic Byway which travels on ND Highway 200 from Washburn to Stanton-also is in the preliminary northern route in Oliver/McLean counties, These properties not only protect the key components of each as listed above but also contribute significantly to the state of ND's tourism and travel industry. The transmission line located in the northern corridor identified on the preliminary corridor map would have significant impact to the scenic resources and associated tourism industries. NDPRD recommends the southern corridor in Oliver/McLean counties be the preferred route to avoid impacts to resources in the northern corridor. The south unit of the Cross Ranch Nature Preserve is located on the north border of the southern preliminary corridor in Oliver County. We recommend the transmission line be located south of this unit of the state nature preserve. Recreation properties funded through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund grant are possibly within or adjacent to the project area. A list of projects for the above mentioned counties has been attached. These properties are protected by section 6(f) of the LWCF Act. Any property taken from within the 6f boundaries of these areas must be replaced with property of equal market value. Should any public or private utilities need to be added or relocated on the LV/CF recreational land, the NDPRD must be consulted prior to any action taken. Please contact Arik Spencer (701-328-5369 or aspencer(@nd.gov) if additional LWCF information is needed. The North Dakota Natural Heritage biological conservation database has been reviewed to determine if any plant or animal species of concern or other significant ecological communities are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. Based on this review, several occurrences have been indentified within or adjacent to the project area. Please see attached spreadsheet and map for more specific information on these species. For your information, these occurrences can be provided as a shapefile if requested. We defer further comments regarding animal species to the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Because this biological information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be species of concern or otherwise significant ecological communities in the area that are not represented in the database. The lack of data for any project area cannot be construed to mean that no significant features are present. The absence of data may indicate that the project area has not been surveyed, rather than confirm that the area lacks natural heritage resources. The Department recommends that the project be accomplished with minimal impacts and that all efforts be made to ensure that critical habitats not be disturbed in the project area to help secure rare species conservation in North Dakota. Regarding any reclamation efforts, we recommend that any impacted areas be revegetated with species native to the project area.

Public Service Commission - Public Utilities Division

At its regular meeting on November 6, 2009, the North Dakota Public Service Commission passed a motion acknowledging the Letter of Intent, shortening the one year waiting period between filing a letter of intent and a siting application to six months,and assessing a filing fee of $100,000 due upon filing an application in Case No. PU-09-670, Minnkota Power Coop, Inc.'s proposed 345 kV electric transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, North Dakota. A copy of the motion is enclosed. [I move the Commission acknowledge the Letter of Intent, shorten the one-year waiting period between filing a letter of intent and a siting application to six months, and assess a filing fee of $100,000 due upon filing an application in Case No. PU-09-670, Minnkota Power Coop, Inc.'s proposed 345 kV electric transmission line from Center to
Grand Forks, North Dakota.]

Santee Sioux Nation

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Santee Sioux Nation has no objection to your proposed project unless any cultural, natural resources and/or places with traditional cultural significance within the project are found. Then we want to be notified immediately. We also want to be consulted in the event of any NEPA or Section 106 reviews which reflect any cultural significance that are specific to our Dakota culture.

State Historical Society of North Dakota

We received ND SHPO Ref.: 10-0173 RUS Proposed 345 kV high voltage transmission line from the Milton R. Young Power. Plant Station located near Center North Dakota to an existing substation near Grand Forks North Dakota and recommend that a Class I (file research) survey be conducted on the project area. Recommendations for any Class II (reconnaissance) and Class III (pedestrian) survey for cultural resources should be included in the Class I report. Thank you for the opportunity to review this project to date. We look forward to further review of the Class I report. Please include the ND SHPO Reference number listed above in further correspondence for this specific project. If you have any questions please contact Susan Quinnell, Review and Compliance Coordinator at (701) 328.3576 or squinnell@nd.gov

State of North Dakota - Office of the State Engineer

...In reviewing the map you also provided, it is clear that you will be spanning several bodies of water, which contain Sovereign Land of the State. Any features or work required for this project that cross or will be below the Ordinary High Water mark on the banks of the following rivers will require a Sovereign Lands permit. There is no cost to these permits but a waiting period of approximately 30 days is required to give other agencies time to respond with their concerns. The bodies of water that are Sovereign Lands, which you may be crossing, are the Missouri River, the Sheyenne River, the James River and the Red River...

US Army Corps of Engineers - North Dakota Regulatory Office

...Should the proposed 345kV transmission line result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States or affect a navigable waterway, a Corps permit would likely be required. If however, the project and associated work can be accomplished by avoiding a discharge of fill into waters of United States and not affect a navigable waterway, a corps permit would not be required...

US Fish and Wildlife Services - North Dakota Field Office

I hope it is OK for me to provide some comments on the meeting minutes. Please take a look at the attached document for my comments.
I will forward the shapefiles to our GIS person and we will get some maps back to you for our easement and fee title interests along the corridor alignments.

Here are several maps depicting the area requested with USFWS land interests. If you have any questions concerning USFWS land interests please contact the appropriate Wetland Management District listed below...

...The Service, Minnkota, and Minnkota's consultant, HDR Engineering, Inc., met at the Service's Bismarck Office on May 6, 2009. The Service Discussed our concerns related to potential project impacts to Service trust resources, including migratory birds, federally-listed threatened and endangered species of plants and animals and their habitats, bald and golden egales, and unites of the National Wildlife Refuge system. When planning an activity, project proponents should give careful consideration to potential impacts to these trust resources and compliance with the laws mentioned above...

Appendix B: Agency Scoping Meeting

RUS Agency Scoping Letter Mailing List

Mr. Dennis Breitzman
Bureau of Reclamation
304 E Broadway Ave
Bismarck, ND 58501

Mr. Steve Obenauer
Federal Aviation Administration
Bismark Airports District Office
BIS-ADO-600
2301 University Drive, Bldg 23B
Bismarck, ND 58504

Mr. Wendall Meyer
Federal Highway Administration
1471 Interstate Loop
Bismarck, ND 58503

Mr. Roger Johnson
North Dakota Department of Agriculture
600 E Boulevard Ave
Dept 602
Bismarck, ND 58505-0020

Ms. Sheri Lares
North Dakota Department of Transportation
608 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Mr. Bruce Kreft
North Dakota Game and Fish Department
100 N Bismarck Expressway
Bismarck, ND 58501

Ms. Cheryl Kulas
North Dakota Indian Affairs Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave
1st Floor, Judicial Wing
Room 117
Bismarck, ND 58505-0300

Mr. Douglass Prchal
North Dakota Natural Heritage
1600 E Century Ave
Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Mr. Donald Felch
North Dakota Natural Resources Conservation Service
220 East Rosser Avenue
PO Box 1458
Bismarck, ND 58502

Mr. Jesse Hanson
North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department
1600 E. Century Ave, Suite 3
Bismarck, ND 58503

Mr. Jerry Lein
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Mr. Jim Lindseth
North Dakota State Water Commission
900 East Boulevard
Dept. 770
Bismarck, ND 58505-0850

Mr. Paul Picha
State Historical Society of North Dakota
612 E Boulevard Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505-0830

Mr. Jason Renschler
US Army Corps of Engineers
1513 S 12th St
Bismarck, ND 58504

Mr. Terry Ellsworth
US Fish and Wildlife Services
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58501

United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development
Washington, DC

November 2, 2009

To: [insert name and address here]

RE: Agency Scoping Meeting for Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. Proposed 345 kV high-voltage transmission line from the Milton R. Young Power Plant Station located near Center, North Dakota, to the existing Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota.

Dear [insert name here]:

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service (RUS) will hold an Agency Scoping meeting to provide information regarding the Project, answer questions, and accept comments regarding the potential environmental and cultural resource impacts that may result from Project construction and operation. The meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, November 19, 2009
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
North Dakota Field Office
3425 Miriam Avenue
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501-7926

The objective of the Agency Scoping meeting is to discuss the following items:

- Project permitting concerns
- Scoping of environmental issues to be analyzed
- Roles and expectations of the lead and cooperating agencies
- Schedule

If your staff is unable to attend the Agency Scoping meeting, please provide written comments to RUS (contact information below). RUS appreciates your participation in the NEPA review process. Enclosed is a figure of the macro-corridors which may assist you in your review of the Project.

RUS is serving as the lead federal agency responsible for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the proposed 260-mile 345 kV high-voltage transmission line from the Milton R. Young Power Plant Station located near Center, North Dakota, to an existing substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota. Existing substations near Center and Grand Forks would be modified to accommodate the new transmission line. This project is referred to as the Center to Grand Forks (CGF) Project. The Project would deliver energy produced by the Young 2 power station to north-eastern North Dakota and northern Minnesota. In addition, the CGF Project would allow additional renewable wind energy to be delivered over the existing 250 kV DC transmission line that currently serves Young 2. Minnkota Power is seeking RUS financing.

Prior to making a decision on whether to loan funds, guarantee a loan, or award a grant for the Project, RUS is required to conduct an environmental review under NEPA in accordance with 7

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Web: http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/

CFR Part 1794, as amended. According to these regulations, this Project is classified as an Environmental Assessment with Scoping.

The Macro-Corridor Study (MCS) and Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) have been filed and are available for review at local libraries or on the RUS website at: *http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm.*

RUS will also hold six Public Scoping meetings, in open house format, to provide information regarding the Project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns.

Public Scoping Meeting dates and locations:

- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - Grand Forks, ND, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S. 42nd St., 5 pm - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - Cooperstown, ND, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St. 10 am – 1 pm
  - Carrington, ND, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 pm - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - McClusky, ND, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave. B North, 10 am – 1 pm
  - Wilton, ND, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 pm - 8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - Center, ND, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 pm - 8 pm

Comments will be accepted until December 18, 2009. Information from this meeting will help RUS determine the scope of the Environmental Assessment. Based on comments received during scoping and impact analyses in the Environmental Assessment, RUS would either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or make a decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. RUS will provide public notice of its decision.

Questions and comments should be directed to Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Utilities Service,1400 Independence Avenue SW, Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line at 800-473-5679.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Plank

Mark S. Plank
Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Rural Utilities Service

Enclosure (1)

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting USFWS

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/19

10AM

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Paul Picha	SHSND/NDSHPO	612 E. Blvd. Ave. ppicha@nd.gov	Bismarck ND (701) 328-357
Susan Quinnell	SHS ND/ND SHPO	" squinnell@nd.gov	Bis 58501-0830 328-35[illegible]76
Mark Schrader	FHWA	1471 Interstate Loop	Bis, ND 58503
Tim Bohan	RUS	PO Box 7333, Bis	Bis, ND 58503
Jennifer Johnson	MPC		
→ We need to track down AES/MCS & send another copy if necessary			

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date:

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Floyd E. Bentz	Bureau of Reclamation	P.O. Box 1017 Bis ND 58502	Bis 58502
DUANE PHILLIPS	STANLEY CONSULTANTS	8000 S. CHESTER ST., SUITE 500	DENVER, CO 80112
Mike Hennes	Minnkota Power	1822 Mill Road Grand Forks, ND	
Jesse Hanson	ND Parks & Recreation	1600 East Century Ave	Bismark ND 58503
JIM LINDSETH	SWC-OSE	900 E. BOULEVARD	BISMARCK, ND 58505-0850
Jason Renschler	Corps. Regulatory	1513 S 12th Street	Bismarck, ND 58504
Kathy Duttenhofer	ND Parker Recreation	1600E Century Ave	Bismarck, ND 58503
Michelle Bissonnette	HDR	701 Xenia Ave. So.	Mpls, MN 55416
John Kramer	Minnkota	1822 Mill Rd, ~~Grand~~	Grand Forks, ND
Brian Hunker	HDR	701 Xenia Ave S. Suite 701	Mpls, MN 55416
DENNIS RANKIN	RUS	1400 Independence Av SW Wash DC 20250-1571	Stop 1571 20250-1571
Terry Ellsworth	US FWS	3425 Miriam Ave.	Bismarck, ND 58501

Appendix C: Section 106

United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

September 10, 2009

Name

RE: Proposed Center-Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission System
North Dakota

Dear Name:

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) is considering an application for financial assistance from Minnkota Power Cooperative (Minnkota) for the construction of an approximately 260 mile long 345 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities to deliver power from the Milton R. Young Station Unit 2 (Young 2) power plant located near Center, North Dakota, to a delivery point in Minnkota's service area near Grand Forks, North Dakota. The proposed line would be constructed using single pole steel structures typically about 150 feet tall and placed approximately 1,000 feet apart. In addition, various modifications to associated substations in the area of the proposed line also would be needed.

Since 2005, regional transmission-system studies have demonstrated that, even without additional load growth, there are system voltage stability and load serving issues in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. The proposed transmission line project would provide a sound technical solution to the well-identified northern Red River Valley voltage stability issue and a major improvement to the regional transmission grid. In addition, the proposed line would provide a direct link into Minnkota's service territory.

RUS is considering funding this application, thereby making the proposal an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), 16 U.S.C. § 470f, and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is considering issuance of a permit under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act for this proposal to cross the Missouri and Sheyenne Rivers, thereby making it an undertaking subject to Section 106 review. While both RUS and USACE have responsibilities under NEPA and Section 106, the agencies have yet to resolve lead agency status.

To meet RUS requirements and provide general baseline information to support review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 106, Minnkota is developing two documents. The *Alternative Evaluation Study* (AES) explains the need for the proposal, discusses the alternatives that might be considered to meet the need, and establishes the alternative that Minnkota believes will best meet that need. In addition to the AES, RUS requires that Minnkota prepare a Macro Corridor Study (MCS) to describe the macro corridors that have been developed by the applicant based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use and permitting constraints. These documents along with the views of agencies, consulting parties, tribes and the public will inform RUS's decision

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regarding which alternatives to carry forward to analysis in the NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) document.

The following counties could be affected by this proposal: Oliver, Burleigh, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Foster, Eddy, Griggs, Nelson, Steele, Traill, and Grand Forks. As initially defined by RUS, the area of potential effects (APE) for the referenced undertaking includes a broad area encompassed by the macro corridors that will be described in the MCS. RUS will refine the scope of the APE as Section 106 review proceeds and more specific information is gathered about likely effects to historic properties.

RUS is writing to invite the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking. Please advise RUS in writing of your decision as soon as possible so that your input can be incorporated as early as possible in project development. Your decision about consultation should be sent to Mark Plank at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Mail Stop 1571, Room 2244, Washington, D.C. 20250-1571 or via email at mark.plank@wdc.usda.gov. In order to facilitate your tribe's participation, RUS also has notified Carol Robertson, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, about the referenced proposal.

In order to get more information about this proposal, RUS is inviting the Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota to attend meetings on September 22nd and 23rd, 2009 in Cooperstown and Cross Ranch State Park to review the Sheyenne and Missouri River crossings. Because the options for crossing the Missouri River are constrained, RUS and Minnkota want to hear your concerns as soon as possible. Minnkota has supplied the attached reimbursement policy for consultation meeting attendance. RUS requests that you notify Michael Justin, HDR Engineering, by phone or email at 763-591-5423, Michael.justin@hdrinc.com in advance if you plan to attend this meeting.

Should you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 202-720-1649. RUS appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Plank

Mark S. Plank
Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Water and Environmental Programs

Cc: Laura Dean, RUS
Dennis Rankin, RUS
Michelle Bissonnette, HDR
John Graves, Minnkota

United States Department of Agriculture
Rural Development

September 10, 2009

Name

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to describe the macro corridors that have been developed by the applicant based on environmental, engineering, economic, land use and permitting constraints. These documents along with the views of agencies, consulting parties, tribes and the public will inform RUS's decision regarding which alternatives to carry forward to analysis in the NEPA Environmental Assessment (EA) document.

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By letter dated September 10, 2009 to Marcus Levings, RUS invited the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, ND to participate in government-to-government consultation for the referenced undertaking. Please advise RUS in writing as soon as possible if the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, ND will participate in consultation so that your concerns and recommendations may be considered as early as possible in development of this proposal.

RUS and Minnkota plan to review the potential Missouri and Sheyenne River crossing locations within the next few weeks. We are asking that one representative from your respective Tribe attend. Meeting details:

Sheyenne River Meeting
When: Tuesday, September 22, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm (CST)
Location: Cooperstown – Town & Country Gas Station (corner of ND-200 and ND-45)

Missouri River Meeting
When: Wednesday, September 23, 2009
Time: 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm (CST)
Location: Cross Ranch State Park – Sanger Campground Boat Ramp

Minnkota will be sending you maps and other details pertaining to these meetings.

RUS is hopeful that the Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation, ND will work directly with the Center to Grand Forks utilities and their representatives as review under Section 106 proceeds. Should you have any questions or require

additional information, please contact Michael Justin at 763-591-5423 or via email at michael.justin@hdrinc.com. RUS appreciates your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Mark S. Plank
Director
Engineering and Environmental Staff
Water and Environmental Programs

Cc: Laura Dean, RUS
Dennis Rankin, RUS
Michelle Bissonnette, HDR
John Graves, Minnkota

Table - Tribal Letter Mailing List

Title	Organization
Cultural Resources Department Director	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
Chairman	Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation
Preservation Officer	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Chairman	Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Tribal Council Member	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation
Chief	Crow Creek Sioux Tribe of the Crow Creek Reservation
President of the Tribe	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
THPO	Flandreau Santee Sioux Tribe of South Dakota
Chairman	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation
Director of Cultural Resources	Lower Brule Sioux Tribe of the Lower Brule Reservation
President	Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
THPO	Lower Sioux Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Tribal Chairman	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota
Coordinator of Grande Portage Museum	Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, Minnesota
President	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Natural Resources Director	Oglala Sioux Tribal Council of the Pine Ridge Reservation
Tribal Council President	Prairie Island Indian Community in the State of Minnesota
Chairman of the Tribe	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
NAGPRA Representative	Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, Minnesota
THPO	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Tribal Council President	Rosebud Sioux Tribe of the Rosebud Indian Reservation
Tribal Chairman/ Leader	Santee Sioux of Nebraska
Chairman of the Tribe	Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
THPO	Sisseton- Wahpeton Oyate of the Lake Traverse Reservation
THPO	Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota
Tribal Council Chairperson	Spirit Lake Tribe, North Dakota
THPO	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota
Chairman of the Tribe	Standing Rock Sioux Tribe of North and South Dakota
Chairman of the Tribe	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
THPO	Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation
Chairman of the Tribe	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota
THPO	Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians of North Dakota
Member at Large / THPO Contact	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Tribal Council Chairman	Upper Sioux Community of Minnesota
Chairwomen of the Tribe	White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe
THPO	White Earth Band of Minnesota Chippewa Tribe

Appendix D: Agency Scoping Comments

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Meeting Notes

Subject: Agency Scoping Meeting		
Client: Minnkota Power Cooperative	Project No: 110900	
Project: Center to Grand Forks	Meeting Location:	USFWS Office - Bismarck, ND
Meeting Date: November 19, 2009	Notes by:	Brian Hunker, HDR

ATTENDEES

Floyd Bentz, Bureau of Recreation
Jesse Hanson, ND Parks and Recreation
Kathy Duttenhofer, ND Parks and Recreation
Jim Lindseth, State Water
Jason Renschler, USACOE
Terry Ellsworth, USFWS
Paul Picha, ND SHPO
Susan Quinnell, ND SHPO
Make Schrader, FHWA
Dennis Rankin, RUS
Tim Bohan, RUS
Duane Phillips, Stanley Consultants
Mike Hennes, John Graves & Jennifer Johnson, Minnkota
Michelle Bissonnette & Brian Hunker, HDR

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. RUS Introduction – RUS
    - Provided an overview of the RUS
    - RUS provides the financing system
    - Invited agencies to be a cooperating agency and discussed the cooperating agency roles and responsibilities. Noted that cooperating agencies get documents throughout the process, instead of at the end when review may take more time.
2. Schedule – RUS
    - RUS provided an update to the schedule that matches what was discussed at the public scoping meetings
3. Project Description – Minnkota
    - Minnkota provided a description of the project
    - A transmission line would be needed with or without the plant
    - Grand Forks needs voltage stability and is at the heart of Minnkota's service territory. Grand Forks has 4 lines into the area, whereas Fargo has 11 lines into the service area

- A line to Grand Forks would improve reliability because of separation from lines in the southern portion of the state
- No new plant expansions are warranted at this time
- Minnkota needs low cost, constant generation

4. Routing – Minnkota
    - Commitment to reduce cross-country segments. Use field, section, and half-section lines for routing
    - Eliminate guy wires
    - Towers – average height of 140 feet, river crossing height of 200 feet, 1000 foot intervals
    - 150-foot-wide right-of-way (ROW) is proposed. ROW is designed for wind drift.
    - Bird diverters will be installed. Minnkota is looking for input on diverter type
    - Weed control at the towers
    - Tree control would be used along the ROW. Minnkota is assessing feathering the ROW from the line
    - PSC has a 2:1 mitigation for tree removal
    - Minnkota would recommend multiple route alternatives in the Environmental Assessment (EA)
5. Agency Comments to date – Minnkota
    - Minnkota reviewed agency comments to date as follows
    - Cultural Resources
        - Missouri River
    - Native American Concerns
    - Agricultural Impacts
        - NRCS Farmland Protection Act
        - Wetland Conversion
    - Threatened and Endangered Species
        - Whooping Crane
        - Piping Plover
        - Least Tern
        - Piping Plover Critical Habitat
    - Sensitive Communities
        - Native prairie
        - Riparian woodlands
        - Prairie Chicken Leks
        - Bald Eagle and Raptor Nests
    - Migratory and Breeding Birds
    - Management Areas
        - WMAs, WPAs, State Park – Need Special Use Permit to cross these lands.
        - USFWS Wetland, Grassland, and Conservation Easements
        - LAWCON (Land and Water Conservation Fund grant) for Cross Ranch State Park

    - Airports – Grand Forks expansion
    - USDA – CRP parcels
- Surface Waters
    - River Crossings
    - Section 10 and 404 Permits
- Wetlands
    - Avoid to the extent possible
    - Avoid DOT mitigation sites
- ROW
- Routing
    - River Crossings
    - Residences
- Residences
- Recreation – Missouri and Sheyenne Rivers

6. Agency Questions and Comments
    - SHPO
        - Integrate EA and PSC process – Concern is that PSC has scheduled timelines that the Federal agencies do not
        - Hard to comment on corridors
        - Would like to comment on routes.
        - River crossings are the main area of concern for cultural resources
        - Minnkota and RUS held a river crossing site visit and no tribes participated
    - BOR
        - McClusky Canal and Recreation Areas
        - Parasailing at the recreation areas is becoming a more common event
    - Avoidance Areas (State Parks, WMAs, and WPAs) are red flags for routing. Minnkota is looking for support from the agencies to stay out of avoidance areas.
    - Parks and Recreation
        - River Crossings – Public perspective of river crossings, intrinsic value of river for users
        - Cross Ranch has many bald eagles
        - Keep lines crossing the river with other crossing points
        - Airplane safety
    - USACOE
        - Use EA for decision document
        - Permits depend on impacts – Temporary impacts are preferred under the Nationwide Permit. Missouri River would be the focal point of permits – Letter of Permission or Individual Permit
        - Endangered Species Act – Entire stretch of MO River has historic and active least tern and piping plover nesting locations. Some areas are designated critical

habitat - "adverse modification of critical habitat." Winter is the best to cross the river, because no birds. Temporary staging on sandbars.
    - Section 7 consultation on MO River will be separate
    - Section 106 - High likelihood of cultural resources, thus need survey. USACOE will consult with the SHPO on the permit application. Current Programmatic Agreement on the Corp projects will not apply on the MO River–CFG will need a separate Programmatic Agreement.
    - Tap lines - Allow taps in the future? Currently no taps, but Minnkota thinks that the line may be tapped in the future. Taps would be paid by the party requesting the tap.
- State Engineer
    - Sovereign Lands Permit needed for river crossings – MO, James, and Sheyenne. Permit applications would be sent to state and federal agencies for comment. Recommend following time-of-year restrictions.
    - Wetlands – drainage areas greater than 80 acres require Drainage Permits. No state mitigation for wetlands.
    - County Water Boards – may take jurisdiction of basins less than 80 acres
- Federal DOT
    - If not in interstate rights-of-way, then no jurisdiction
    - Follow elevation requirements for lines over bridges
    -
- National Heritage MO River – all state lands are within the Heritage Area
- USFWS
    - Recommend wetland impact mitigation – better to restore drained wetlands versus creation
    - Recommend prairie impact mitigation
    - Cumulative Impacts - diversity of DC line. Additional capacity may cause additional wind development – what is the impact of additional development?
    - Avian Protection Plan – USFWS will ask for an APP. The APP should capture known structures where electrocution has occurred and measures to reduce the electrocution potential.

Agency and Tribal Government Scoping Comments

Bois Forte Band of Ojibwe

This letter is in response to notification of the proposed 345 kV high voltage transmission line. The Bois Forte Band is not aware of any cultural or religious prepoerties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) and does not wish to be involved in any further consultation regarding this project.

Federal Aviation Administration - Bismarck Airports District Office

The Bismark Airports District office has no additional comments to the proposed transmission line and other improvements proposed for construction and operation and identified in your letter dated November 2, 2009. The Bismark District office comment letter dated June 4, 2009 to Minnkota Power Cooperative is enclosed for your reference. I appreciate that our office was given the opportunity to review this project. Please contact me at (701) 323-7380 if you have any questions of need further information.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

This letter is in reply to your agency's request for comments on the propose d 345 Kv high voltage transmission line from the Milton R. Young Power Plant Station near Center, North Dakota, to the existing Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota, and requesting our comments. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) does not have any comments to the above project at this time. USDA-NRCS does welcome the chance to comment on the alternatives once you have put those together for review. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. Should you require additional information, discussion, or clarification, please contact Donald E. Felch at (701) 530-2023.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service Q\IRCS) has reviewed your letter dated October 29,2009, regarding a proposed 345 kV high-voltage transmission line from the Milton R. Young Power Plant Station located near Center, North Dakota, to an existing substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota, Important Farmlands - NRCS has a major responsibility with Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) in documenting conversion of farmland (i.e., prime, statewide, and local importance) tonon-agriculture use when federal funding is used. Your proposed project consists of activities that are subject to FPPA, New transmission towers and a new distribution substation may remove farmland from production; therefore, these sites may be subject to FPPA and an AD-106must be completed. Activities that do not enact FPPA include the burying of electrical lines or activities within city limits. Below are instructions for completing the AD-1006 for those areas affected by FPPA. For those areas subject to FPPA, the following form must be completed. Enclosed is a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating Form AD- 1006 or you may utilize a fillable, web based form athttp://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Programs/fppa/pdf_files/AD1006.PDF to record the following. You will need to complete Part I and Part III. We will also need a map, at an appropriate scale, so we can accurately assess the area (e.9., 1:20,000 or 1:24,000). If the farmland (i.e., prime, statewide, and local importance) is determined to be subject to the FPPA, we will then complete Parts II and IV. NRCS will measure the relative value of the site as farmland on a scale of 0 to 100,according to the information sources listed in CFR, Sec. 658.5(a). If FPPA applies to this site, Form AD-I006 will be returned to SWCA Environment4l Cg4sultanls for completion of Part VI, Site Assessment Criteria.. Wetlands - The Wetland Conservation Provisions of the 1985 Food Security Act, as amended, provide that if a USDA participant converts a wetland for the purpose of, or to have the effect of making agricultural production possible, loss of USDA benefits could occur. The Natural Resource conservation Service has developed the following guidelines to help avoid impacts to wetlands and possible loss of USDA benefits for producers. If these guidelines are followed, the impacts to the wetland will be considered minimal allowing USDA participants to continue to receive USDA benefits. Following are the requirements: 1) Disturbance to the wetland(s) must be temporary, 2) no drainage of the wetland(s) is allowed (temporary or permanent),3) mechanized landscaping necessary for installation is kept to a minimum and preconstruction contours are rnaintained, 4) temporary side cast material must be placed in such a manner not to be dispersed in the wetland, and 5) all trenches must be backfilled to the original wetland bottom elevation. NRCS would recommend that impacts to wetlands be avoided. If the alignment of the project requires passage through a wetland, NRCS can complete a certified wetland determination if requested by the landowner/operator. If you have additional questions pertaining to FPPA, please contact Steve Sieler, State Soil Liaison, NRCS, Bismarck, ND at (701) 530-2019.

North Dakota Department of Health - Environmental Health Section

This department has reviewed the information concerning the above-referenced project submitted under date of October 29, 2009, with respect to possible environmental impacts. This department believes that environmental impacts from the proposed construction will be minor and can be controlled by proper construction methods. With respect to construction, we have the following comments: 1. All necessary measures must be taken to minimize fugitive dust emissions created during construction activities. Any complaints that may arise are to be dealt with in an efficient and effective manner. 2. Care is to be taken during construction activity near any water of the state to minimize adverse effects on a water body. This includes minimal disturbance of stream beds and banks to prevent excess siltation, and the replacement and revegetation of any disturbed area as soon as possible after work has been completed. Caution must also be taken to prevent spills of oil and grease that may reach the receiving water from equipment maintenance, and/or the handling of fuels on the site. Guidelines for minimizing degradation to waterways during construction are attached. 3. Projects disturbing one or more acres are required to have a permit to discharge storm water runoff until the site is stabilized by the reestablishment of vegetation or other permanent cover. Further information on the storm water permit may be obtained from the Department's website or by calling the Division of Water Quality (701-328-5210). Also, cities may impose additional requirements and/or specific best management practices for construction affecting their storm drainage system. Check with the local officials to be sure any local storm water management considerations are addressed. 4. Noise from construction activities may have adverse effects on persons who live near the construction area. Noise levels can be minimized by ensuring that construction equipment is equipped with a recommended muffler in good working order. Noise effects can also be minimized by ensuring that construction activities are not conducted during early morning or late evening hours. The department owns no land in or adjacent to the proposed improvements, nor does it have any projects scheduled in the area. In addition, we believe the proposed activities are consistent with the State Implementation Plan for the Control of Air Pollution for the State of North Dakota. These comments are based on the information provided about the project in the above-referenced submittal. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers may require a water quality certification from this department for the project if the project is subject to their Section 404 permitting process. Any additional information which may be required by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under the process will be considered by this department in our determination regarding the issuance of such a certification.
Construction and Environmental Disturbance Requirements
These represent the minimum requirements of the North Dakota Department of Health. They ensure that minimal environmental degradation occurs as a result of construction or related work which has the potential to affect the waters of the State of North Dakota. All projects will be designed and implemented to restrict the losses or disturbances of soil, vegetative cover, and pollutants (chemical or biological) from a site. Soils - Prevent the erosion of exposed soil surfaces and trapping sediments being transported. Examples include, but are not restricted to, sediment dams or berms, diversion dikes, hay bales as erosion checks, riprap, mesh or burlap blankets to hold soil during construction, and immediately establishing vegetative cover on disturbed areas after construction is completed, Fragile and sensitive areas such as wetlands, riparian zones, delicate flora, or land resources will be protected against compaction, vegetation loss, and unnecessary damage. Surface Waters - All construction which directly or indirectly impacts aquatic systems will be managed to minimize impacts. All attempts will be made to prevent the contamination of water at construction sites from fuel spillage, lubricants, and chemicals, by following safe storage and handling procedures. Stream bank and stream bed disturbances will be controlled to minimize and/or prevent silt movement, nutrient upsurges, plant dislocation, and any physical, chemical, or biological disruption. The use of pesticides or herbicides in or near these systems is forbidden without approval from this Department. Fill Material - Any fill material placed below the high water mark must be free of top soils, decomposable materials, and persistent synthetic organic compounds (in toxic concentrations). This includes, but is not limited to, asphalt, tires, treated lumber, and construction debris. The Department may require testing of fill materials. All temporary fills must be removed. Debris and solid wastes will be removed from the site and the impacted areas restored as nearly as possible to the original condition.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department

Provided comments on the project in a letter dated April 2009. Comments remain the same. No additional comments at this time. Please call if you have any questions.

North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department

This letter is sent as the North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department (NDPRD) comments requested at the USDA Rural Utilities Programs Public Hearing on for the above mentioned 345kV transmission line. NDPRD also participated in the "on the water" pontoon tour of 4 proposed river crossings in September of 09. [NNPRD] This letter will reiterate and expand on comments previously stated in a letter to Michael Hennes, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc dated May 26, 2009, Please note that ND Natural Heritage biological conservation data, and Land and Water project data was previously submitted this initial response letter, A copy of that letter is attached for your information. Nature Preserves: The proposed route of the project through Oliver County includes properties containing significant natural, historic, scenic and cultural resources. Cross Ranch Nature Preserve owned by The Nature Conservancy and Cross Ranch State Park are areas of concern and must be avoided. These tracts, owned and managed by either the ND Parks and Recreation and The Nature Conservancy are dedicated state nature preserves under the ND Century Code chapter 55-11. Protective covenants in Chapter 55-11 direct uses of those properties. The attached topographic map indicates location of state dedicated nature preserve lands in Oliver County. The actual path which the transmission line will take is not provided as of yet. However, it appears if "Potential Crossing #1" is the chosen river crossing route the transmission line route would travel in proximity to the state dedicated Cross Ranch Nature Preserve. The protective covenants applied by ND C.C. prohibits intrusions on the nature preserve properties such as a power transmission line would include. Please make note of the dedicated lands and use the information for routing the transmission line away from these lands, A map of boundaries has been included. River Crossing: Route transmission lines to avoid areas considered scenic such as state parks, nature preserves, recreational areas and wildlife management areas. Avoid placement of the poles on river banks to reduce visual impacts of river recreational users. We strongly recommend limiting the river crossings to "Potential Crossing #2 or #3" to keep river crossings within an already existing impact corridor. Impacts of river crossings should include public values of limiting visual and scenic impacts on the river. Keeping the proposed transmission tine within the already impacted area will reduce the overall scenic/aesthetic impacts from the perspective of the river. Ecological Communities: River Bottomland forests provide recreational opportunities and wildlife and plant habitat. Avoid routes that fragment large forest blocks. Forest fragmentation can cause permanent reduction is species diversity and suitable habitat. All 4 proposed "Potential Crossings" involve impacts to forested river bottomland. Careful consideration needs to be employed when selection transmission line routes, crossings, corridors and construction access. A map of significant ecological communities for Cross Ranch area has been included.

US Department of the Interior - National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) reviewed the October 30,2009, Federal Register Notice of Intent to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the proposed Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, in North Dakota. Please consider the following comments in developing the EA for this project. General comment- Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) proposes to construct approximately 260 miles of new, 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line in North Dakota, a230 kV tie line, two or more fiber optic regeneration stations, and upgrade several existing substations. Given the scope and nature of the proposed project, NPS expects it will have significant environmental impacts necessitating preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act. We recognize that an EA may be prepared to determine if an EIS is needed. However, considering the information presented in the Macro Corridor Study and the Alternative Evaluation Study, it seems improbable that a project of this magnitude could avoid, minimize, or mitigate all impacts to non-significant levels. Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail comments - The NPS administers the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail (the Trail), which intersects the western portion of the proposed project corridors. The Trail was established by Congress in an amendment to the National Trails System Act in 1978 [16 U.S.C. $ 1246(a)]. Under this Act, the NPS is charged with the identification and protection of the historic route, remnants, and artifacts of the Lewis and Clark Corps of Discovery Expedition for public use and enjoyment. The Expedition traveled the Missouri River through North Dakota in October, 1804 as they headed west and in August, 1806 on their return journey. North Dakota Highways 1804 and 1806 are the designated Lewis and Clark auto tour routes in this area. The public follows the historic Trail on these roadways and along or on the Missouri River in North Dakota. The proposed transmission line would extend from the Milton R. Young Station Unit 2 (Young 2) near Center, North Dakota, to the Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota. The proposed project corridors cross the Missouri River between Mandan and Washburn, North Dakota. According to the Macro Corridor Study the new high-voltage transmission line will likely be constructed with 150 foot high, single-pole steel structures placed approximately 1,000 feet apart and require a 150 foot wide right-of-way. Construction and maintenance of the line may impact subsurface or surface-level cultural resources within or near the right-of-way. The Trail cultural resources that have the potential of being impacted by the proposed project are Trail remnants and associated archaeological sites, Native American sites associated with the Trail story and the general cultural landscape. To protect these resources, an effort should be made to identify the locations of all potentially effected cultural resources in the project area. It is likely that extensive portions of the proposed transmission line corridor have not been surveyed for cultural resources. A Phase-I archeological survey should be conducted along the entire 260-mile corridor. Adverse impacts to recorded cultural resources must be avoided whenever possible. V/hen adverse impacts cannot be avoided, they must be properly mitigated. The erection of transmission lines across the Missouri River and the Lewis and Clark auto tour routes on each side of the river will degrade the Trail viewshed, which is an important component of the Trail visitor experience. The NPS is very concerned about cumulative visual impacts to the Trail from this proposed project and similar projects related to energy production and transmission either existing or forecast in the region and all along the Trail. Trail visitors drawn to the area for its scenic and historic qualities are likely to be sensitive to disruptions of the landscape by man-made structures. A rigorous visual impact assessment must be completed and included in the EA or EIS. To aid our evaluation of visual impacts to the Trail, we request photo simulations be prepared for areas near the Trail, including the river crossing. Additionally, the NPS recommends consulting with the Fort Mandan Foundation on siting the transmission line to minimize impacts to the Trail. The Lewis and Clark Fort Mandan Foundation President, David Borlaug, may be reached at 701-462-8535. The Alternative Evaluation Study indicates that Minnkota has received interconnection requests for several hundred megawatts of new wind generation. It is our understanding that the proposed new transmission line will be used to transport electricity from the existing Young 2 plant and the old line used to transport electricity generated from new wind developments to Minnesota. The cumulative impacts of the transmission lines, wind developments tied into the transmission lines, and other necessary infrastructure must be evaluated in the EA or EIS. There is a great deal of local, regional, and national significance in recognizing and preserving the resources of the Trail. The NPS urges avoidance or minimization of adverse impacts to Trail resources from the proposed project. Potential impacts to the natural, cultural, recreational, and scenic values of the Trail should be thoroughly examined in the EA or EIS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We request a copy of the draft environmental document when it is available for review. If you have questions regarding our comments, or would like rnore information on the Trail, please contact Chief of Resources Stewardship Dan Wiley at 402-661-1830, or Dan_Wiley@nps.gov.

Appendix E: NOI

October 20, 2009

Agency: Rural Utilities Service, USDA

Action: Notice of Intent to Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Prepare an Environmental Assessment.

Summary:
The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Assessment with Scoping (EA) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 7 CFR part 1794 in connection with potential impacts related to a proposed project by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The proposed Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project (proposed action) consists of the following; the construction of approximately 260 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, North Dakota, upgrades at the Center 345 kV substation, upgrades at the Square Butte 230 kV Substation, additional 230 kV tie line, upgrades at the Prairie Substation, and fiber optic regeneration stations. Minnkota is requesting that RUS provide financial assistance for the proposed action.

Dates:
RUS will conduct public scoping meetings in an open house format to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of the EA. The scoping meetings will be held on the following dates:

Grand Forks, ND, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S. 42nd St, Monday, November 16, 2009, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Cooperstown, ND, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St. Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 10:00 am -1:00 pm
Carrington, ND, Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Avenue S., Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
McClusky, ND, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Avenue B North, Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 10:00 am -1:00 pm
Wilton, ND, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 105 Dakota Avenue, Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 5:00 - 8:00 pm
Center, ND Center Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave., Thursday, November 19, 2009, 5:00 - 8:00 PM

Addresses:
To send comments or for further information, contact: Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA Rural Utilities Service, at 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or e-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. An Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and a Macro Corridor Study (MCS) has been prepared for the proposed project. All documents are available for public review prior to and at the public scoping meetings. The reports are available at the RUS address provided in this notice and on the agency's Web site: *http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm*. The documents are also available for review at the offices of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. and on their Web site at www.minnkota.com. In addition, the following repositories will have the AES and MCS available for public review:

Aneta Public Library, 11995 19th St, Aneta, ND 58212-0088
Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library, 515 N. 5th St, Bismarck, ND 58501-4057
Oliver County Auditor, 115 West Main, Center, ND 58530
City of Carrington Library, 55 9th Ave, Carrington, ND 58421-2017
Griggs County Library, 902 Burrel Ave, Cooperstown, ND 58425-0546
Goodrich Public Library, 122 McKinley Ave, Goodrich, ND 58444-0175
Grand Forks Library, 2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201-6324
Harvey Public Library, 119 10th St, Harvey, ND 58341-1531
Mayville Library, 52 Center Ave, Mayville, ND 58257-1299
Sheridan County Auditor, 215 East 2nd St, McClusky, ND 58356-1510
New Rockford Public Library, 811 1st Ave N, New Rockford, ND 58356-1510
Turtle Lake Public Library, 107 Eggert Street, Turtle Lake, ND 58575-0540
Washburn Public Library, 705 Main Ave, Washburn, ND 58577-0637
Northwood Public Schools and City Library, 300 35th St, Northwood, ND 58267

Supplementary Information:

The primary purpose for the proposed action is for the reallocation of energy presently transmitted on the existing direct current (DC) line to this new 345 kV line. Currently, the output from the Milton R. Young Generation Station Unit 2 (Young 2) is purchased under contract by Minnkota and Minnesota Power, with each utility receiving approximately 50 percent of the output. Electricity generated by Young 2 flows over a dedicated DC, 465-mile-long transmission line from Center, North Dakota to Duluth, Minnesota, where it is converted back to alternating current (AC) for further transmission into the Minnesota Power and Minnkota service areas. Minnesota Power will take 100 percent ownership of the existing DC line and DC/AC conversion facilities in early 2010, and will utilize the DC line to deliver additional wind energy. Starting in 2013 Minnkota will begin receiving increasing allocations of Young 2 output until the year 2026, when Minnkota will purchase 100 percent of the Young 2 output. With no continuous capacity available to Minnkota on the HVDC system, the power will need to be moved over the AC transmission system to Minnkota's service territory.

Minnkota is seeking financing from RUS for its ownership of the proposed project. Prior to making a financial decision about whether to provide financial assistance for the proposed project, RUS is required to conduct an environmental review under the NEPA in accordance with RUS policies and procedures codified in 7 CFR Part 1794. Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed action. Representatives from RUS and Minnkota will be available at the scoping meetings to discuss the environmental review process, describe the proposed action, discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept comments. RUS will use comments and input provided by government agencies, private organizations, and the public in the preparation of the Draft EA. If RUS finds, based on the EA, that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, RUS will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Public notification of a Finding of No Significant Impact would be published in the Federal Register and in newspapers with circulation in the project area. RUS may take its final action on proposed actions requiring an EA (§ 1794.23) any time after publication of applicant notices that a FONSI has been made and any required review period has expired. When substantive comments are received on the EA, RUS may provide an additional period (15 days) for public review following the publication of its FONSI determination. Final action will not be taken until this review period has expired. Where appropriate to carry out the purposes of NEPA, RUS may impose, on a case-by-case basis, additional requirements associated with the preparation of an EA. If at any point in the preparation of an EA, RUS determines that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will be

required. Any final action by RUS related to the proposed action will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794).

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

AGENCY: Pacific Southwest Region, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Request for applications.

SUMMARY: Applications are being sought for certain positions on the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. New members will be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture and serve three year terms. Appointments will begin July 2010 when current member appointments expire. One member is being sought to represent each of the following interests: (1) Winter Non-Motorized Recreation, (2) Summer Motorized Recreation, (3) Summer Non-Motorized Recreation, (4) Non-Motorized Outfitters and Guides, (5) Local Environmental Groups, (6) State Tourism, (7) Indian Tribes, and (8) Local Government.

The public is invited to submit applications for these positions. Current members who have only served one term may reapply. Application packages can be obtained at *http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rrac-application.shtml* or by e-mailing *R5rrac@fs.fed.us.* Interested parties may also contact Frances Enkoji, US Forest Service, at 707–562–8846.

DATES: All applications must be received by December 11, 2009. This timeframe can be extended if officials do not receive applications for the needed positions.

ADDRESSES: Interested parties may submit applications by mail to Frances Enkoji, US Forest Service, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Anyone wanting further information regarding the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee may contact Marlene Finley, Designated Federal Official, Pacific Southwest Region Recreation RAC, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592; 707–562–8856.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), signed December 2004, requires that the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management provide Recreation RACs with an opportunity to make recommendations to the two agencies on implementing or eliminating standard amenity fees; expanded amenity fees; and noncommercial special recreation permit fees; expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and fee level changes. Each Recreation RAC consists of 11 members appointed by the Secretary.

Nomination Information: Applicants must complete an AD–755 form (Advisory Committee or Search and Promotion Background Information) and provide a narrative that addresses the following:

(1) What group or perspective they represent and how they are qualified to represent that group;

(2) Why they want to serve on the committee and what they can contribute;

(3) Their past experience in working successfully as part of a collaborative group.

Letters of recommendation are welcome but not required. Applicants do not need to live in a state within a particular Recreation RAC's area of jurisdiction nor live in a state in which Forest Service managed lands are located. Application packages, including evaluation criteria and AD–755 are available at *http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/rracapplication.shtml* or by contacting the Pacific Southwest Region as identified in this notice. Completed application packages must be received by December 11, 2009. Additional information about the California Recreation RAC can be found at *http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/passes/rrac* or about recreation fees at *http://www.fs.fed.us/passespermits/about-rec-fees.shtml.* The Forest Service will also work the Governor and local officials to identify potential applicants. The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management will review applications and prepare a list of qualified applicants from which the Secretary shall appoint both members and alternates. The alternate will become a participating member of the Recreation RAC only if the member for whom the alternate is appointed to replace leaves the committee permanently. Recreation RAC members serve without pay but are reimbursed for travel and per diem expenses for regularly scheduled meetings. All Recreation RAC meetings are open the public and an open public forum is part of each meeting. Meeting dates and time will be determined by agency officials in consultation with the Recreation RAC members.

Dated: October 21, 2009.

Marlene Finley,

Designated Federal Official, Recreation RAC, Pacific Southwest Region.

[FR Doc. E9–26086 Filed 10–29–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–11–M

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Rural Utilities Service

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.: Notice of Intent To Hold Public Scoping Meetings and Prepare an Environmental Assessment

AGENCY: Rural Utilities Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Assessment.

SUMMARY: The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) intends to hold public scoping meetings and prepare an Environmental Assessment with Scoping (EA) to meet its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and 7 CFR part 1794 in connection with potential impacts related to a proposed project by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The proposed Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project (proposed action) consists of: the construction of approximately 260 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, North Dakota; upgrades at the Center 345 kV substation; upgrades at the Square Butte 230 kV Substation; an additional 230 kV tie line; and upgrades at the Prairie Substation and fiber optic regeneration stations. Minnkota is requesting that RUS provide financial assistance for the proposed action.

DATES: RUS will conduct public scoping meetings in an open house format to provide information and solicit comments for the preparation of the EA. Scoping meetings will be held on the following dates: Grand Forks, ND, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S. 42nd St., Monday, November 16, 2009, 5–8 p.m.; Cooperstown, ND, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St., Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.; Carrington, ND, Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Avenue S., Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 5:00–8:00 pm; McClusky, ND, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Avenue B North, Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 10 a.m.–1 p.m.; Wilton, ND, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 105 Dakota Avenue, Wednesday, November 18, 2009, 5–8 p.m.; and Center, ND, Center Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave., Thursday, November 19, 2009, 5–8 p.m.

ADDRESSES: To send comments or request additional information, contact: Mr. Dennis Rankin, Environmental Protection Specialist, USDA, Rural Utilities Service, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW., Stop 1571, Washington, DC 20250–1571, telephone: (202) 720–1953 or *e-mail:*

dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov. An Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and a Macro Corridor Study (MCS) has been prepared for the proposed project. All documents are available for public review prior to and during the public scoping meetings. The reports are available at the RUS address provided in this notice and on the agency's Web site at: *http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm.*, the offices of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. and their Web site at: *http://www.minnkota.com*; and the following repositories: Aneta Public Library, 11995 19th St., Aneta, ND 58212–0088; Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library, 515 N. 5th St., Bismarck, ND 58501–4057; Oliver County Auditor, 115 West Main, Center, ND 58530; City of Carrington Library, 55 9th Ave., Carrington, ND 58421–2017; Griggs County Library, 902 Burrel Ave., Cooperstown, ND 58425–0546; Goodrich Public Library, 122 McKinley Ave., Goodrich, ND 58444–0175; Grand Forks Library, 2110 Library Circle, Grand Forks, ND 58201–6324; Harvey Public Library, 119 10th St., Harvey, ND 58341–1531; Mayville Library, 52 Center Ave., Mayville, ND 58257–1299; Sheridan County Auditor, 215 East 2nd St., McClusky, ND 58356–1510; New Rockford Public Library, 811 First Ave. N, New Rockford, ND 58356–1510; Turtle Lake Public Library, 107 Eggert St., Turtle Lake, ND 58575–0540; Washburn Public Library, 705 Main Ave., Washburn, ND 58577–0637; and Northwood Public Schools and City Library, 300 35th St., Northwood, ND 58267.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The purpose of the proposed action is to reallocate energy presently transmitted on an existing direct current (DC) line to the proposed 345 kV line. Currently, the output from the Milton R. Young Generation Station Unit 2 (Young 2) is purchased under contract by Minnkota and Minnesota Power; each utility receives approximately 50 percent of the output. Electricity generated by Young 2 flows over a dedicated DC, 465-mile transmission line from Center, North Dakota to Duluth, Minnesota, where it is converted back to alternating current (AC) for further transmission into the Minnesota Power and Minnkota service areas. Minnesota Power will take 100 percent ownership of the existing DC line and DC/AC conversion facilities in early 2010; the DC line will be used to deliver wind energy. In 2013, Minnkota will receive increasing allocations of Young 2 output until the year 2026 when Minnkota will purchase 100 percent of the Young 2 output. With no continuous capacity available to Minnkota on the HVDC system, the power needs be moved over the AC transmission system to Minnkota's service territory.

Minnkota is seeking financing from RUS for its ownership of the proposed project. Before making a decision to provide financing for the proposed project, RUS is required to conduct an environmental review under NEPA in accordance with RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794). Government agencies, private organizations, and the public are invited to participate in the planning and analysis of the proposed action. Representatives from RUS and Minnkota will be available at the scoping meetings to discuss the environmental review process, describe the proposed action, discuss the scope of environmental issues to be considered, answer questions, and accept comments. RUS will use comments and input provided in the preparation of the Draft EA. If RUS finds, based on the EA, that the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, RUS will prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). Public notification of the FONSI would be published in the **Federal Register** and in newspapers with circulation in the project area. RUS may take its final action on proposed actions requiring an EA (§ 1794.23) any time after publication of applicant notices that a FONSI has been made and any required review period has expired. When substantive comments are received on the EA, RUS may provide an additional period (15 days) for public review following the publication of its FONSI determination. Final action will not be taken until this review period has expired. Where appropriate to carry out the purposes of NEPA, RUS may impose, on a case-by-case basis, additional requirements associated with the preparation of an EA. If at any point in the preparation of an EA, RUS determines that the proposed action will have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement will be required. Any final action by RUS related to the proposed action will be subject to, and contingent upon, compliance with all relevant Federal, State, and local environmental laws and regulations and completion of the environmental review requirements as prescribed in RUS's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1794).

Dated: October 23, 2009.

Mark S. Plank,

Director, Engineering and Environmental Staff, Rural Utilities Service.

[FR Doc. E9–26146 Filed 10–29–09; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE P

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Forest Service

Shasta Trinity National Forest, South Fork Management Unit, California Rattlesnake Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: The Hayfork District of the Shasta Trinity National Forest is proposing to use vegetation treatments to reduce risks from fire, improve forest health, and provide forest products on approximately 6,028 acres within the Rattlesnake watershed on the South Fork Management Unit of the Shasta Trinity National Forest. The active management needed in the Rattlesnake Fuel Reduction and Forest Health Project (Rattlesnake project) area to reduce fuels and stocking levels through thinning requires the removal of trees and biomass, some of which have commercial value. An estimated 33 million board feet of merchantable sawtimber, and an estimated 35,092 bone dry tons of biomass are expected to be removed. Providing wood products to meet regional and national needs is consistent with Forest Plan goals, standards and guidelines. The initial economic analysis shows that the average diameter and quantity of the material treated under this project would generally be insufficient to support a viable timber sale in today's market. The Forest Service will analyze these vegetation treatments within the constraints of the Shasta Trinity National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, 1995.

The proposed Rattlesnake project is in the vicinity of the Post Mountain and Forest Glen communities in southern Trinity County, California. The project area is within portions of the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) boundaries for both of these communities and within the Hayfork Adaptive Management Area (AMA), and Management Area 19, Indian Valley/Rattlesnake, of the Shasta-Trinity Land and Resource Management Plan (USFS 1995, p. 4–64 & 4–65).

The project includes acreage in Township 1 North, Range 7 East, Sections 25 and 36, Township 1 North, Range 8 East, Sections 19–21, and 28–

Appendix F: News, Press Release & Public Service Announcement

CGF – Scoping Meetings November 2009 Media Distribution Plan

Press Release, Public Legal Notice & Paid Display Advertisement

The public legal notice, the paid display advertisement and the press release were distributed to the following publications:

County	Newspaper	Publication Date
Burleigh	The Bismarck Tribune	7-Nov-09
Cass	The Fargo Forum	2-Nov-09
Eddy	New Rockford Transcript	4-Nov-09
Foster	Foster County Independent	2-Nov-09
Grand Forks	Grand Forks Herald	8-Nov-09
Griggs	Griggs County Courier	30-Oct-09
Kidder	Steele Ozone and Kidder County Press	4-Nov-09
McLean	McLean County Independent	5-Nov-09
Nelson	Lakota American	4-Nov-09
Oliver	Center Republican	5-Nov-09
Sheridan	McClusky Gazette	5-Nov-09
Steele	Steele County Press	6-Nov-09
Traill	Traill County Tribune	31-Oct-09
Wells	The Herald-Press	7-Nov-09

Public Service Announcement

A printed public service announcement was distributed to the following radio and television stations on November 3, 2009 and requested to air from November 9th to November 16th:

Radio

- KFYR – AM, Bismarck
- KHND-AM, Harvey
- KJKJ-FM, Grand Forks
- KKBO-FM, Bismarck
- KKXL-AM, Grand Forks
- KKXL-FM, Grand Forks
- KMAV-FM, Mayville
- KMSR-AM, Mayville
- KNOX-AM, Thompson
- KNOX-FM, Thompson
- KPPD-FM, Bismarck
- KQDY-FM, Bismarck
- KQHT-FM, Grand Forks
- KSNR-FM, Grand Forks
- KSSS-FM, Bismarck
- KUND-FM, Bismarck
- KVXR-AM, Grand Forks
- KWTL-AM, Grand Forks
- KXMR-AM, Bismarck
- KYCK-FM, Thompson
- KYYY-FM, Bismarck
- KZLT-FM, Thompson

Television

- Bismarck- KBMY TV 17 - ABC
- Bismarck- KFYR TV 5- NBC
- Bismarck – KXMB TV 12- CBS
- Bismarck - KNDX TV 32- FOX
- Grand Forks-WDAZ TV

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six Public Scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments become part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format; RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.,** McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings, on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

Aneta Public Library
Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library
City of Carrington Library
Goodrich Public Library
Grand Forks Library
Griggs County Library
Harvey Public Library
Mayville Library
New Rockford Public Library
Northwood Public Schools and City Library
Oliver County Auditor
Sheridan County Auditor
Turtle Lake Public Library
Washburn Public Library

Direct comments to: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line: 800-473-5679

Legal Notice
CGF RUS Scoping Meetings
November 2009

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six public scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments become part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format; RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

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  - **Grand Forks, N.D.,** Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.,** Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10am - 1pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.,** The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.,** McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10am - 1pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.,** City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 - 8pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.,** Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8pm

RUS and Minnkota staff will be on hand to provide information, answer questions and address concerns.

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available at all meetings. The documents are also available for review on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at the offices of Minnkota and on their web site at www.minnkota.com, look for the CGF Project link and at the following locations:

Aneta Public Library
Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library
City of Carrington Library
Goodrich Public Library
Grand Forks Library
Griggs County Library
Harvey Public Library
Mayville Library
New Rockford Public Library
Northwood Public Schools and City Library
Oliver County Auditor
Sheridan County Auditor
Turtle Lake Public Library
Washburn Public Library

Direct comments to: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250–1571, or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program,
(202) 720-1953, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – The Rural Utilities Services (RUS), an Agency of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Utilities, has announced a series of six public scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks transmission line project proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). Minnkota is a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D.

Minnkota has proposed the construction of approximately 260 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, N.D. to secure additional energy from Milton R. Young 2, a 455-megawatt (MW) coal-fired plant near Center, N.D., owned by Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

To bring the energy generated by Young 2 into the Red River Valley, Minnkota will construct a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks. Building the new transmission line will enable the existing DC transmission line from the Milton R. Young Station to carry more renewable wind energy.

The purpose of these open houses will be to provide information regarding Minnkota's proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns.

Meeting dates and locations:

- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St. 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.,** The Chieftain Conference Center Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.,** McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.,** City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 - 8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

An Alternatives Evaluation Study (AES) and a Macro-Corridor Study (MCS), prepared by Minnkota will be available for review at the public meetings, and at a number of locations throughout the corridor; a list of viewing locations as well as the studies themselves can be found online at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF project link) and on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm.

Comments concerning the potential environmental impacts and related review of this project are encouraged and will be incorporated into RUS' Environmental Assessment for this project. Written comments will be accepted until December 18, 2009 and can be submitted at any of the public meetings or to Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program at:

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, DC 20250-1571

dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

For more information please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line at 800-473-5679.

Public Service Announcement
CGF RUS Scoping Meetings
November 9 – November 16, 2009

CONTACT: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program,
(202) 720-1953, dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Minnkota, Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service has announced public scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, 260 miles of 345 kV transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. The public is invited to attend the open house meetings held at the following times and locations:

Grand Forks, Alerus Center, Monday, November 16, 5 - 8pm
Cooperstown, City Hall, Tuesday, November 17, 10am - 1pm
Carrington, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tuesday, November 17, 5 - 8pm
McClusky, Community Hall, Wednesday November 18, 10am - 1pm
Wilton, Memorial Hall, Wednesday, November 18, 5 - 8pm
Center, Civic Center, Thursday, November 19, 5 - 8pm

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line at 800-473-5679.

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Affidavit of Publication for Public Legal Notice

The Bismarck Tribune
www.bismarcktribune.com
The Finder

Classified Advertising Invoice

Bismarck Tribune
PO BOX 5516
Bismarck, ND 58506-5516
701-223-2500
In State 800-472-2273
Fax 701-223-6584

HDR INC
THERSA BAKER
8404 INDIAN HILLS DR
OMAHA NE 68114

Customer: 60056881
Phone: (402) 926-7138
Date: 11/14/2009

Date	Order #	Type	Order Amt
11/14/09	20402186	INV	106.50

Amount Paid: _____ CK #: _____

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT (circle one)
MasterCard DISCOVER NOVUS American Express Cards VISA
Card #: _____
Exp Date: _____
Signature: _____
Credit card users: Fax to 701-223-6584

PLEASE DETACH AND RETURN TOP PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT

Date	Date	Times Run	Description	Lines	Class Code	Order Amt	Net Amt Due
			RUS Scoping Mtg/604705	71.00	Legals	106.50	106.50
11/07/09	11/07/09	1	Bismarck Tribune PO:public notice				

Affidavit of Publication
State of North Dakota) SS County of Burleigh
Before me, a Notary Public for the State of North Dakota personally appeared ___ who being duly sworn, deposes and says that he (she) is the Clerk of Bismarck Tribune Co., and that the publication(s) were made through the Bismarck Tribune on the following dates: 11/7. Signed Jill Lindsey
sworn and subscribed to before me this 20th day of November 2009
Notary Public in and for the State of North Dakota

GREGORY P. ZIEGLER
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires July 22, 2015

Please return invoice or put order number on check. Thank You.

Remarks | Total Due: 106.50

Bismarck Tribune
www.bismarcktribune.com
PO BOX 5516
Bismarck, ND 58506-5516
701-223-2500
In State 800-472-2273
Fax: 701-223-6584

To place a classified ad call.....
* 701-258-6900 in Bismarck/Mandan
* 888-546-2231 in North Dakota

Or place it online at www.bismarcktribune.com

Terms: PAYMENT IS DUE UPON RECEIPT OF INVOICE

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION
998676

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
COUNTY OF CASS

.....

Tina Ehrichs of said County and state, being first duly sworn, on oath says: That *THE FORUM* is a daily newspaper of general circulation printed and published in the City of Fargo, in said County and State by FORUM COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY, and that *THE FORUM* is the duly elected, qualified and acting official newspaper in and for Cass County according to the provisions of the statute covering official newspapers, and that I am the clerk of the publisher of *THE FORUM*, and during all of such time covering the publication of this notice have occupied such position on said newspaper, and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit; and that the advertisement headed....**Legal Notice**
a printed copy of which is hereunto attached, was printed and published in said newspaper **one** time to wit:
November 2, 2009

.....

Subscribed and sworn to before me this
29th day of December 2009

.....

Notary Public, Cass Co., N.D.

My commission expires 4-18-2012

PUBLICATION FEES

73...lines straight
...1.....times.....67.....$48.91

Total.....$48.91

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, } ss.
County of Eddy, }

I, Victoria Ryan, of said County and State, being first duly sworn, on my oath says: That the New Rockford Transcript is a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of New Rockford in said County and State by Transcript Publishing and has been such newspaper during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that I, the undersigned, am bookkeeper and have personal knowledge of all the facts stated in this affidavit, and

the advertisement headed The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings For the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

a printed copy of which is hereunto attached, was printed and published in the said newspaper for a period of one consecutive week(s), to wit:

2 Nov. 20 09	20	20
20	20	20
20	20	20

Line rate of .73 per line times 65 lines of straight and/or tabulated matter times 1 insertion(s). $ 47.45

Inch rate of ____ times ____ columns times depth of ____ times ____ insertion(s). $ ____

TOTAL PUBLISHER'S FEE $ 47.45

Victoria Ryan

Subscribed and sworn before me this 4th day of November, 20 09

Bonnie Voigt

BONNIE VOIGT Notary Public, State of North Dakota
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Mar. 1, 2014

My commission expires ____ 20____

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

State of North Dakota
County of Foster, ss.

Linda Duursma

of said State and County being first duly sworn, on her-his oath says: That she-he is

the secretary of the Foster County Independent, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Carrington, in said County and State, and the duly designated official newspaper of said Foster County, during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that the advertisement headed:

Public Notice

a printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper and not in a supplement, once a week 1 successive weeks, to-wit:

November 2, 2009

PATRICIA A STOCK
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Nov. 5, 2010

81 lines x .58

Publication fees $ 46.98

Notary fees $

Total $

Sworn and subscribed to Linda Duursma

before me this 3 day of November A. D. 2009

Patricia A. Stock

Affidavit of Publication

State of North Dakota, County of Grand Forks

David Austin of said State and County being first duly sworn, on oath says: That he is Advertising Director of Grand Forks Herald, Inc., publisher of the Grand Forks Herald, Morning Edition, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Grand Forks, in said County and State, and has been during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that the advertisements of

HDR, Inc. IO 421334

was printed and published in **26,430 copies** of following issues of said newspaper to wit:

November 8, 2009

and that the full amount of the fee for the publication of the annexed notice insures solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division therof has been made with any other person and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever.

That said newspaper was, at the time of the aforesaid publication, the duly elected and qualified Official Newspaper within said County, and qualified in accordance with the law of the State of North Dakota to do legal printing in said County and State.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of

Nov A. D. 2009.

Notary Public, Grand Forks, ND

ELAINE FAWCETT
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
My Commission Expires: Feb. 7, 2013

1594

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA } SS.
COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS }

Vicky Straub of said State and County being first duly sworn, on oath says:

That {she / he} is { a representative of the GRAND FORKS HERALD, INC.,

publisher of the Grand Forks Herald, Morning Edition, a daily newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the City of Grand Forks, in said County and State, and has been during the time hereinafter mentioned, and that the advertisement of

Public Scoping Meetings

a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was printed and published in every copy of the following issues of said newspaper, for a period of 1 time (s) to wit:

11/7	Yr. 09		Yr.
	Yr.		Yr.
	Yr.		Yr.
	Yr.		Yr.

and that the full amount of the fee for the publication of the annexed notice inures solely to the benefit of the publishers of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for a division thereof has been made with any other person and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person whomsoever and the amount of said fee is $ 292.50 ;

That said newspaper was, at the time of the aforesaid publication, the duly elected and qualified Official Newspaper within said County, and qualified in accordance with the law of the State of North Dakota to do legal printing in said County and State.

Publication Fee $ 292.50

19 1/2"

ELAINE FAWCETT
NOTARY PUBLIC
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
My Commission Expires: Feb. 7, 2013

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 day of Dec A.D. 09

Elaine Fawcett
Notary Public, Grand Forks, ND

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
as
County of Griggs)

I, Amanda Jones being first duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am the bookkeeper of the Griggs County Courier, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Cooperstown, in said county and state, and that the advertisement headed:

Public Notice Legal
HDR Inc

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period of time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement, for 1 week(s), October 30, 2009 to wit:

Straight Matter Lines	91		
First Time Line Rates	.55	$50.05	10.30.09
Subsequent Line Rates	.55		
Tabulated Lines			
First Time Line Rate			
Subsequent Line Rates			
Column Inches			
First Time Inch Rate	$5.41		
Subsequent Inch Rates	$5.41		
Notary Fee		Total Cost of Legal $	50.05

Amanda K. Jones - Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of Oct, A.D. 2009.

RANORA SHERRARD
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
(SEAL) My Commission Expires Oct. 28, 2015

Ranora Sherrard

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires Oct. 28, 2015

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF KIDDER

Shirley Morlock being duly sworn, deposes and says, that the annexed printed copy of notice headed

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings
79 lines @ $.64

was taken from the **STEELE OZONE & KIDDER COUNTY PRESS,** a newspaper, which during the whole time of publication of said notice hereinafter stated, has been and is printed and published at Steele, County of Kidder and State of North Dakota. That the said notice was published in said newspaper on the following date (s):

November 4, 2009

in each and every issue of the full number thereof, commencing on the 4th day of November, and ending on 4th day of November, upon which days or times of publication aforesaid the said newspaper was regularly published, and that during the whole time of said publication he/she was one of the printers and publishers of the said newspaper.

Publishing Fees: $50.56

Shirley Morlock

Subscribed and sworn before me this 4th day of November, 2009.

Janell G. Gnirk
Notary Public, Kidder County, North Dakota

JANELL G. GNIRK
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Sept. 11, 2015

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
SS
COUNTY OF MCLEAN)

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the MCLEAN COUNTY INDEPENDENT , a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of GARRISON, that the advertisement headed:

HDR ONE COMPANY , GR-TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT PUBLIC HEARING/LEGAL

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 1 consecutive week 11/05/09 to wit:

8.75 47.34 11/05/2009

Notary Fee $1.00 Total Cost of Legal $48.34

Shelley Chase

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of December A.D. 2009

(Seal) Darla J. Mautz

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires

DARLA J MAUTZ
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My commission expires July 22, 2010

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
)ss
COUNTY OF NELSON)

Lyle Pederson of said State and County, being duly sworn on his oath says: That he is Publisher of THE LAKOTA AMERICAN, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, printed and published at Lakota, in said County and State, and that said Lakota American was duly and legally elected and designated as the official and legal newspaper, and that the advertisement of

Legal Notice

a printed copy of which is hereunto annexed, was printed and published in every copy of each issue of said newspaper for a period of 1 consecutive weeks, to-wit:

Straight Matter Lines	____	Nov 4, 2009	
First Time Line Rate	____	____,	____
Subsequent Line Rates	____	____,	____
Tabulated Lines	____	____,	____
First Time Line Rate	____	____,	____
Subsequent Lines Rates	____	____,	____
Column Inches	____	____,	____
First Time Inch Rate	____	____,	____
Subsequent Inch Rates	____	____,	____

and that the full amount of the legal fee for the publication of the annexed notice insures to the benefit of the publisher of said newspaper, that no arrangement or understanding for the division thereof has been made with any other person, and that no part thereof has been agreed to be paid to any person, whomsoever, and the amount of said fee is $ 75.48

L. B. Pederson

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of November A. D. 2009

Ellen L. Pederson Notary Public Nelson County, N.D.

My Commission Expires .....

ELLEN L. PEDERSON
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Jan. 3, 2013

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
SS
COUNTY OF OLIVER)

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the CENTER REPUBLICAN , a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of CENTER, that the advertisement headed:

HDR ONE COMPANY CR-RUS PUBLIC NOTICE/LEGAL

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 1 consecutive week 11/05/09 to wit:

9 1/2 51.40 11/05/2009

Notary Fee $1.00 Total Cost of Legal $52.40

Shelley Chase

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of December A.D. 2009

(Seal) Darla J. Mautz

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires

DARLA J MAUTZ
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My commission expires July 22, 2010

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
SS
COUNTY OF SHERIDAN)

I SHELLEY CHASE, being first duly sworn, on my own oath, say, that I am the bookkeeper of the MCCLUSKY GAZETTE , a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of MCCLUSKY, that the advertisement headed:

HDR ONE COMPANY MC-RUS PUBLIC NOTICE MEETINGS/LEGAL

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 1 consecutive week 11/05/09 to wit:

9 48.69 11/05/2009

Notary Fee $1.00 Total Cost of Legal $49.69

Shelley Chase

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28th day of December A.D. 2009.

(Seal) Darla J. Mautz

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires

DARLA J MAUTZ
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My commission expires July 22, 2010

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
as
County of Steele)

I, Deborah Aberle being first duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am the bookkeeper of the Steele County Press, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Finley, in said county & state, and that the advertisement headed:

CGF Rus Scoping Meetings
HDR, Inc.

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period of time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement, for 1 week(s), NOV. 6, 2009 to wit:

Straight Matter Lines	93	
First Time Line Rates	.55	51.15 11·6·09
Subsequent Line Rates	.55	
Tabulated Lines		
First Time Line Rate		
Subsequent Line Rates		
Column Inches	12	
First Time Inch Rate	$5.41	64.92 11·6·09
Subsequent Inch Rates	$5.41	
Notary Fee		Total Cost of Legal $ 116.07

Deborah Aberle - Office Manager

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 6th day of November, A.D. 2009.

KARLA NESET
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
(SEAL) Karla Neset
Notary Public, State of North Dakota

My Commission Expires 5/23/2013

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
COUNTY OF TRAILL) ss
)

I, Thomas A. Monilaws, of said State and County, being first duly sworn on his oath says: That he is the general manager of the TRAILL COUNTY TRIBUNE, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Mayville, in said county and state, and that the advertisement headed:

Rural Utilities Service (Public Scoping Meetings)

a printed copy of which is hereto annexed, was printed and published in every copy of each issue of said newspaper for a

period of 1 consecutive weeks to wit:

October 31, 2009	.....	2x7	Lines		=	77.00
			Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$
	.....		Lines	@	=	$

Notary/Affidavit Fee..... $

Total Charge..... $ 77.00

Signed Thomas A. Monilaws

Thomas A. Monilaws, General Manager

Subscribed and sworn to me before this 5th day of Nov
A.D. 2009.

DUSTIN OLSON
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Mar. 25, 2014

Notary Public, Traill County, ND

My Commission expires March 25, 2014

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
County of Wells) ss

I, Peg Bell, being first duly sworn, on my oath, say that I am the recorder of The Herald-Press, a weekly newspaper of general circulation, published in the city of Harvey, in said county and state, and that the advertisement headed:

Rural Utilities Service

a printed copy of which is here annexed, was published in the regular and entire issue of said newspaper during the period and time of publication, and that the notice was published in the newspaper proper, and not in a supplement,

for 1 consecutive week(s) _____ to wit:

Straight Matter Lines	_____	_____	, 20___
First Time Line Rate	_____	_____	, 20___
Subsequent Line Rates	_____	_____	, 20___
Tabulated Lines	_____	_____	, 20___
First Time Line Rate	_____	_____	, 20___
Subsequent Line Rates	_____	_____	, 20___
Column Inches	12	_____	, 20___
First Time Inch Rate	$5.00	11-07	, 2009
Subsequent Inch Rates	_____	_____	, 20___

Notary Fee Total Cost of Legal, $60.00

Peg Bell

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of Nov A.D. 2009.

(Seal) Janine Schmitz

Notary Public, State of North Dakota

JANINE SCHMITZ
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Apr. 22, 2011

Public Display Advertisement

Burleigh County – The Bismarck Tribune

Texas victims had different reasons for enlisting

By CARYN ROUSSEAU and ROBERT IMRIE
Associated Press Writers

The 13 people killed when an Army psychiatrist allegedly opened fire on fellow soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas, included a pregnant woman who was preparing to return home, a man who quit a furniture company job to join the military about a year ago, a newlywed who had served in Iraq and a woman who had vowed to take on Osama bin Laden after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. Here is a look at some of the victims.

■ **Francheska Velez**

Velez, 21, of Chicago, was pregnant and preparing to return home. A friend of Velez's, Sasha Ramos, described her as a fun-loving person who wrote poetry and loved dancing.

"She was like my sister," Ramos, 21, said. "She was the most fun and happy person you could know. She never did anything wrong to anybody."

Family members said Velez had recently returned from deployment in Iraq and had sought a lifelong career in the Army.

"She was a very happy girl and sweet," said her father, Juan Guillermo Velez, his eyes red from crying. "She had the spirit of a child."

Ramos, who also served briefly in the military, couldn't reconcile that her friend was killed in this country — just after leaving a war zone.

"It makes it a lot harder," she said. "This is not something a soldier expects — to have someone in our uniform go start shooting at us."

■ **Capt. John Gaffaney**

Gaffaney, 56, was a psychiatric nurse who worked for San Diego County, Calif., for more than 20 years and had arrived at Fort Hood the day before the shooting to prepare for a deployment to Iraq.

Gaffaney, who was born in Williston, N.D., had served in the Navy and later the California National Guard as a younger man, his family said. After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, he tried to sign up again for military service. Although the Army Reserves at first declined, he got the call about two years ago asking him to reapply, said his close friend and co-worker Stephanie Powell.

"He wanted to help the boys in Iraq and Afghanistan deal with the trauma of what they were seeing," Powell said. "He was an honorable man. He just wanted to serve in any way he can."

His family described him as an avid baseball card collector and fan of the San Diego Padres who liked to read military novels and ride his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.

Gaffaney supervised a team of six social workers, including Powell, at the county's Adult Protective Services department. Ellen Schmeding, assistant deputy director for the county's Health and Human Services Agency, said Gaffaney was a strong leader.

He is survived by a wife and a son.

"He wanted to help the boys in Iraq and Afghanistan deal with the trauma of what they were seeing. He was an honorable man. He just wanted to serve in any way he can."

Stephanie Powell, remembering Capt. John Gaffaney, who was born in Williston

■ **Pfc. Aaron Thomas Nemelka**

Nemelka, 19, of the Salt Lake City suburb of West Jordan, Utah, chose to join the Army instead of going on a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, his uncle Christopher Nemelka said.

"As a person, Aaron was so soft and kind and as gentle as they come, a sweetheart," his uncle said. "What I loved about the kid was his independence of thought."

Aaron Nemelka, the youngest of four children, was scheduled to be deployed to Afghanistan in January, his family said in a statement. Nemelka had enlisted in the Army in October 2008, Utah National Guard Lt. Col. Lisa Olson said.

■ **Pfc. Michael Pearson**

Pearson, 21, of the Chicago suburb of Bolingbrook, Ill., quit what he figured was a dead-end furniture company job to join the military about a year ago.

Pearson's mother, Sherryll Pearson, said the 2006 Bolingbrook High School graduate joined the military because he was eager to serve his country and broaden his horizons.

"He was the best son in the whole world," she said. "He was my best friend and I miss him."

His cousin, Mike Dostalek, showed reporters a poem Pearson wrote. "I look only to the future for wisdom. To look back and earth in my wooden chair," the poem says.

At Pearson's family home Friday, a yellow ribbon was tied to a porch light and a soldier stamped with American flags on the front door read, "United we stand."

Neighbor Jessica Koerber, who was with Pearson's parents when they received word Thursday their son had died, described him as a saint who clearly loved his family — someone who enjoyed hanging around with his nieces and nephews, and other times playing his guitar.

"That family lost their gem," she told the AP. "He was a great kid, a great guy. ... Mikey was one of a kind."

Sherryll Pearson said she hadn't seen her son for a year because he had been training. She told the Tribune that when she last talked to him on the phone two days ago, they had discussed how he would come home for Christmas.

"He was just a well-rounded individual with a great personality. He was very fun-loving, one who brought a smile to everyone's face he came across."

Tim McGowan, Principal of the Community of Peace Academy, on Pfc. Kham Xiong, of St. Paul, Minn.

■ **Spc. Jason Dean Hunt**

Hunt, 22, of Frederick, Okla., went into the military after graduating from Tipton High School in 2005 and had gotten married just two months ago, his mother, Gale Hunt, said. He had served 3 1/2 years in the Army, including a stint in Iraq.

Gale Hunt said two uniformed soldiers came to her door late Thursday night to notify her of her son's death.

Hunt, known as J.D., was "just kind of a quiet boy and a good kid, very kind," said Kathy Gray, an administrative assistant at Tipton Schools.

His mother said he was family oriented.

"He didn't go in for hunting or sports," Gale Hunt said. "He was a very quiet boy who enjoyed video games."

He had re-enlisted for six years after serving his initial two-year assignment, she said. Jason Hunt was previously stationed at Fort Stewart in Georgia.

■ **Michael Grant Cahill**

Cahill, a 62-year-old physician assistant, suffered a heart attack two weeks ago and returned to work at the base as a civilian employee after taking just one week off for recovery, said his daughter Keely Vanacker.

"He survived that. He was getting back on track and he gets killed by a gunman," Vanacker said, her words bare with shock and disbelief.

Cahill, of Cameron, Texas, helped treat soldiers returning from tours of duty or preparing for deployment. Often, Vanacker said, Cahill would walk young soldiers where they needed to go, just to make sure they got the right treatment.

"He loved his patients, and his patients loved him," said Vanacker, 33, the oldest of Cahills three adult children. "He just felt his job was important."

Cahill, who was born in Spokane, Wash., had worked as a civilian contractor at Fort Hood for about four years, after jobs in rural health clinics and at Veterans Affairs hospitals. He and his wife, Joleen, had been married 37 years.

Vanacker described her father as a prankster-ish man and a voracious reader who could talk for hours about any subject.

The family's typical Thanksgiving dinners ended with board games and long conversations over the table, said Vanacker, whose voice often cracked with emotion as she remembered her father. "Now, who I am going to talk to?"

■ **Sgt. Amy Krueger**

Krueger, 26, of Kiel, Wis., joined the Army after the 2001 terrorist attacks and had vowed to take on Osama bin Laden, her mother, Jeri Krueger said.

Amy Krueger arrived at Fort Hood on Tuesday and was scheduled to be sent to Afghanistan in December, the mother told the Herald Times Reporter of Manitowoc.

Jeri Krueger recalled telling her daughter that she could not take on bin Laden by herself.

"Watch me," her daughter replied.

Kiel High School Principal Dario Talarico told The Associated Press that Krueger graduated from the school in 1998 and had spoken at least once to local elementary school students about her career.

"I just remember that Amy was a very good kid, who like most kids in a small town are just looking for what their next step in life was going to be and she chose the military," Talarico said. "Once she got into the military, she really connected with that kind of lifestyle and was really proud to serve her country."

■ **Pfc. Kham Xiong**

Xiong, 23, of St. Paul, Minn., a 2004 graduate of Community of Peace Academy, enjoyed hunting and fishing.


Xiong

"The sad part is that he had been taught and been trained to protect and to fight. Yet it's such a tragedy that he did not have the opportunity to protect himself and the base," his father, Chor Xiong, told KSTP-TV through an interpreter.

Xiong's 17-year-old brother, Robart, described Kham as "the family clown, just a real good outgoing guy."

Community of Peace Academy Principal Tim McGowan told the AP that Chor Xiong informed the charter school of his son's death. Family members picked up pictures of Xiong on Friday for a memorial service, McGowan said.

"He was just a well-rounded individual with a great personality, who was very fun-loving one who brought a smile to everyone's face he came across," McGowan said.

■ **Juanita Warman**

Warman, 36, was a military physician assistant with two daughters and six grandchildren.

Her sister, Margaret Yaggie of Roaring Branch in north-central Pennsylvania, told the Pittsburgh Tribune-Review that her sister attended Pittsburgh Langley High School and put herself through school at the University of Pittsburgh. She said her sister spent most of her career in the military.

HD couple talks to daughter at Fort Hood

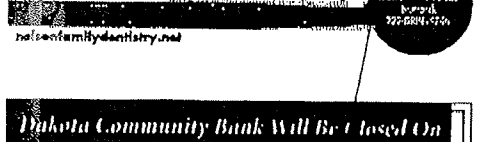
GRAND FORKS (AP) — A Grand Forks couple say their daughter, who teaches at a Fort Hood elementary school, told them the school was locked down after the shooting rampage at the Texas Army base but no one at the school was hurt.

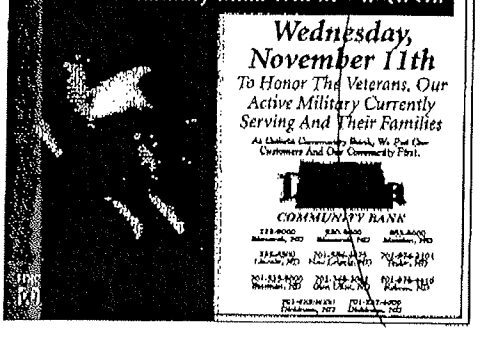
Katie Hass told her parents she was just dismissing her class of 4-year-olds when news of the shootings came over the public address system. Hass said the students and parents who had come to get them were herded back into the school and locked in their classrooms for about four hours.

Peter and Beth Bouley say they have been using instant messaging and phones to contact their daughter.

Her husband, Capt. Brian Hass, a native of the southern North Dakota town of Venturia, is on duty in Iraq.

Beth Bouley says she worries about her son-in-law in Iraq and her son, Grant, in Afghanistan. She said, "the last thing we thought we had to worry about was Katie at Fort Hood."





The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 345-mile, 345-kV [illegible] proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, receive comments, and collect information regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments will be part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format. RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

- Monday, November 9, 2009
  - Grand Forks, N.D., Alerus Center, Expo Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- Tuesday, November 10, 2009
  - Carrington, N.D., Carrington City Hall, 611 6th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - Cooperstown, N.D., The Cooperstown Conference Center, Tee Pee Room #6, 201 Ave E, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- Wednesday, November 11, 2009
  - McClusky, N.D., McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - Wilton, N.D., City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 - 8 pm
- Thursday, November 12, 2009
  - Cando, N.D., Cando Senior Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings, on RUS web site at http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/UWP-Transmission.html, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

Amidon Public Library	Maryville Library
Bismarck's Veterans Memorial Library	New Rockford Public Library
City of Carrington Library	Northwood Public Schools and City Library
Cooperstown Public Library	Oliver County Auditor
Grand Forks Library	Sheridan County Auditor
Griggs County Library	Turtle Lake Public Library
Harvey Public Library	Wentworth Public Library

Direct comments to: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

For more information, please visit www.rurdev.usda.gov or call Minnkota's toll-free project information line: 800-475-5870

Cass County – The Fargo Forum

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six Public Scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments become part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format; RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.,** Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.,** Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.,** The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.,** McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.,** City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 - 8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.,** Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings, on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

Aneta Public Library
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City of Carrington Library
Goodrich Public Library
Grand Forks Library
Griggs County Library
Harvey Public Library
Mayville Library
New Rockford Public Library
Northwood Public Schools and City Library
Oliver County Auditor
Sheridan County Auditor
Turtle Lake Public Library
Washburn Public Library

Direct comments to: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line: 800-473-5679

Eddy County – New Rockford Transcript

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings, on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

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Foster County – Foster County Independent

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings, on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

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Grand Forks – Grand Forks Herald

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  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10am - 1pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10am - 1pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 - 8pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available at all meetings. The documents are also available for review on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at the offices of Minnkota and on their web site at www.minnkota.com, look for the CGF Project link and at the following locations:

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For more information please visit www.minnkota.com
or call Minnkota's toll free project information line at 800-473-5679.

Griggs – Griggs County Courier

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
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Kidder County – Steele Ozone Kidder County Press

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- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

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For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line: 800-473-5679

McLean County – Mclean County Independent

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
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Nelson County – Lakota America

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
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Oliver County – The Center Republican

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

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Grand Forks Library
Griggs County Library
Harvey Public Library
Mayville Library
New Rockford Public Library
Northwood Public Schools and City Library
Oliver County Auditor
Sheridan County Auditor
Turtle Lake Public Library
Washburn Public Library

Direct comments to: Dennis Rankin, USDA Rural Development - Utilities Program, 1400 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20250-1571, or dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov.

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call Minnkota's toll free project information line: 800-473-5679

Sheridan County – McClusky Gazette

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six Public Scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments become part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format; RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

- **Monday, November 16, 2009**
  - **Grand Forks, N.D.**, Alerus Center, Eagle Room 10, 1200 S 42nd St, 5 - 8 pm
- **Tuesday, November 17, 2009**
  - **Cooperstown, N.D.**, Cooperstown City Hall, 611 9th St, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Carrington, N.D.**, The Chieftain Conference Center, Tee Pee Room 60, 4th Ave S, Highway 281, 5 - 8 pm
- **Wednesday, November 18, 2009**
  - **McClusky, N.D.**, McClusky Community Hall, 117 Ave B North, 10 am - 1 pm
  - **Wilton, N.D.**, City of Wilton Memorial Hall, 10 Dakota Ave, 5 -8 pm
- **Thursday, November 19, 2009**
  - **Center, N.D.**, Civic Center Building, 312 N Lincoln Ave, 5 - 8 pm

The Alternative Evaluation Study (AES) and Macro-corridor Study (MCS) for the proposed project will be available for review at all meetings; on RUS web site at http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/ea.htm, at Minnkota offices, on the web at www.minnkota.com (look for the CGF Project link) and at the following locations:

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Griggs County Library
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Steele County – Steele County Press

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Traill County – Traill Count Tribune

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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Wells County – The Herald-Press

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

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Appendix G: Public Postcards

Scoping Postcards

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

The proposed corridor for this project may include or pass near your property.
Please share the following information with your neighbors.

The Rural Utilities Service Announces Public Scoping Meetings

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has announced six public scoping meetings for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota). The purpose of these meetings is to provide information about the proposed project, answer questions, and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns. These comments become part of an Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluating the proposal. All meetings will provide the same information in open house format; RUS and Minnkota staff will be available.

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Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Thank you for your participation in the scoping process for the Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project, a 260-mile 345-kilovolt transmission line proposed by Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Comments collected during the scoping period will be considered during the environmental review; the Scoping Report will be published by the Rural Utility Service in early 2010. You will be notified when the report is published.

For more information, please visit www.minnkota.com or call the toll free project information line: 800-473-5679

Appendix H: Public Scoping Meeting Sign-in Sheets

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/16/2009

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Fred Kloste		1461 162nd Av. N.E	Buxton N. Dak. 58218
Lonnie Leatte	Dakota Resource Council	1075 24th St. NE	Emerado, ND 58228
Karen Benson		1074 8th Ave NE	Thompson, ND 58278
Greg Lockitz	RE Rural Top	16751 2nd St NE	Hillsboro ND 58045
Todd-Karen Thingelstad	Landlord	2450 36th St. S.	GF 58201
Todd Karen Thingelstad			

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: November 16, 2009

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Yvonne Mackert		14463 11th St NE	Hatton ND 58240
Monica Artmo		13314 17th St NE	Northwood 58267
Greg Ost Oxto		18[illegible] NE	G.F. [illegible]
Allan Mostad		1121 1st St E.	Hillsboro N.D.
Robert Dues		5674 83rd St. S.	Grand Forks. ND
David Burkland		1716 18th Ave NE.	GRAND FORKS N.D.
Tim Bartel		606 Terrace Dr	Grand Forks, ND 58201
Beau Bateman		6500 32nd AVE So	GRAND FORKS ND
Bob Ryzakowski Lizakowski		1830 12th ave NE	Grand Forks.
[illegible]	Bateman	6526 32nd Ave S	[illegible] 58201
Ross Walter	CRW Properties	201 N 3rd St	G F ND 58203
Gary Pladson		414 ±St SE Mayville	Mayville ND 58257
Lynn Strauten		3630 St Hatton	Hatton, N.D.
Dennis Vosgerau		PO Box 402	Hillsboro, ND

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: 11/16/2009

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
KERMIT RICKFORD		7350 COUNTRYSIDE LN	GRAND FORKS N D
Dan Ramstad		414 4th St. S.E.	Mayville - N.D. 5857
mark Bruckner		7074 83rd ST S.	Grand Fork ND 58201
fran Bertheuson		6214 14th St. S.	Fargo, N.D. 58104
Eric Gunderson		16488 13TH ST NE	Buxton ND 58218
Rick Holman	ND Rep.	622 153rd Ave NE	Mayville
Judy Peterson		1021 11th St. NE	Thompson
Rick Gjovik		1907 Willow Dr.	G.F. ND 58201
Marlene Skaathaug		1661-13TH AVE. N.E.	GF, ND 58201
Don Connor	Traill Co EDC	Mayville State U	Mayville ND
Roxanne Ackerman	City of Grand Forks	255 N 4th St	GF 58203
Ken Maynard	~~NORTHWOOD~~	409 46TH ST NE	ARNETA 58212
Marsha Zeiman		409 46TH ST NE	ARNETA 58212
TODD LEAKE	SIERRA Club	2371 10TH AVE. NE	EMERADO, ND ~~58228~~
Bruce Ovind			EMERADO ND

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/17/2009

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Connie M. MacKenzie	Griggs County Zoning Administrator	P.O. Box 541	Cooperstown ND 58425
Warren & Nancy Sandvand		P.O. Box 161	Binford ND 58416
DAVID UTKE		140-92ND AVE NE	GLENFIELD, ND 58443
Bruce Hazard Wagstad		10911 1ST ST NE Cooperstown	
David Krenz		9920 Main St	Binford ND 58416
Diane Caudrey	Griggs Co. Commissioner	603 1ST ST NW	Cooperstown 58425

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Carolyn Koller		Box 124	Hope, ND 58046
Bob Berg		Box 276	Cooperstown N.D.
Tower Adams		10570 9th ST NE	BINFORD, ND
Patsy Klubben		1006 Rollin Ave SE	Cooperstown, ND
Lori Christopherson		740 118th Ave, NE	" "
Wayne Christopherson		740 118 AV NE	" "
Kent Anderson		1301 LENHAM AVE S.E	Cooperstown N. D
Jodi + Jane Hollinger	Hashbarger	13396 6 ST SE	Hope ND 58046
Howell Orton		Box 68 Finley N. D.	Finley, N.D. 58230
Arlen Rathert		10371 Hwy 200 IXE	Sanford N. D.
James Diemert		155 102 Ave NE	Binford ND 58416
Wade Fauf		Box 491	Cooperstown
Brian Brantsel		204	
Carol Johnson		606 14th St NE	Cooperstown N.D
Judy Hoyt		660 - 91st Ave. NE	McHenry, ND 58464

Cooperstown

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Warren Enyart	M-Power, LLC	703 1st St. NW	Cooperstown, ND 58425
Lon ARMSTAD	Farmer	10241 Hwy 200	BUFORD 58416
Robert Hoffman	Co Comm.	4509 47th SE	SUTTON 58484
Heloises Hoyt		66091 st ave N E.	McHenry, N.D.
Ben + Carolyn Hekker	Aneta, ND	58212 11521 11th St NE	
Wayne Oien	Land owner (Drugge to Hwy Sup)	1110 Hwy 1	Buford 58416
PETE NAASTAD	NAASTAD BROS. INC.	1755 149 AVE N.E.	HATTON, N.D. 58240
Pete Moen (Moen)		11268 3rd St So	~~Cooperstown~~ ND
Andy Dahl		11551 4th St NE	Cooperstown ND
David Sarberg		10810 Main St.	Cooper
Harvey Benson		30 Hwy 1	Hannaford 58448
Scott Scholl	WAPA	7014 W. Main	W. Fargo 58078
Jerry Paulson	WAPA	P.O. Box 1173, &	Bismarck, ND 58502
Lois Lehrsman		11350 12th St NE, 1	Aneta, ND 58212
Neil Zeiginert	Hillsboro ST	11041 1st ST SE	Cooperstown ND 58425

Carrington

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Wayne Fuhrman	Bowdon Developments	Box 306	Bowdon 58418
Eldon Nogosek		Bf 396	Carr.
Elmer Ellingson	Ellingson	8359 5th St NE	Glenfield
Earl Richter	Fred Richter	5050 Hwy 200	Sykeston ND
Randy Stedman	Stedman	8405 Hwy 200	Glenfield 58443
Terri Hanson	Hanson	5150 74th St NE	Cathay ND

Carrington

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Carrie Nichols		85-57th Ave SE	Sykeston, ND 58486
Dale Sanderman		965 6 2nd ave N.E	Carrington ND 58421
Rich Short	NPEC	1515 West Main St	Carrington, ND 58421
Judy Swanson		7555 9th NE.	Carrington.
Trevis Swanson		7555 9th St NE.	Carrington
David Hay		13661 54th St SE	Enderlin
Florlatt/Rauch Glatt		POBox 497 Cgtn	Cgtn 58421
Gary Allen	Mgr Engineering NPEC	604 4th Ave	Cando, ND 58324
Earl Fuller	Fuller	4641 Carrington Hgts	Carrington 58421
Gary Heintz		19 1st Ave NW	Chaseley ND 58423
Frank Lenert		229 1st St NE	Carrington, N.D.
James Quesenberry		360 Hwy 281 NE	Carrington ND
Marlyn Schaubert		51-46th ave NE	Bowdon, N.D.
Dawntay Schaubert		51-46th ave NE.	
Leslie Dregon		8809 7th St NE	Glenfield 58443

Carrington

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Dan Ugleem		148 45th ST NE	Northwood 58267
Dwayne Erickson	Foster County	180 90th Ave SE	Kensal 58455
Frank Klein	City Engineer	60 4th Ave S.	Carrington 58421
Charles Lindeman		651 4th St S.	Carrington 58421
George Topp		8031 8th ST NE	Grace C. ty, 58455
Arlo Stedman	Foster	8425 Hwy 200	Glenfield
Jay Becker		820 69th Ave NE	Carrington 58421
Alan Willyard	FOSTER	300 6th AV S	"

McClusky

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11 18 09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Leland Vesser		115 E 3 St	Mercer N.D.
Dennis Kluck		PO Box 636	McClusky ND
Shirley A. Murray	Sheridan Co. Auditor	PO Box 439	McClusky, ND 58463
Darin Engel		Box 436	McClusky ND 58463
Clinton Neff		Box 495	" " "
Byron Zuger		370 5th ave NE	McClusky
Darell [illegible]		1841 1ST. ST NE	Bismarck, N.D. 58501
Lauren Donovan	Bismarck Tribune		
Merle A Lehman		715 ave R East	McClusky ND
Todd Axt		411 Cambridge	Bismarck ND

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

McClusky

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/18/09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Shirley Jorgensen		120-4th Ave NW	McClusky 58463
Sybil Peterson		401- ave D West	McClusky 58463
Ervin Neff	Ervin Neff ?	Box 43	Mercer N.D. 58559
Alice Fay Klein		711 2nd ST. E	McClusky 58463
Jerome Sauter	Jerome Sauter ?	860 21st Ave NE	Goodrich 58444
Gordon Seidle		1850 1st N.E	Goodrich 58444
Jerry Jesz	Jesz	503 one A East	McClusky N.D. 58463
Bernell Bonnet		P.O. 474	McClusky, N.D
Donald Hagen		840 22nd ave NE	Goodrich ND
Jonathon Hagen		840 22nd Ave NE	Goodrich ND
Codi Buehm		980 2nd Ave NW	McClusky ND
Jerry Reising		311 13ST NE	McClusky, ND.

McClusky

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/18/09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Robt D Jorgenson	Land owner	890-6th St NE	McClusky ND
Don + Vernia Hausauer	Land owner	31-5TH St. N. E	" "
Erwin F Pfennig		McClusky	
Edward & Erdman		950 20th ave NE	Goodrich ND
Dale C. Jorgenson	Land owner	221 Ave C. West	McClusky ND
Roy Hoffman		422-E-4th St	McClusky
Ellen Lentz	Gazette	203 Main St	McClusky
Melinda Schindler		1160 6th ave NE	McClusky
Troy Presser		1099 12th St NW	Turtle Lake
(*) GARVIN CARLSON	Land owner	979 DOROTHY LN	HARKOR HEIGHTS TX 76548
TIM BOHAN	RUS	PO BOX 7355	BISMARCK, ND 58502
Gary Presser	Land owner	784 17TH ST NW	Mercer ND 58559
Doug Erdman	land owner	940 11th st NE	McClusky ND 58463

(17)

Wilton

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11.17.09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Al Wagner		46200 Hwy 41	Wilton 58579
Melvin & Annette Backman		211600 41st ST NE	Wilton 58579
Wyman Scheef		2546 16th St SW	Center, ND
Gary Burck	Burck	4351 33rd St NE	Wilton, ND 58579
Jim Pate		P.O Box 428	Wilton ND
Arnold Backman		33301 ~~Wilton N.D.~~	Wilton N.D.
Neil Skenejo		1507 Hy 1804	W. Hon
Paul R Fryerson		2400 showdown ln	Bis.
Elaine Flinn		1603 Hwy 1804 SW	WILTON
Maureen Koeller		1326 TERRITORY DR	BISMARCK ND 58503
Robert A Koeller		" "	" " "
Sally Hillstrom		1904 Pin Road	Hensler, ND 58530
Jim Triska		1601 318 AV NW	Wilton ND 58579
Clemma & Myron Basarabe			Wilton ND
Jerry Brunner		31601 210 ST NE	Regan ND

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Wilton

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11-17-09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Kathy Sundgren		2900 N. 4th St. #102	Bis 58503
Mark Halbkup		1387A 9th St SW	Wilton, ND 58579
Verene Reumann		500 Whitman Ave.	Wilton ND 58579-9407

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Wilton

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11.19.09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
John Sawicki		2150 HWY 83	WILTON 58579
Bob Landgren		15328 Hwy 1804 SW	Wilton 58579
[illegible]	Wilton Johnson	36520 52 St NE	Wilton 58579
[illegible]		6100 370 Ave NE	Wilton 58579

(17)

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: 11.18.09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Lynn Oberg		1237 Riverside LN	WASHburn ND.
Julie Flinn		1616 Hwy 1804 SW	Wilton ND
Rod Flinn		Wilton	Wilton ND
~~Wesley Neumiller & Christie~~	~~Box 648 BOWman~~	~~35951 28th NW Wilton~~	~~Wilton~~
Sharon + Wayne Narum	OLD CHANGE →	NEW - UPDATE! 2300 Laforest Ave	Bismarck 58501
Gene Wilson	Wilson	302 4th ST S	WILTON 58579
Vivian Wilson		302 - 4th St S	Wilton N.D. 58579
Brian Kramer	N.D.F.B.	Box 505	Turtle Lake, ND 58575
Gary Gerede		335 7th Ave SW	Mercer ND 58559
Byron Bedner		33489 28th St. NW	Wilton ND 58579
Georgia Bedner		33489 28th St. NW	Wilton ND 58579
Jane Hudson-Schaefer	McLean Co Commission	7159 Pat Ln	Washburn
Rodney Peterson		412 Bismark av. P.O. 96	Wilton, ND. 58579
Verlyn Larson		3333 Montreal St., #304	Bismarck, ND 58503
Terry Berg		42301 Hwy 41	Wilton ND 58579

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Center

Public Scoping Meeting

Sign-in Sheet

Date: 11/19/09

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Gordon Albers	Retired	Center ND	58530
David Johnson	Retired	Center, N.D.	58530
Vern Christmann		2874 198th SW	Center 58530
Jim Allen	Retired	Box 164	Cente 58530
MARILYN SMITH	Retired	425 VERSAILLES AVE	BISMARCK 58503
Richard + Margaret Wilson			
Jerry Wagel		2452 307th Ave	Center ND. 58530
Carl Dyer	Farmer	3534 17th St SW.	Center NDak. 58530
Lee Hughes	County Commissio	240 Bridge Ave	CENTER

Center

Public Scoping Meeting
Sign-in Sheet
Date: 11/19/09

USDA Rural Development

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Name	Organization	Address	City & Zip
Andrew Riehl	Retired	3235 16th St. S.W.	Center, N.D. 58530
Denise Halvorson	Oliver County Com.	1672 33RD AVE SW	Center ND 58530
John Price	Farmer	2268 River Rd	Price ND 58530
Donald Price	"	"	" "

Appendix I: Scoping Meeting Materials

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power



U.S. Department of Agriculture

Rural Utilities Service Public Open House Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide information on the Center to Grand Forks Project
- Answer questions
- Identify public comments regarding potential environmental concerns

Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

- A federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Provides financing for the installation, expansion and modernization of rural electric systems
- Is the lead Federal agency for this proposed project

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

- RUS is required to conduct an environmental review before it makes a financing decision.
  - Results will guide decisions related to human and environmental aspects such as wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, land use and water.
- Comments collected from this open house and scoping period will be considered during the environmental review.

Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

Anticipated Timeline

Nov 2009	Hold Scoping Meetings
Ends Dec 18, 2009	30-day Public Comment Period
Jan 2010	Issue Scoping Report
May 2010	Prepare and Publish EA
June 2010	30-day Public Comment Period
July 2010	Issue Decision Document

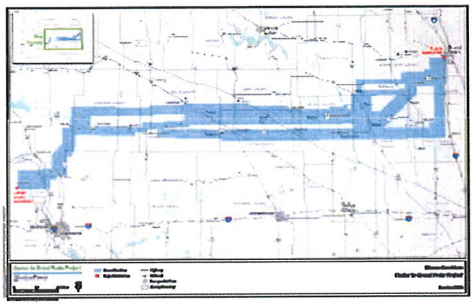
Center to Grand Forks Project

A redistribution of existing power that eliminates the need for a new coal-fired plant

- Calls for 260 miles of new transmission from Center, N.D. to Grand Forks, N.D.
- Allows for the development of more North Dakota wind energy
- Construction is anticipated to begin in 2011



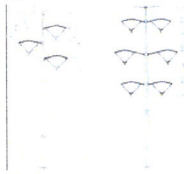
Macro Corridors



Transmission Line Construction



Typical 345kV Structures



Preventing Bird Collision



Bird flight diverters make the line look larger to flying birds

Your Participation is Important

Submit written comments at this meeting or directly to:

Dennis Rankin
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250–1571
dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

Comment Deadline
December 18, 2009

Participate in upcoming public comment periods

June 2010	Environmental Assessment Public Comment Period
Winter 2010/ Spring 2011	Public Service Commission Public Hearing

Follow the project on the web: www.minnkota.com

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

0 1 2 Miles

November 2009

1:48,000

Macro-Corridors

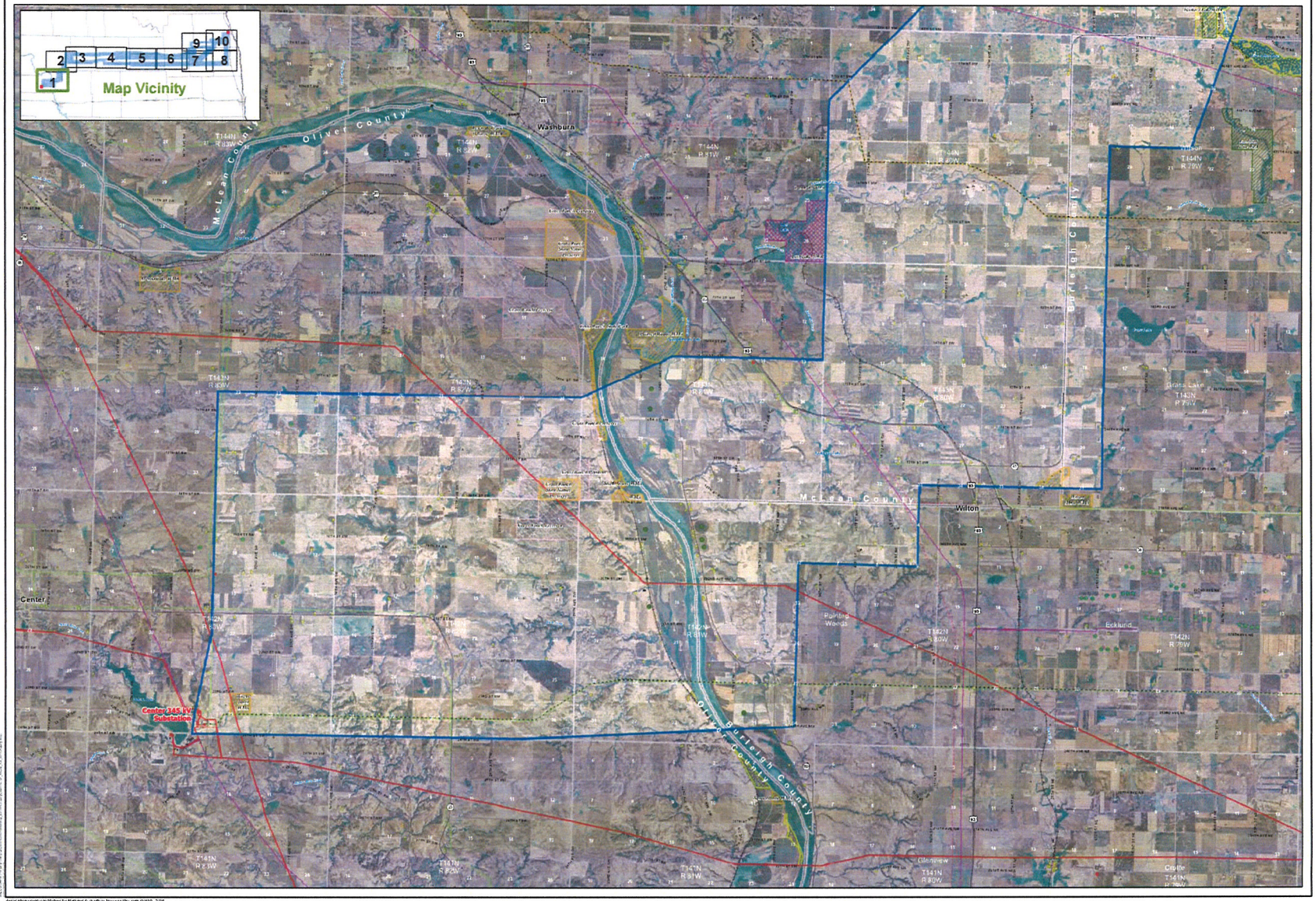
Existing Transmission Lines
- 400 kV DC
- 345 kV AC
- 250 kV DC
- 230 kV AC
- 115 kV or less AC

- Substation
- Gas Pipeline
- Proposed Water Pipeline
- Communication Tower
- Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
- Center Pivot Irrigation
- Dwelling
- Recreation
- Dump or Landfill
- Small Historic Site
- Cemetery
- Gravel Pit or Mine
- Power Plant
- National Wildlife Refuge
- Waterfowl Production Area or Wildlife Development Area
- Bureau of Reclamation or Army Corps of Engineers Land
- State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
- The Nature Conservancy Preserve
- Public Airport
- Private Airport
- Heliport
- Highway
- In-Use Railroad
- North Country Trail
- Snowmobile Trail
- Incorporated Area
- Civil Township Boundary
- County Boundary
- River, Stream or Canal
- Wetland

Sheet 1

Oliver, Burleigh and McLean Counties

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line



Sheet 2
McLean County
Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line

Center to Grand Forks Project

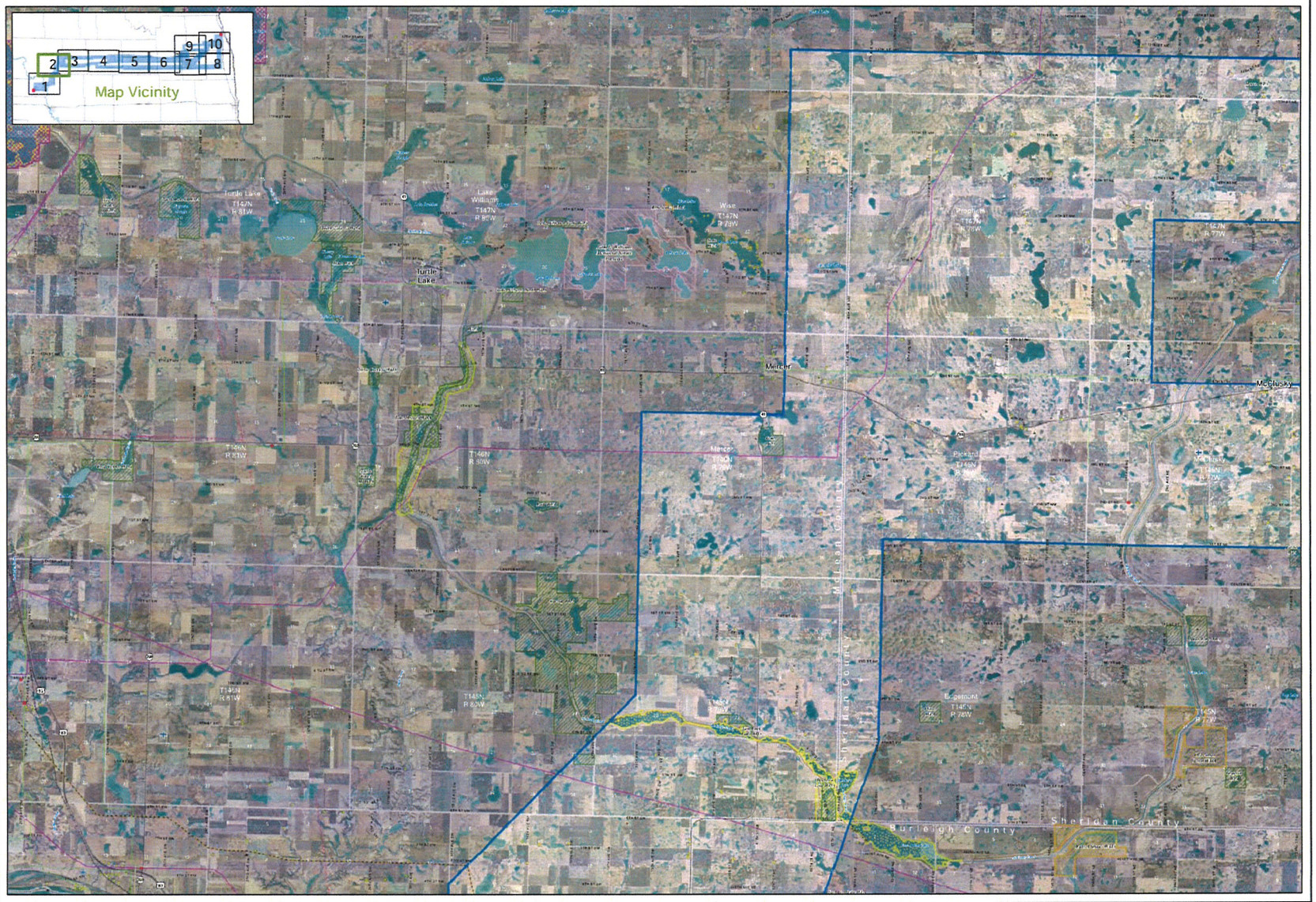
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

0 1 2 Miles

November 2009 1:48,000

Existing Transmission Lines
- 400 kV DC
- 345 kV AC
- 250 kV DC
- 230 kV AC
- 115 kV or less AC

Macro-Corridors
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
Dwelling
Recreation
Dump or Landfill
Small Historic Site
Cemetery
Gravel Pit or Mine
Power Plant
National Wildlife Refuge
Waterfowl Production Area or Wildlife Development Area
Bureau of Reclamation or Army Corps of Engineers Land
State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Public Airport
Private Airport
Heliport
Highway
In-Use Railroad
North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland



Aerial photography published by National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 2009

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

0 1 2 Miles

November 2009 1:48,000

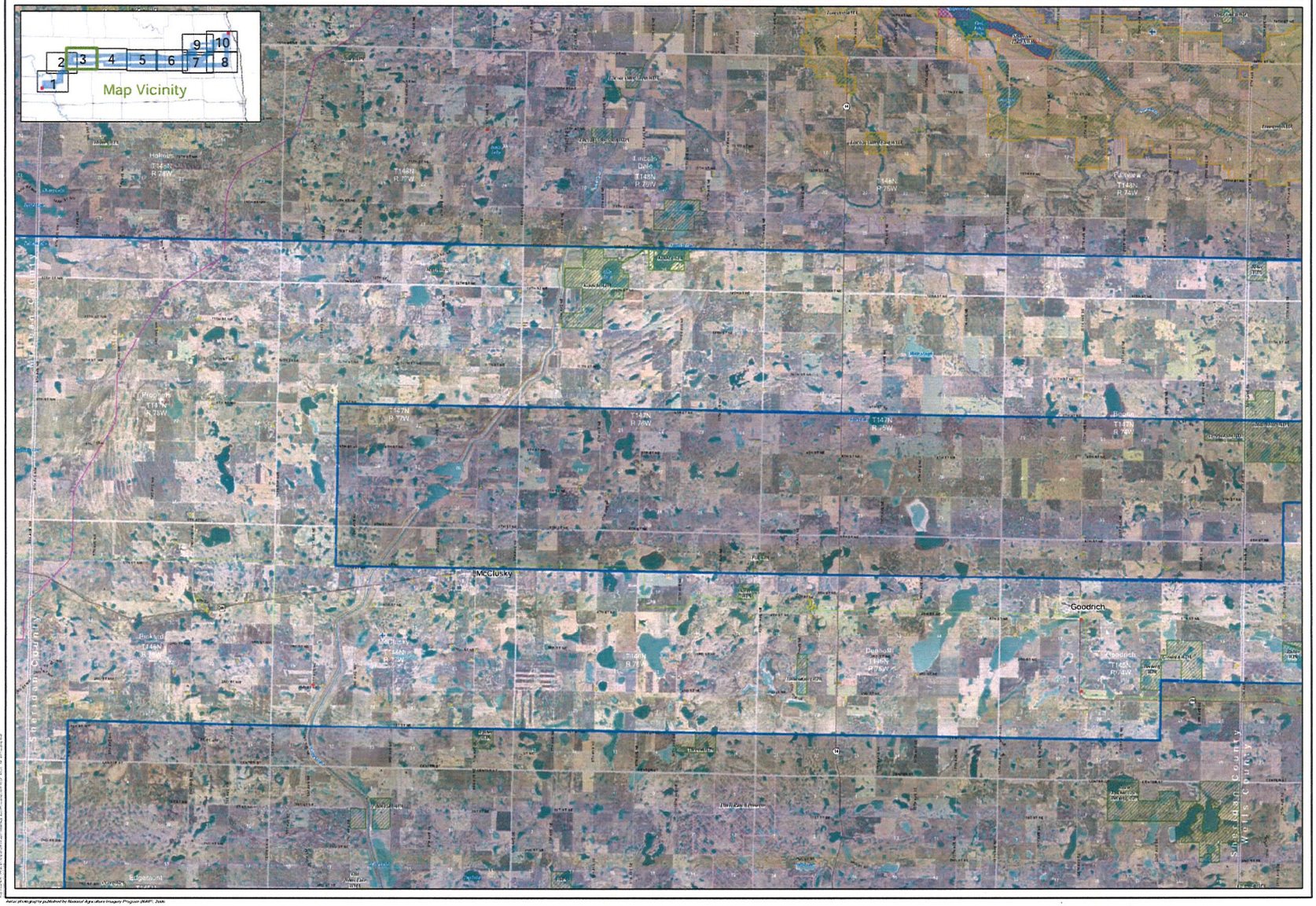
Existing Transmission Lines
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- 345 kV AC
- 250 kV DC
- 230 kV AC
- 115 kV or less AC

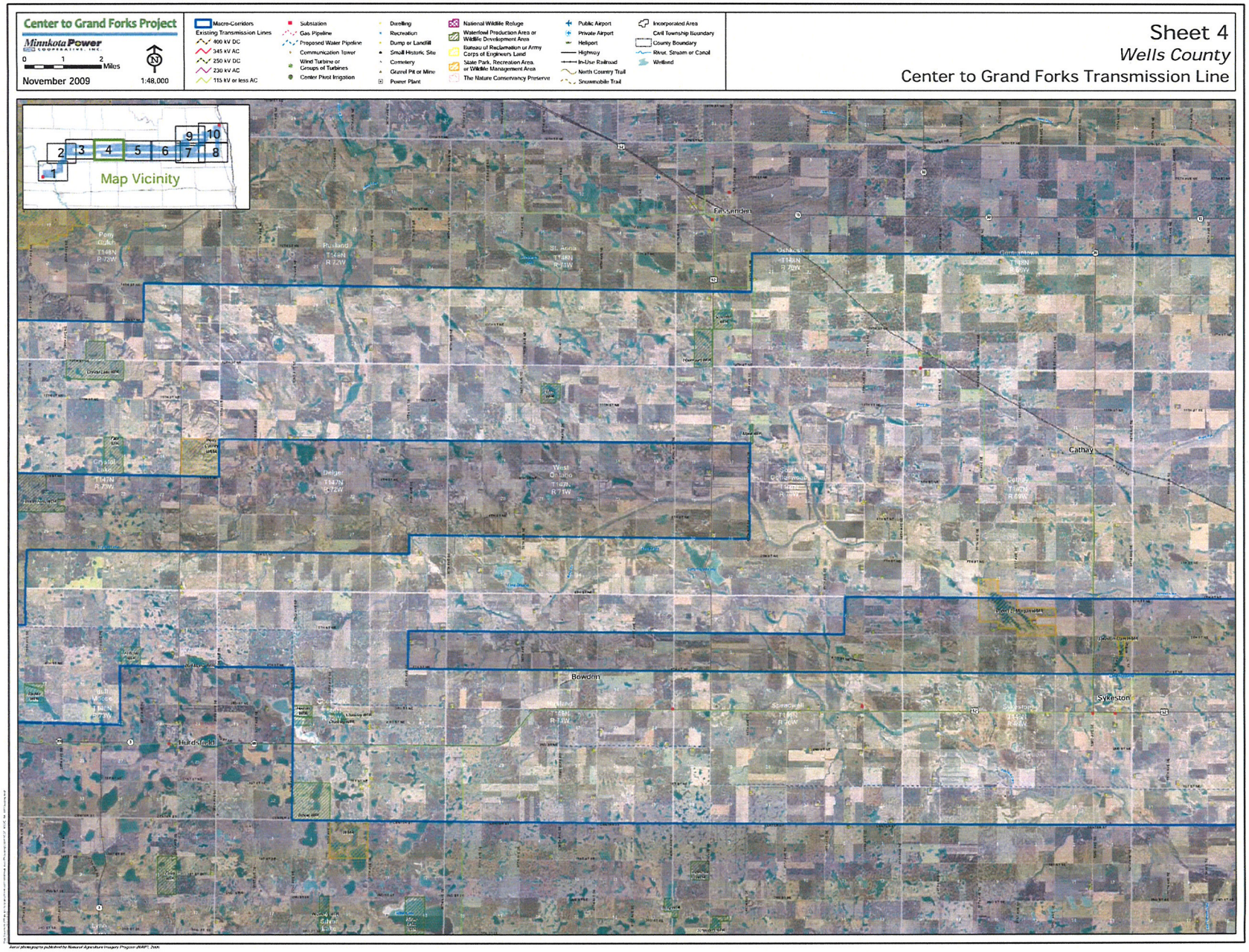
Macro-Corridors
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
Dwelling
Recreation
Dump or Landfill
Small Historic Site
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North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland

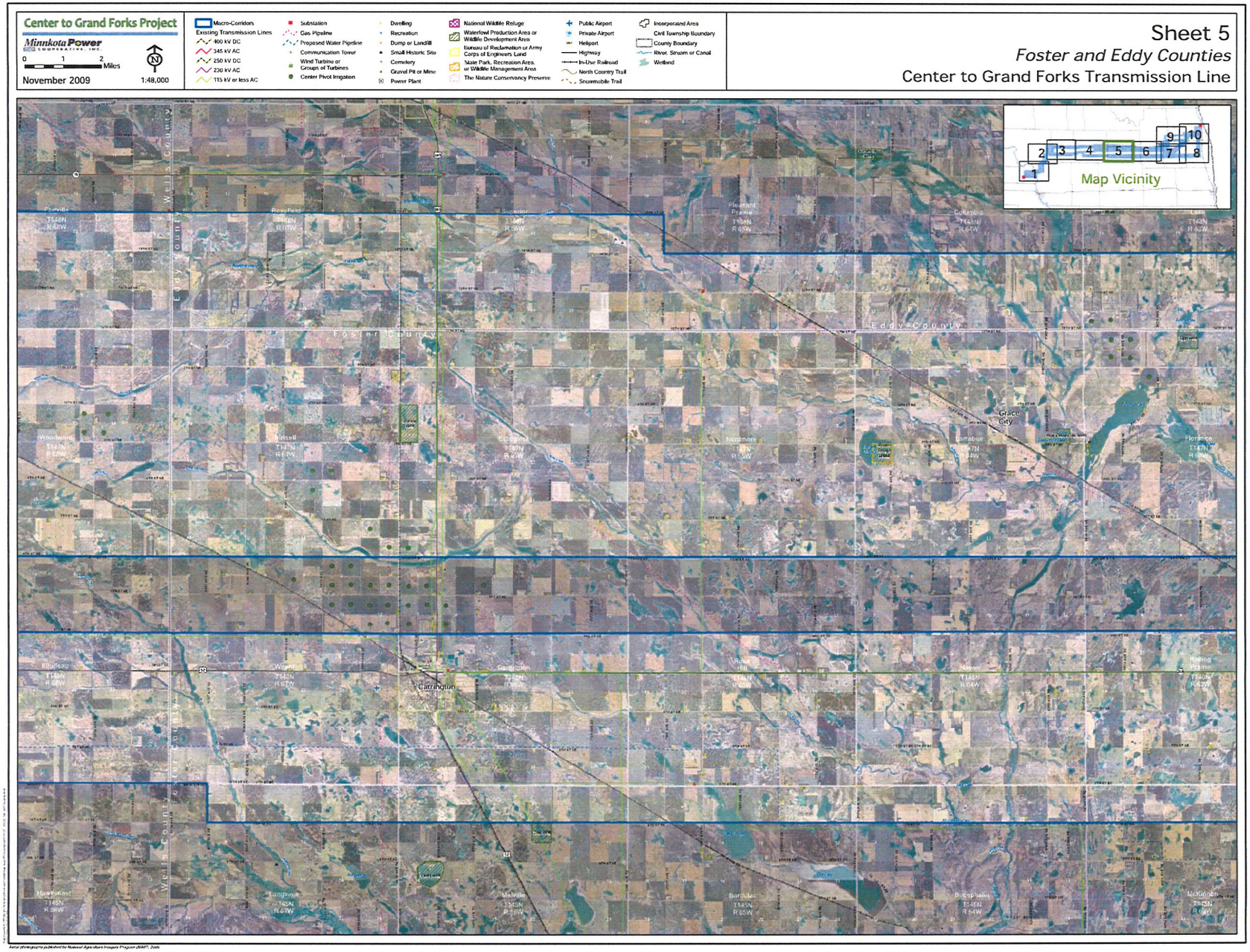
Sheet 3

Sheridan County

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line



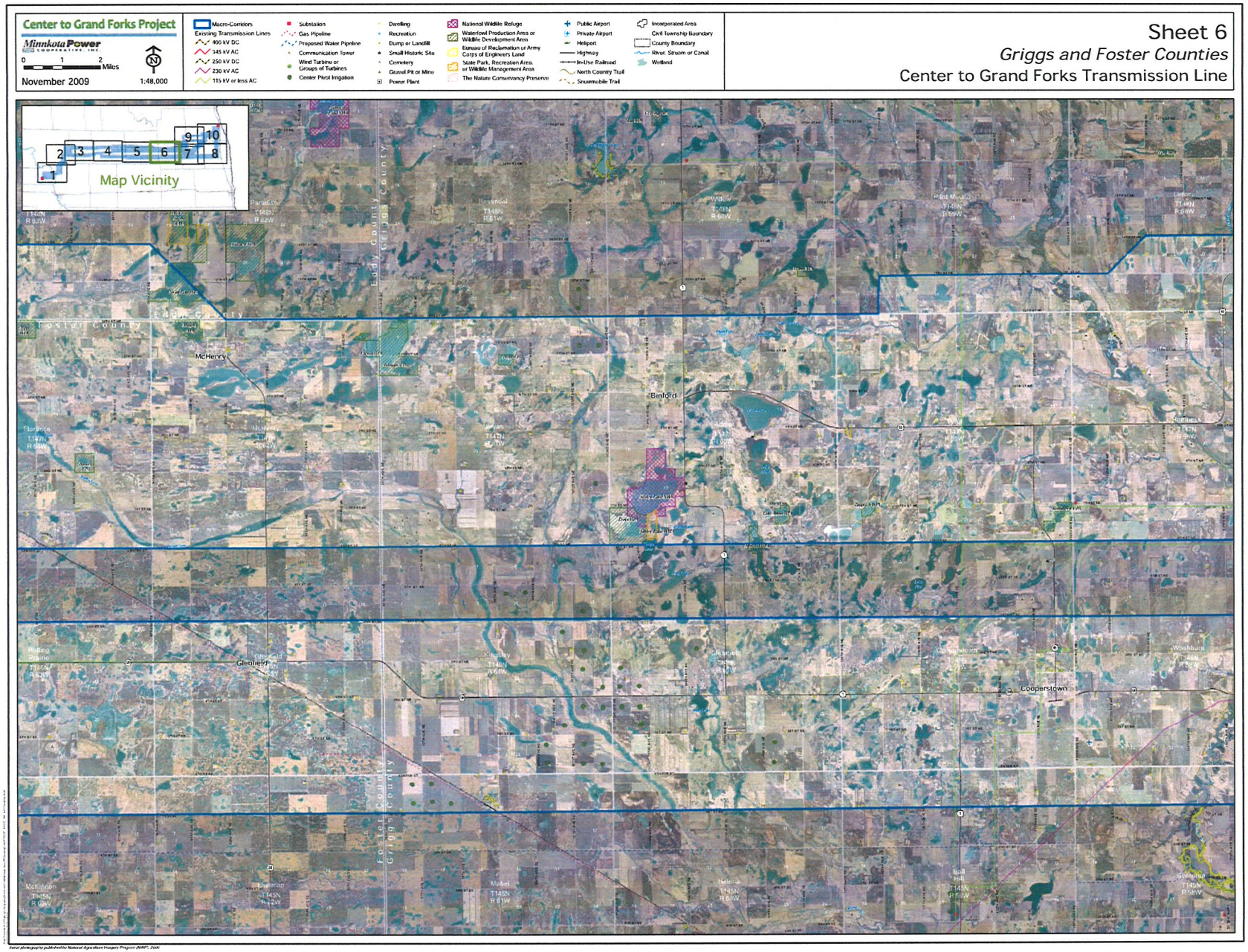

Center to Grand Forks Project
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
0 1 2 Miles
November 2009
1:48,000
Macro-Corridors
Existing Transmission Lines
400 kV DC
345 kV AC
250 kV DC
230 kV AC
115 kV or less AC
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
Dwelling
Recreation
Dump or Landfill
Small Historic Site
Cemetery
Gravel Pit or Mine
Power Plant
National Wildlife Refuge
Waterfowl Production Area or Wildlife Development Area
Bureau of Reclamation or Army Corps of Engineers Land
State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Public Airport
Private Airport
Heliport
Highway
In-Use Railroad
North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland
Sheet 4
Wells County
Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line
Map Vicinity
1
2
3
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8
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Pony Gulch T148N R 73W
Rutland T148N R 72W
St. Anna T148N R 71W
Fessenden
Oshkosh T148N R 70W
Germantown T148N R 69W
Crystal Lake T147N R 73W
Delger T147N R 72W
West Ontario T147N R 71W
South Ontario T147N R 70W
Cathay T147N R 69W
Cathay
Bowdon
Sykeston
Hurdsfield
Lyno


Center to Grand Forks Project
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
0 1 2 Miles
November 2009
1:48,000
Macro-Corridors
Existing Transmission Lines
400 kV DC
345 kV AC
250 kV DC
230 kV AC
115 kV or less AC
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
Dwelling
Recreation
Dump or Landfill
Small Historic Site
Cemetery
Gravel Pit or Mine
Power Plant
National Wildlife Refuge
Waterfowl Production Area or Wildlife Development Area
Bureau of Reclamation or Army Corps of Engineers Land
State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Public Airport
Private Airport
Heliport
Highway
In-Use Railroad
North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland
Sheet 5
Foster and Eddy Counties
Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line
Map Vicinity
1
2
3
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7
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Wells County
Eddy County
Foster County
Carrington
Grace City
Pleasant Prairie T146N R65W
Columbia T146N R64W
Rosefield T147N R67W
Superior T147N R66W
Woodworth T147N R68W
Bloom T147N R67W
Eldridge T147N R66W
Nordmore T147N R65W
Florence T147N R64W
Bluffton T146N R68W
Wright T146N R67W
Carrington T146N R66W
Rolling Prairie T146N R64W
Hawkeye T145N R68W
Longview T145N R67W
Melville T145N R66W
Bordulac T145N R65W
Buckhalter T145N R64W
McKinnon T145N R63W

Sheet 6

Griggs and Foster Counties

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line



Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

0 1 2 Miles

November 2009 1:48,000

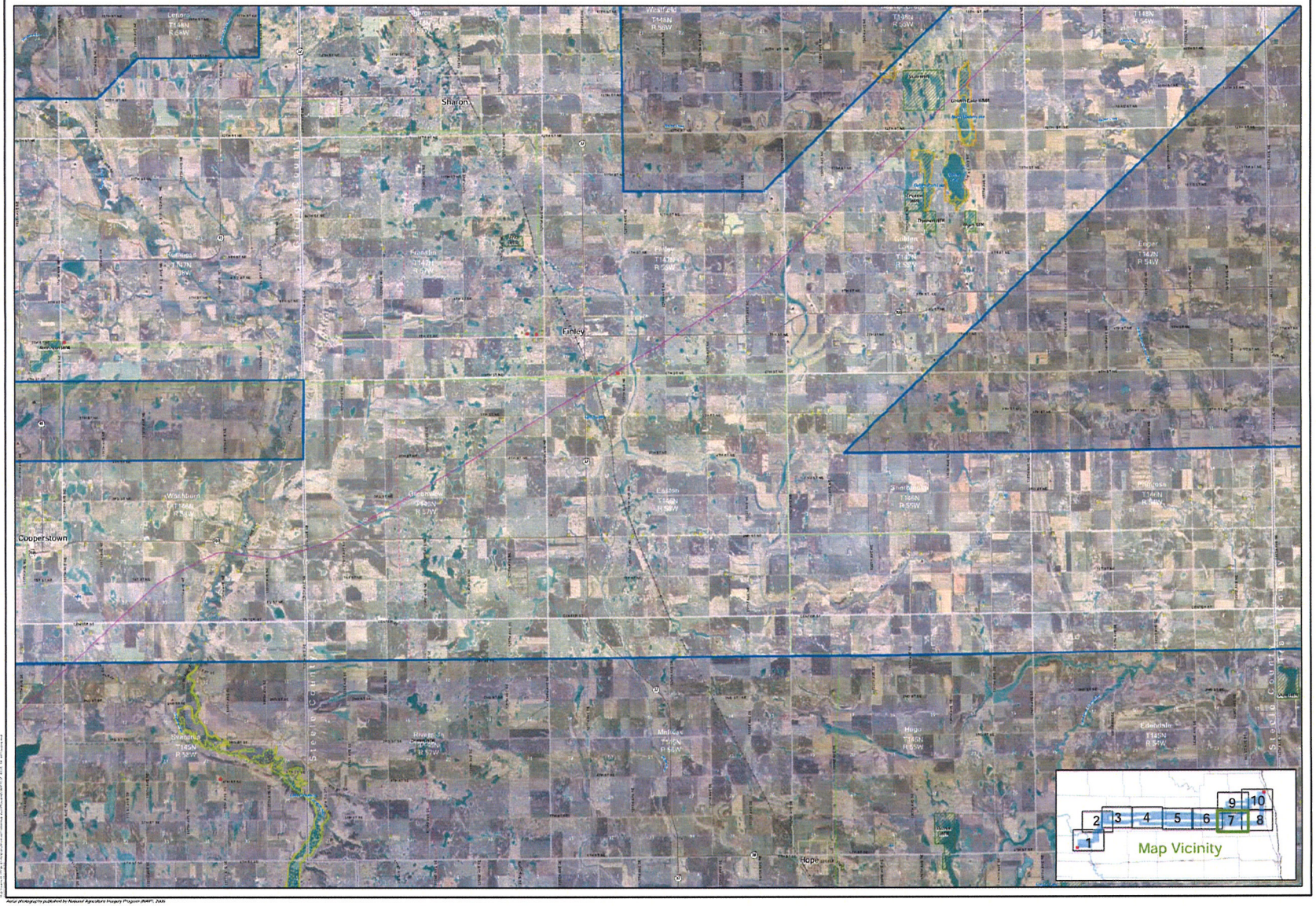
Existing Transmission Lines
- 400 kV DC
- 345 kV AC
- 250 kV DC
- 230 kV AC
- 115 kV or less AC

Macro-Corridors
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
Dwelling
Recreation
Dump or Landfill
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State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Public Airport
Private Airport
Heliport
Highway
In-Use Railroad
North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland

Sheet 7

Steele County

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line



Aerial photography published by National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 2009.

Sheet 8

Traill County

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

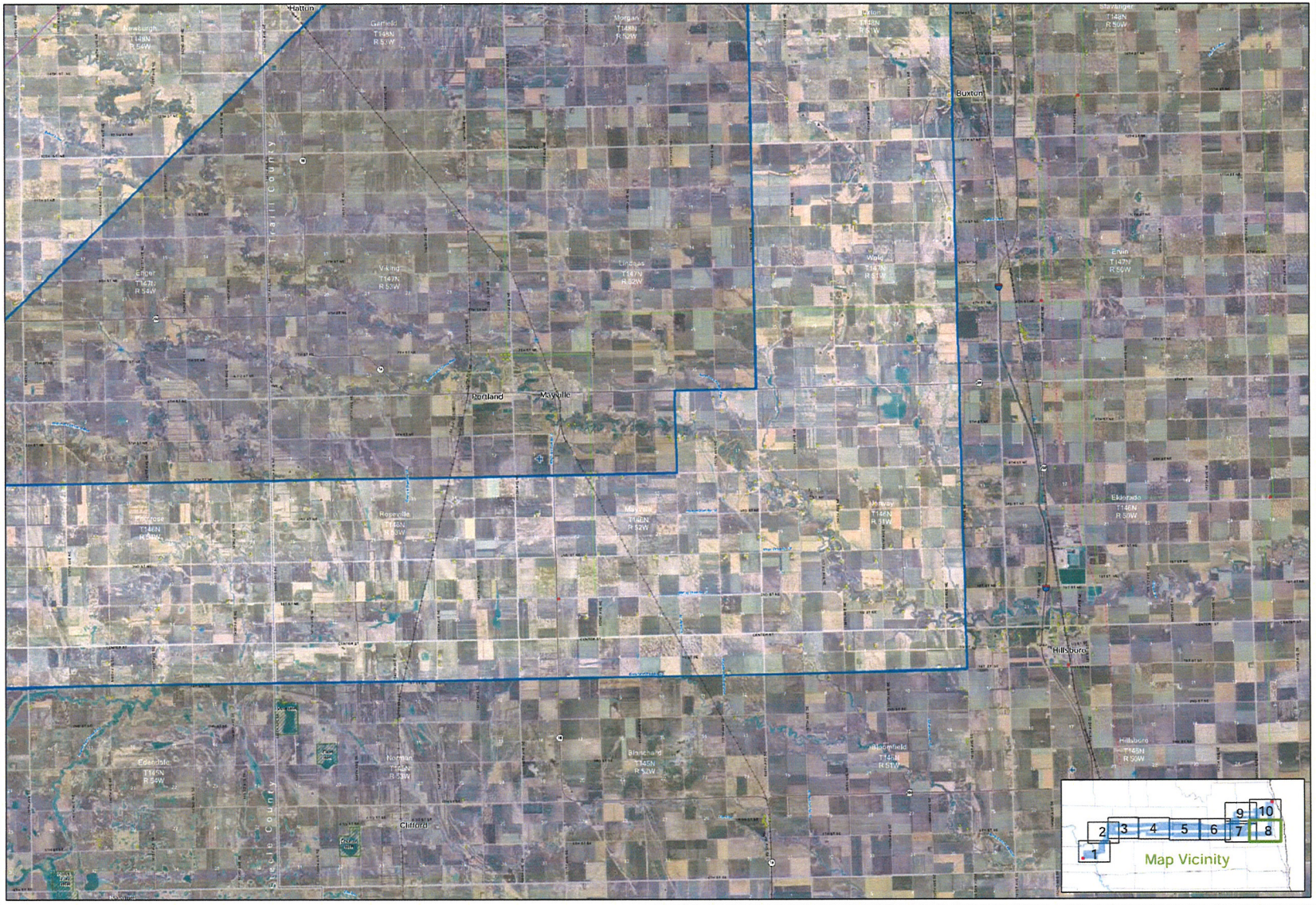
0 1 2 Miles

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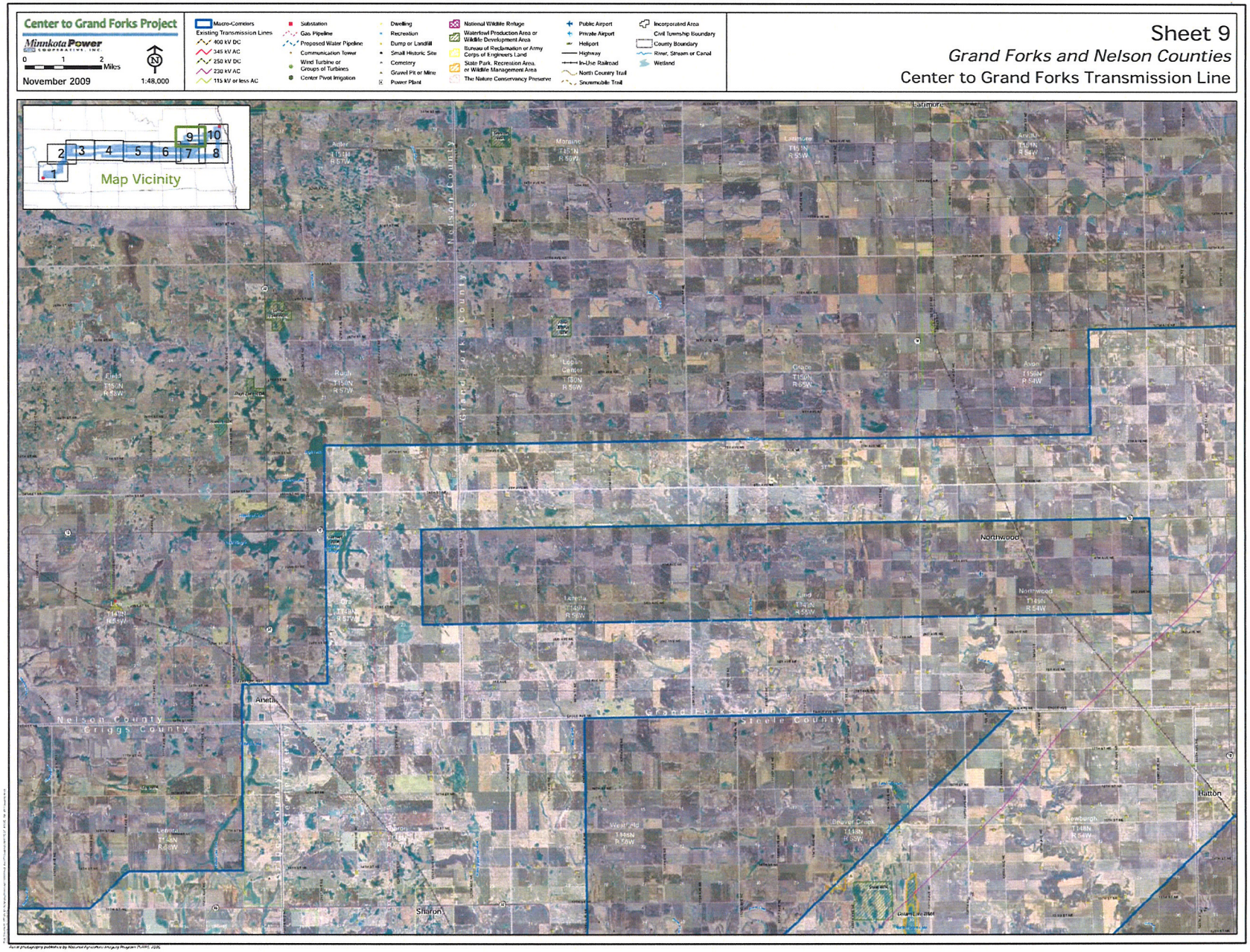
November 2009 1:48,000

Existing Transmission Lines
- 400 kV DC
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Macro-Corridors
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
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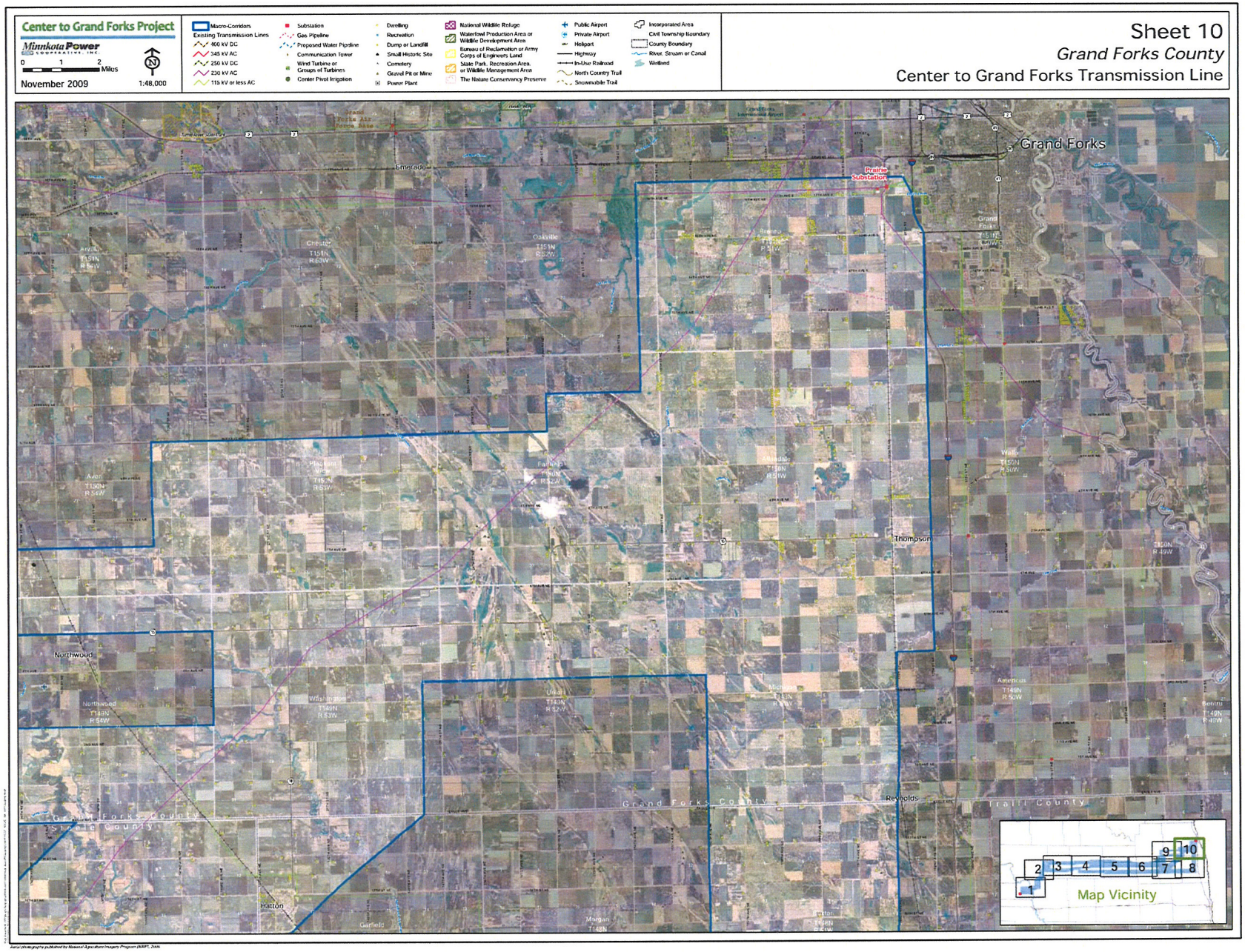
Aerial photography published by National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 2009.



Sheet 9

Grand Forks and Nelson Counties

Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line


Center to Grand Forks Project
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
0 1 2 Miles
November 2009
1:48,000
Macro-Corridors
Existing Transmission Lines
400 kV DC
345 kV AC
250 kV DC
230 kV AC
115 kV or less AC
Substation
Gas Pipeline
Proposed Water Pipeline
Communication Tower
Wind Turbine or Groups of Turbines
Center Pivot Irrigation
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State Park, Recreation Area, or Wildlife Management Area
The Nature Conservancy Preserve
Public Airport
Private Airport
Heliport
Highway
In-Use Railroad
North Country Trail
Snowmobile Trail
Incorporated Area
Civil Township Boundary
County Boundary
River, Stream or Canal
Wetland
Sheet 10
Grand Forks County
Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line
Grand Forks
Prairie Substation
Emerado
Thompson
Reynolds
Northwood
Hatton
Grand Forks County
Traill County
Steele County
Map Vicinity
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Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.



The Center to Grand Forks (CGF) Project

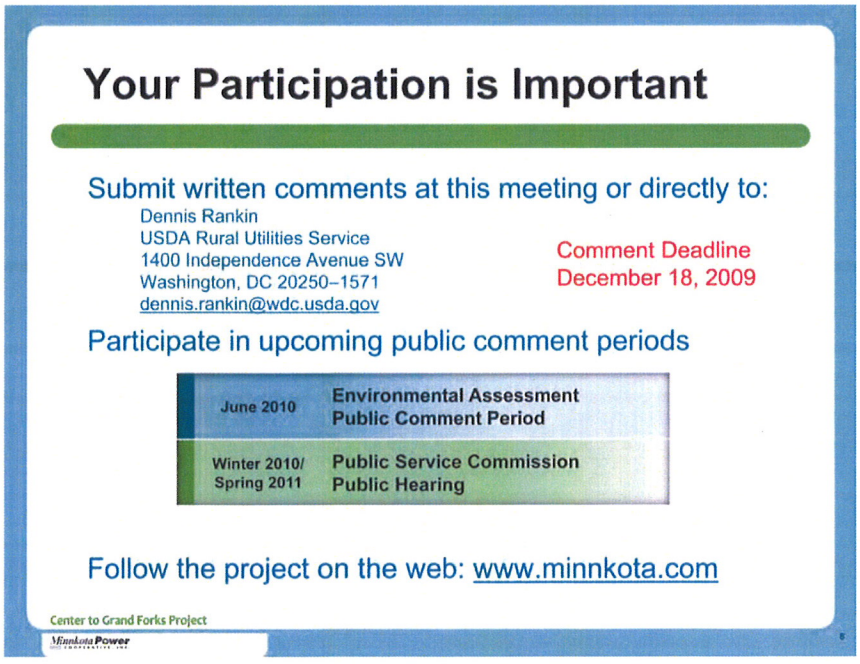
Supporting Renewable Energy

North Dakota ranks first in the country for wind energy potential. As wind generation continues to expand in North Dakota, increased demands are placed on the current transmission network.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) has proposed the construction of approximately 260 miles of 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, N.D. This project is anticipated to be completed by early 2013 in order to enable the transmission of energy from a planned wind power development to be carried on an existing transmission line. Reallocation of energy to this new line may allow more energy from potential future wind power developments to be carried. This project allows Minnkota to meet its energy demands without building a new power plant.

Environmental Review Process

Minnkota has filed a Macro-Corridor Study and Alternative Evaluation Study with the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). This meeting signifies the beginning of an environmental review process to guide decisions related to human and environmental aspects such as wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, land use, and water. This meeting is hosted by the RUS to provide information on the project, answer questions and collect comments regarding potential environmental concerns within the identified macro-corridors. Results of these meetings will be incorporated into a Scoping Report that will be published in January of 2010.



Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power
MPC COOPERATIVE, INC.



Why are new transmission lines being proposed?

Minnkota is currently entering into a new agreement with Minnesota Power, located in Duluth, Minn., which will provide additional long-term baseload power supply for Minnkota and will allow Minnesota Power to develop significant wind energy facilities in central North Dakota.

The Milton R. Young Station is a lignite-fired electric power plant located near Center, N.D., with two operational units: Young 1 and Young 2. This new agreement between Minnkota and Minnesota Power calls for Minnesota Power to purchase the transmission line built in 1977 that connects to Young 2. Minnesota Power will use that line to deliver new wind energy from Center to Duluth.

In exchange for this line, Minnesota Power will, during the next 18 years, transfer its 50 percent of the energy rights it now has in Young 2 to Minnkota. To deliver the energy produced by Young 2 to Minnkota's service area, Minnkota will build a new transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, N.D.

Will wind energy be on the new lines?

One of the goals of the project will free up the capacity of an existing transmission line in North Dakota to carry wind energy. North Dakota ranks first in the country for wind energy potential and Minnkota continues to develop wind energy in North Dakota. The immediate purpose of the Center to Grand Forks Project is to allow energy from proposed Minnesota Power wind energy facilities to be transmitted over the existing HVDC transmission line (currently used by Young 2). Power from Young 2 will be carried over the new line. Future opportunities to carry renewable energy over the new line may also exist.

What do transmission structures look like?

The structures being planned for this 345-kV transmission line are single-pole steel structures that vary in height from about 120 feet to 170 feet and have spans (or distance) between structures on an average of 1,000 feet. Structures for the most part will be set on foundations but may be embedded into the ground without foundations.

How much right of way will be required on either side of the line?

The voltage and the type of transmission structure being built determine the size of the right of way. For a 345-kV transmission line, the typical right of way is up to 150 feet wide.

What can impacted landowners expect in the form of compensation?

Minnkota will provide a one-time easement payment to property owners who host power lines based on the market value of the land and also they will receive payments for any crop or land damage that is caused by the construction or by maintenance of the line. The easement gives Minnkota permission to build, maintain and operate the transmission line. Property owners retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. Easements typically last 99 years.

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

USDA Rural Development

USDA Rural Utilities Programs
Public Meeting Handout

Applicant: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Project: Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line

What is the Rural Utilities Service?

The Rural Utilties Service (RUS) is an agency that administers the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Programs (RDUP). It is a Federal financing agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Its mission is to provide financing assistance in the form of direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to rural cooperatives, corporations, and public entities for the installation, expansion and modernization of rural electric, telecommunication, and water and waste systems throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

RUS does not construct, operate, or manage electric, telecommunications, or water and waste systems nor is RUS involved in obtaining right-of-way easements or property acquisitions.

What is the purpose of these open houses?

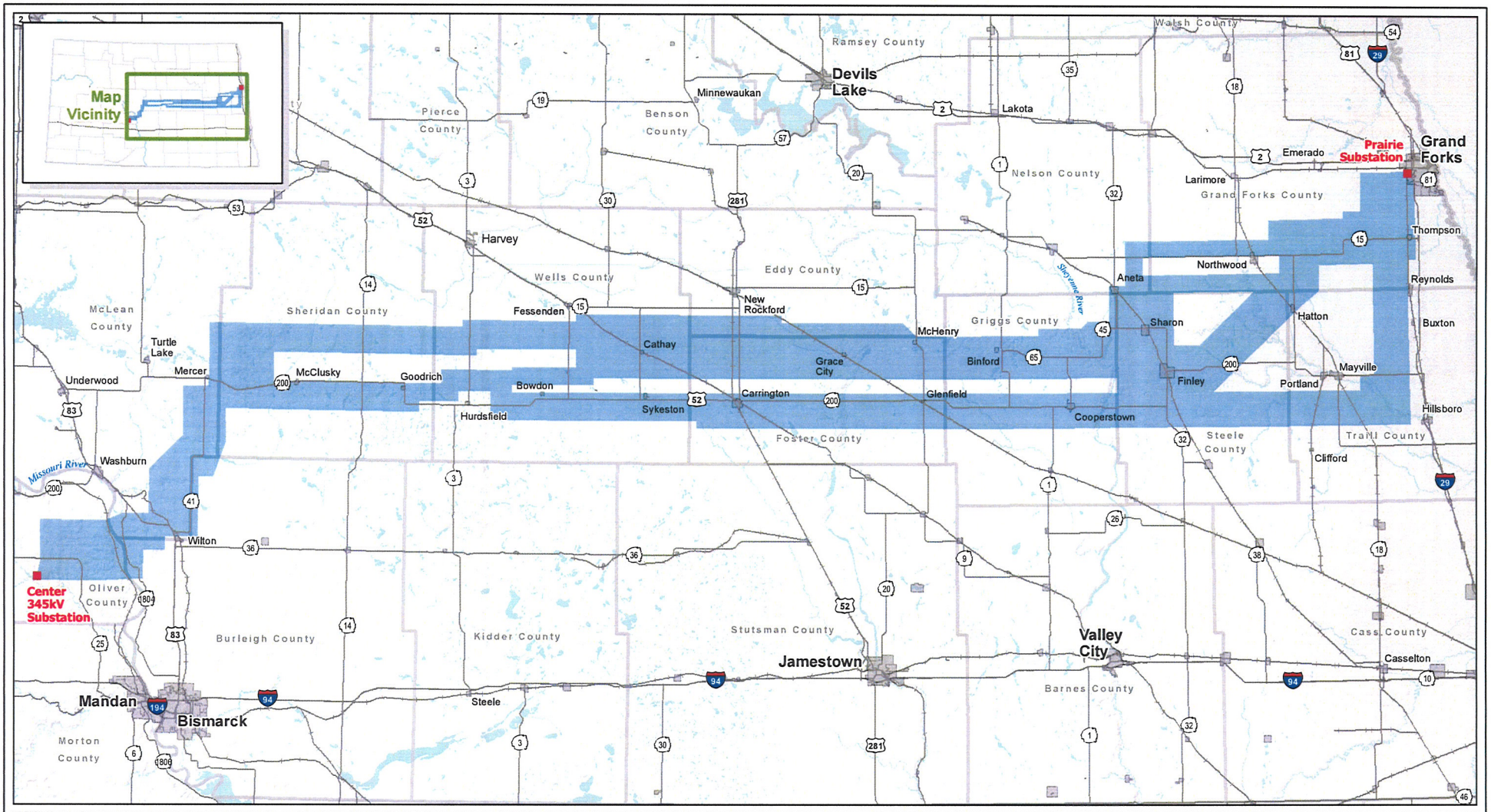
The purpose of this open house is to provide information regarding Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s (Minnkota) proposed Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project, answer questions, and identify public concerns regarding the potential environmental impacts that may result from construction and operation of the project. Information from this open house will be incorporated into RUS' Environmental Assessment for this project. This open house is intended to fulfill RUS' public scoping meeting requirements pursuant to RUS Environmental Policies and Procedures, 7 CFR Part 1794.

How should comments be submitted for the record?

Comments concerning the potential environmental impacts and related review of this project are encouraged. Written comments will be accepted at this open house and should be left with the RUS representative at this meeting. Written comments will also be accepted through December 18, 2009. Written comments should be sent to:

Mr. Dennis Rankin
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250-1571
FAX # (202) 690-0649
E-mail: dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

Once RUS has a satisfactory Environmental Assessment (EA) for the project, it will make the EA available for public review and comment for a 30-day period. Based on the EA and comments received, RUS will either prepare a Finding of No Significant Impact or make a decision to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement. There will be public notification of RUS' decision.



Data Sources: NDDOT, NDSWC, USBC.

Comment Form
Center to Grand Forks Transmission Line Project

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____

Phone Number: _____

Fax Number: _____

E-mail: _____

Four Ways to Submit Comments

1. Fold, fasten, and attach postage to the reverse of this form and mail
2. Submit to RUS representative at this meeting
3. Fax to (202) 690-0649
4. e-mail to dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov

Comments Due by December 18, 2009

_____

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Attach Additional Pages if Necessary

Please fold, fasten, and mail. No envelope necessary.

Place
Stamp
Here

Dennis Rankin
USDA Rural Utilities Service
1400 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20250-1571

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.



Frequently Asked Questions

Who is Minnkota Power Cooperative?

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) is a regional generation and transmission cooperative formed in 1940 that serves 11 member-owner distribution cooperatives. It also serves as operating agent for the Northern Municipal Power Agency, an association of 12 municipal utilities in the same service region. Together, the Joint System serves more than 130,000 customers. Minnkota's service area of 34,500 square miles is located in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota and is headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D.

Why are new transmission lines being proposed?

Minnkota is currently entering into a new agreement with Minnesota Power, located in Duluth, Minn., which will provide additional long-term baseload power supply for Minnkota and will allow Minnesota Power to develop significant wind energy facilities in central North Dakota.

The Milton R. Young Station is a lignite-fired electric power plant located near Center, N.D., with two operational units: Young 1 and Young 2. This new agreement between Minnkota and Minnesota Power calls for Minnesota Power to purchase the transmission line built in 1977 that connects to Young 2. Minnesota Power will use that line to deliver new wind energy from Center to Duluth.

In exchange for this line, Minnesota Power will, during the next 18 years, transfer its 50 percent of the energy rights it now has in Young 2 to Minnkota. To deliver the energy produced by Young 2 to Minnkota's service area, Minnkota will build a new transmission line from Center to Grand Forks, N.D.

Where will the energy that flows on the new lines come from?

The Milton R. Young Station is the primary generating facility for Minnkota. Located near the town of Center, the Milton R. Young Station consists of two units, Young 1 and Young 2.

Young 2, which began generating electricity on May 11, 1977, is owned by Square Butte Electric Cooperative and operated by Minnkota. Currently, the output from Young 2 is purchased under contract by Minnkota and Minnesota Power. Under the proposed project, Minnesota Power will transfer its 50 percent of the energy rights to Minnkota over an 18-year period beginning in 2013.

Will wind energy be on the new lines?

One of the goals of the project will free up the capacity of an existing transmission line in North Dakota to carry wind energy. North Dakota ranks first in the country for wind energy potential and Minnkota continues to develop wind energy in North Dakota. The immediate purpose of the Center to Grand Forks Project is to allow energy from proposed Minnesota Power wind energy facilities to be transmitted over the existing HVDC transmission line (currently used by Young 2). Power from Young 2 will be carried over the new line. Future opportunities to carry renewable energy over the new line may also exist.

Who will benefit from the transmission improvements?

All electricity customers in the Minnkota service area will benefit from a more robust and reliable electric transmission system. The expansion also will increase the capacity of the existing electric grid system to carry wind energy. The expansion of the renewable energy industry in North Dakota will benefit the entire state and region.

How will I find out if my property is potentially affected?

Minnkota plans extensive outreach to property owners and community members within the study corridors. This Web site and the project information line (800-473-5679) will be maintained to provide up-to-date information regarding the progress of the project. Meetings will be held with landowners, local governments and the public to help determine the final route of the transmission line and identify property impacts. These initial meetings will be helpful in documenting property ownership and all avoidance areas in the potential corridor. A contact list will be maintained that will be used to mail important project information as well as announce upcoming public meetings.

Current project maps are available on the Resources page and you can leave your comments for the study team on the Contact Us page. You can also call the project information line at 800-473-5679. Your call will be returned in a timely manner. Minnkota is dedicated to keeping the public involved in the public process. Please feel free to contact a member of the team at any time.

How can I get involved?

You can provide comments to Minnkota on both routing and project need at public meetings, on the Contact Us page, or on the project information line (800-473-5679). All comments, information and suggestions are valued and will be responded to in a prompt manner. Also, go to the Contact Us page to join the mailing list to keep informed on project activities and public events.

What permits are required for the Project?

If financing is provided by the USDA Rural Development's Electric Program, Minnkota is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Federal permits may be required by agencies including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS).

Minnkota will follow the North Dakota Regulatory Process by applying for two permits from the Public Service Commission (PSC): a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (N.D.C.C. Section 49-03) and a Route Permit (N.D. Admin Code 69-02). Additional permits from state agencies may be required, including the North Dakota Department of Transportation and the North Dakota Department of Health. Other state agencies will be consulted, including but not limited to the State Historical Society of North Dakota, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department, North Dakota Parks and Recreations and the North Dakota State Water Commission.

In addition to the federal and state permit requirements, local Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) along with other local permits may be required. Minnkota will coordinate with local officials throughout the Project.

What is the regulatory process?

As Minnkota is seeking financing from the USDA Rural Development's Electric Program, Minnkota is required to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The regulatory process is outlined in 7 CFR 1794.

Minnkota will follow the North Dakota Regulatory Process by applying for two permits from the Public Service Commission (PSC): a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility (N.D.C.C. Section 49-03) and a Route Permit (N.D. Admin Code 69-02).

What do transmission structures look like?

The structures being planned for this 345-kV transmission line are single-pole steel structures that vary in height from about 120 feet to 170 feet and have spans (or distance) between structures on an average of 1,000 feet. Structures for the most part will be set on foundations, but may be embedded into the ground without foundations.

How much right of way will be required on either side of the line?

The voltage and the type of transmission structure being built determines the size of the right of way. For a 345-kV transmission line, the typical right of way is up to 150 feet wide.

What can impacted landowners expect in the form of compensation?

Minnkota will provide a one-time easement payment to property owners who host power lines based on the market value of the land and also they will receive payments for any crop or land damage that is caused by the construction or by maintenance of the line. The easement gives Minnkota permission to build, maintain and operate the transmission line. Property owners retain ownership of the land and may continue to use the land around transmission structures. Easements typically last for 99 years.

Will the new lines be safe?

Yes. Every effort is made to ensure safety during construction, operation and maintenance of transmission lines. Lines and line infrastructure are designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Protective devices at line terminals stop the electricity flow under any abnormal operating circumstances. Utility practices meet or exceed standards set by national electric safety codes.

What about EMF?

Electric and magnetic fields (EMF) are created by anything that conducts electricity including transmission lines, household appliances and business equipment. These fields are strongest closest to their source, so the farther away you are from the source, the less EMF reaches you. EMF exposure from transmission lines, which are high in the air and inside the negotiated easement, is minimal.

Decades of scientific and medical research, reviewed by science organizations and government agencies, have found no cause/effect evidence of threats to human health from EMF.

For more information, as well as an extensive list of references, review a booklet prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Services, National Institute of Health.

Why not build the new lines underground?

Minnkota is proposing overhead lines because of reliability and cost. Underground transmission lines generally cost up to 10 times as much as overhead lines; that's a cost impact customers cannot bear. The technology to build lines underground for long distances is also extremely difficult to manage. With overhead lines, air cools the lines and keeps them at a safe operating temperature. Underground lines require cooling mechanisms, which increase cost and decrease reliability. Locating and repairing underground line failures also takes longer, leading to longer outages. The reactive losses of underground lines are substantially higher than overhead lines, and installation requires lengthy, disruptive construction techniques. Design concerns such as capacity and heat dissipation are frequent

limitations. Underground systems are justified primarily in heavily populated downtown urban centers, where right of way is severely limited for overhead lines.

When will the lines be built?

Line construction is expected between 2010 and 2013 after a rigorous public process to determine need and routing. Schedules can change, so Minnkota will publish meeting notices in newspapers and on this site. Please continue to check these resources for updated information.

How much will the lines cost? Will my bills go up?

The construction of the line and associated substations is currently estimated at $280 million. Adjusted costs for the project will be passed on to the 11 distribution cooperatives served by Minnkota through a future wholesale rate structure. At this time, it is not known what the impact on individual cooperative members' rates might be. However, the building of the new line provides the lowest cost energy solution to meet the future needs of Minnkota and its consumers.

How close will the transmission line be to houses?

Minnkota is required to route the transmission line at least 500 feet from occupied houses. The 500-foot avoidance criteria may be waived by the owner of the occupied house if stated in writing. Avoidance criteria laws can be found in the "North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act (49-22-05.1)".

Will the project impact radio, television, cell phone, and GPS reception?

FM radio receivers usually do not pick up interference from transmission lines. If there is AM radio frequency interference, it typically occurs immediately under a transmission line and dissipates rapidly within the ROW to either side.

A two-way mobile radio located immediately adjacent to and behind a large metallic structure may experience interference because of signal-blocking effects. This would generally require a movement of less than 50 feet by the mobile unit adjacent to a metallic tower.

Television interference is rare but may occur when a large transmission structure is aligned between the receiver and a weak distant signal, creating a shadow effect. The transition to digital TV broadcasts will be complete by the time the Project is constructed. Digital reception is in most cases more tolerant of noise and somewhat less resistant to multipath reflections (i.e., reflections from structures) than analog broadcasts.

Satellite television, GPS units and cellular service will not be impacted by the project.



Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF) Facts

What are Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF)?

EMF are naturally present in the environment and are present wherever electricity is used. The earth has both a magnetic field produced by currents in the molten core of the planet and an electric field produced by electrical activity in the atmosphere, such as thunderstorms. The flow of electricity along transmission lines also produces low levels of EMF.

What is the difference between Electric and Magnetic Fields?

Electric fields are produced by voltage, which is the pressure behind the flow of electricity. Voltage creates electric fields around any electrical device that is plugged in even if it is not operating. Magnetic Fields are produced by current, which is the flow of electrons when the device is operating. Electric fields are measured in volts per meter (V/m). Magnetic fields are measured in milligauss (mG) or microTeslas (uT).

What are typical exposure levels to Electric and Magnetic Fields?

Everyone is constantly exposed to about 500 mG from the earth's magnetic field and 100 V/m from the earth's electric field. However, thunderstorms can temporarily increase the electric field in a given location to several thousand V/m. In addition to the earth's natural fields, according to the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) the average household background magnetic field is between 0.5 and 4 mG with an average of 0.9 mG, and the average electric field is 1 to 20 V/m.

What are some of the things in my home and at work that produce EMF?

Anything that generates, distributes, or uses electricity creates electric and magnetic fields. Below is a list of some appliances and machines commonly found in homes or offices and the magnetic fields they produce.

	Magnetic field 6 inches from appliance (mG)	Magnetic field 2 feet away (mG)
Electric shaver	100	–
Vacuum cleaner	300	10
Electric oven	9	–
Dishwasher	20	4
Microwave oven	200	10
Hair dryer	300	–
Computers	14	2
Fluorescent lights	40	2
Fax machines	6	–
Copy machines	90	7
Garbage disposals	80	2

Source: Western Area Power Administration. *Electric and Magnetic Fields: The Facts.*

What are typical EMF levels near overhead transmission lines?

The electric power associated with overhead transmission lines is typically a 60-Hertz (Hz) alternating current which is classified as an 'extremely low frequency'. This 'power frequency' produces low levels of EMF. Both the electric and magnetic fields that constitute EMF are strongest directly under the lines and decrease rapidly with distance from the line. Actual field strengths vary with the size of the lines and height of the conductors from the point of measurement. Electric fields from power lines are relatively stable because the voltage does not change. Magnetic fields fluctuate as current changes in response to the changing loads. Tables in the listed reference material show typical values calculated for overhead power lines.

What EMF health research has been done?

Research related to possible adverse health effects from EMF exposure has been in progress for more than 30 years. In 1992, The U.S. Congress directed the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) to direct the EMF Research and Public Information Dissemination Program (EMF-RAPID). The EMF-RAPID Program goal was to provide evidence to clarify potential health risks from EMF exposure. To date, the bulk of scientific evidence does not link extremely low frequency or power frequency EMF exposure to health hazards.

Are there state and federal standards for EMF exposure?

There are no standards established for safe levels of exposure to EMF. Some organizations have set advisory limits as a precautionary measure. The International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection has established a continuous magnetic field exposure limit of 833 mG and a continuous electric field exposure limit of 4,200 V/m for members of the general public. The American Council of Governmental Industrial Hygienists has set a Threshold Limit Value for occupational exposure to 60 Hz (60 cycles per second) magnetic fields as 10,000 mG and 25,000 V/m for electric fields.

Where can I find more information about EMF health research?

- The National Institute of Environmental Health Services (NIEHS), *EMF: Electric and Magnetic Fields Associated with the Use of Electric Power, Questions and Answers*.
  http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/
- California Department of Health Services-California EMF Program
  http://www.ehib.org/emf/general.html
- World Health Organization
  http://www.who.int/emf
- Western Area Power Administration, *Electric and Magnetic Fields Facts*,
  http://www.wapa.gov/newsroom/pdf/emfbook.pdf

Minnkota Power
MPC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

1822 Mill Road • P.O. Box 13200 • Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200 • Phone (701) 795-4000

GENERATION DEVELOPERS – PLEASE NOTE

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. is a generation and transmission cooperative located in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota. Minnkota operates a high voltage electric transmission system through which it serves eleven member-owner distribution cooperatives that, in turn, provide electricity to approximately 120,000 customers in an area of 34,500 square miles. Minnkota owns, operates and maintains approximately 3,000 miles of high voltage electric lines.

Minnkota has integrated its Standard Large Generator Interconnection Procedures (LGIP) into its Open Access Transmission Service Tariff (OATT). The LGIP document can be found under the "Transmission" tab on Minnkota's web site which may be found at www.minnkota.com. These procedures apply to all generator interconnection requests exceeding 20 MW. Therefore, any generator interconnection request for a generator exceeding 20 MW must be submitted according to the LGIP, which requires the completion of the "Interconnection Request for a Large Generating Facility" form (Appendix I to the LGIP) and the payment of the required monetary deposits as outlined in the LGIP.

Generator interconnection requests are recorded in Minnkota's Interconnection Request Queue Listing which may also be found at www.minnkota.com. The generator interconnection request queue order is based on the date on which the completed Interconnection Request is received by Minnkota.

Minnkota and others are members of the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool (MAPP) and observe all MAPP requirements for review and approval of generator interconnections to its system. The MAPP requirements are outlined in a number of documents including the "MAPP Restated Agreement", "MAPP Reliability Handbook", "MAPP Policies and Procedures for Transmission Operations", etc. These documents are available on the MAPP web site: www.mapp.org under the "Library" and then "MAPP" links.

Please note: An Interconnection Request is NOT a request for transmission service. Receipt and approval of a generator interconnection request does not authorize the requestor to receive or deliver energy to/from the requestor's generation and does not reserve any transmission capacity on the Minnkota's transmission system nor that of any other transmission system. An approved generator interconnection request is simply the first step in the process of interconnecting to Minnkota's transmission system.

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.



Stray and Induced Voltage Facts

What is stray voltage?

The term stray voltage describes a special case of voltage developed on the grounded neutral of the electrical wiring system of a farm and/or the utility's electric power delivery system. If this voltage reaches sufficient levels, animals coming into contact with grounded devices may receive a mild electric shock that can cause a behavioral response. The term stray voltage is often applied incorrectly to other electrical phenomena such as electric fields, magnetic fields and electric current flowing in the earth or on grounding systems. Stray voltage is not caused by proximity to or problems on high voltage transmission lines.

What causes stray voltage?

Electrical current flowing between the neutral wire and ground is a normal part of electrical systems. Stray voltage problems are most often the result of the system not operating properly. This abnormal condition leading to stray voltage can be caused by:

- Poor grounding conditions
- Inadequate connections
- Undersized neutral conductors

Why isn't stray voltage applicable to this project?

Distribution systems and electrical service lines use the neutral wire as a path for current flow, and based on local service loading, may have unbalanced flows on these wires. This, along with the abnormal conditions listed above, can create stray voltage issues.

In transmission systems, the neutral or shield wire normally does not have any current flowing through it. The neutral or shield wire is only there in the event of a fault condition, such as lightning striking the transmission line. Plus, transmission lines by nature of their design will always have balanced current flow conditions. Both of these conditions mean that stray voltage does not come from transmission lines.

What is induced voltage?

Induced voltage is an electrical condition through which very low levels of voltage could be seen in objects in the near vicinity of a high voltage transmission line. Near objects could be buildings, fences, or other equipment in very close proximity to the transmission line. Much like stray voltage, induced voltage normally is not a problem. Where it is, the problem can be taken care of with proper grounding of the affected objects.

How will induced voltage be eliminated?

As part of the design and engineering process, the transmission line will be designed to eliminate any induced voltages in objects in close proximity to the line. National Electric Safety Code (NESC) clearances will be met, and the transmission line engineered in such a way as to ensure that induced voltages are not present. For objects that may be in close proximity to the transmission line, such as fences, simple precautions such as ensuring the fence is properly grounded are more than adequate to eliminate any induced voltages.

Resources

- Midwest Rural Energy Council
  http://www.mrec.org/sv-info.html
- National Electrical Safety Code
  http://standards.ieee.org/nesc/
- Public Service Commission of Wisconsin
  http://psc.wi.gov/utilityinfo/electric/strayvoltage.htm
- Wisconsin Public Service Corporation
  http://www.wisconsinpublicservice.com/farm/research.aspx

Appendix J: Public & NGO Scoping Comments

HDR | ONE COMPANY *Many Solutions*℠

Meeting Notes

Subject: Public Scoping Meeting		
Client: Minnkota Power Cooperative	Project No: 110900	
Project: Center to Grand Forks	Meeting Location:	Various
Meeting Date: November 16 - 19, 2009	Notes by:	Brian Hunker, HDR

MEETING LOCATIONS AND DATES

Monday, November 16 – Grand Forks, ND
Tuesday, November 17 – Cooperstown and Carrington, ND
Wednesday, November 18 – McClusky and Wilton, ND
Thursday, November 19 – Center, ND

TOPICS DISCUSSED

1. Line location
2. Compensation - annual or one-time lease payments
3. Value of lease payments
4. Land appraisal before and after the project
5. Tower height and area
6. Center pivot irrigation
7. Wind energy facilities
8. Two-way radio interference on communications between combine, harvesters, and, grain trucks
9. Interference with GPS systems used in farming operations
10. County tax base
11. Will the project cause Cap and Trade?
12. Avoid subdivision north and west of Wilton – Wilton is spreading north and west.
13. Follow highway 41
14. Why avoid federal lands?
15. Affects on a pacemaker
16. Environmental process and schedule
17. Cost of farming around poles

Total Comments: 27

Center to Grand Forks Project

Minnkota Power COOPERATIVE, INC.

Public and NGO Scoping Comments

Agricultural Impacts

We would prefer that you do not come across our land. We are located right north of the Bald Hill Creek and in the Spring the roads can flood over. Also, the lines should be placed at no closer than a mile from the farm structure. We have a water drain and gate on our land that we have spent thousands of dollars on and wouldn't want anything to interfere with that. Also, you need to take into consideration how the lines not only effect people but also livestock and other animals. Have you considered putting the lines underground instead of on top of the land?

Also under: Routing

We are very concerned about the proposed Center to Grand Forks 345KV Transmissíon Line. Long-term health issues from farming under power lines are a concern to us and to our employees. Since the state of North Dakota will not allow residences within 500 feet of these lines, there must be some issues of safety. We are also concerned about how this powerline could impact farming operations in the proposed corridor. We now experience interference on our 800 mghz business band radios under the existing Western Power Administration Line (which Minnkota acknowledges in their information packet) and which we use extensively on our farm for communication. Safety could be a factor in our operation in situations where an emergency could arise if we do not have reliable communication. We have also experienced interference with our GPS system when we are near these power lines. We rely on this signal to steer our tractors in planting and tillage operations. We have no row markers on our planters, so the GPS signal is the only way to plant straight and not have skips or overlaps. Also, as we plant, we map all fields for the amount of seed applied and what variety crop is planted in that particular field. Without GPS, we could not do that. Using GPS for all these uses has been shown to save 5%-10% in costs of production. Costs are higher in farming fields with power lines, The overlap of spraying and fertilizing because of these poles when we have to go around them increases our costs. It also has a negative effect on the environment because of over application around these poles. We would request that any proposed power line not be located on farmland that is in production, but located on pastureland, non-crop land or other right-of-ways that would not interfere with farming operations- It is imperative that all aspects of this line be considered especially for future agriculture implications as technology is always advancing for farming practices. Modern farm tractors and combines have computers, software, and electronics that may not be compatible with farming under these power lines. It is not fair that the farming community bear additional costs for the operation of this proposed power line.

Also under: ROW

Safety

Earlier this week I contacted Senators Dorgan and Conrad to address serious concerns that I have with regard to the proposed power line corridors that could pass through my lands in Sheridan County, North Dakota. I have 3,000 acres in Harris Township and my brother and I have 480 acres in Lamont Township. The 3,000 contiguous acres in Harris Township consist of agricultural land and grasslands. As a native of North Dakota and Sheridan County in particular, I decided to establish my retirement home there to enjoy the peace and quiet of the remote countryside. Now I find Minnkota Power is seeking to disrupt my plans with the proposed installation of power lines in that area. As projected on the map, the proposed corridors run parallel along Highway 200 and it appears as though they could bisect both of my properties north and south of the highway. My most important concern is of the towers and lines running through my property in Harris Township. That property consists of a contiguous area running 4-1/2 miles from east to west right off the paved road 8-1/2 miles north of McClusky. In the last decade, I have made diligent efforts to preserve the grasslands, including 1,000 acres of original short grass prairie. Countless hours and significant personal funds have been expended on this property in the restoration of grasslands, planting trees and employing no-till farming methods. These conservation measures have also enhanced wildlife habitat. I am told by informed sources that my grasslands have among the highest density of potholes for breeding ducks in the United States. The disruption with the installation of power lines could be hazardous to the nesting cycles of wild birds, including song birds, pheasants, sharp tail grouse, partridges and all of the duck species native to the Central Flyway in the Missouri Coteau region of North Dakota. As you may know, the Whooping Cranes, an endangered species, migrate right through this corridor as well. Additionally, I am concerned about the disruption of agricultural operations. Of the land in Harris Township, 1600 acres are under cultivation. We use very large equipment from self propelled sprayers to giant air seeders for planting. We also employ outsized combines and semi-trailer trucks to conduct harvesting operations. It is difficult to maneuver this large equipment around towers. Has there been any consideration given to the use of an existing power corridor for the installation in this new proposal? Are there existing easements already in place in other areas to accommodate this new project? Will North Dakotans wake up someday and find a saturated grid work of power lines and windmills to disfigure its natural landscape and beauty, all in the name of progress? Are there other sources of power, namely nuclear power, which would be clean and less disruptive to our countryside? Lastly, I would respectfully ask you to consider a plan for moving the proposed corridor entirely out of Sheridan County. May I hear from you.

Also under: Routing
Environmental Impacts
Endangered Species

Cost

Annual payments - nuisance factor. Line down Y4 lines. Payment higher than market value. GPS interference. Written agreement it will not. Payment to land operator

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter I sent to Mr. Dennis Rankin, UDA Rural Utilities Service this week. The letter lists several concerns Minnkota may be able to address in addition to information from the USDA. Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response. On November 16, Minnkota Power held an open house in Grand Forks, North Dakota. We attended and, as landowners within your corridor consideration, have compensation questions which were not addressed at this evet. Nuisance fees: In addition to direct compensation for the easement, there are annual losses due to pole placement. A 2007 sutdy, using Montana farming operations, reported yearly costs to farm around a large monopole at $107.98. This includes lost time and productivity, and "overlap" excesses. Farming rotations in the Red River Valley include higher value crops than those grown in Montana. Severance: Grand Forks chooses to invoke a 2 mile extraterritorial zoning authority and in their 2035 Land Use Plan have designated quarters of our land which fall in your corridors of consideration for residential, industrial and mixed use. The open house had no information about severance pay for the reduction in development value due to overhead transmission lines. Direct damage: Large farm equipment, found in the Red River Valley, can be difficult to maneuver and the potential for machinery damage by contact with a monopole is constant. The presence of pole increases risk to machinery and operators. GPS-based agriculture: Damage from transmission line interference to GOS-based equipment is compensable under many state laws. However, the power companies have greater financial resources to negate farmer attempts at remuneration. Reduced Resale Value: The land value wihtin the corridors will be severely reduced, due to the permanent, restrictive nature of pwerline easements. This land has been targeted for development in the 2035 Land Use Plan by the city of Grand Forks. Please indicate, at your earliest convenience, how these concerns will be resolved. Thank you for your consideration of this inquiry.

Cultural Resources

[1910 map of Addie Township]

Endangered Species

Earlier this week I contacted Senators Dorgan and Conrad to address serious concerns that I have with regard to the proposed power line corridors that could pass through my lands in Sheridan County, North Dakota. I have 3,000 acres in Harris Township and my brother and I have 480 acres in Lamont Township. The 3,000 contiguous acres in Harris Township consist of agricultural land and grasslands. As a native of North Dakota and Sheridan County in particular, I decided to establish my retirement home there to enjoy the peace and quiet of the remote countryside. Now I find Minnkota Power is seeking to disrupt my plans with the proposed installation of power lines in that area. As projected on the map, the proposed corridors run parallel along Highway 200 and it appears as though they could bisect both of my properties north and south of the highway. My most important concern is of the towers and lines running through my property in Harris Township. That property consists of a contiguous area running 4-1/2 miles from east to west right off the paved road 8-1/2 miles north of McClusky. In the last decade, I have made diligent efforts to preserve the grasslands, including 1,000 acres of original short grass prairie. Countless hours and significant personal funds have been expended on this property in the restoration of grasslands, planting trees and employing no-till farming methods. These conservation measures have also enhanced wildlife habitat. I am told by informed sources that my grasslands have among the highest density of potholes for breeding ducks in the United States. The disruption with the installation of power lines could be hazardous to the nesting cycles of wild birds, including song birds, pheasants, sharp tail grouse, partridges and all of the duck species native to the Central Flyway in the Missouri Coteau region of North Dakota. As you may know, the Whooping Cranes, an endangered species, migrate right through this corridor as well. Additionally, I am concerned about the disruption of agricultural operations. Of the land in Harris Township, 1600 acres are under cultivation. We use very large equipment from self propelled sprayers to giant air seeders for planting. We also employ outsized combines and semi-trailer trucks to conduct harvesting operations. It is difficult to maneuver this large equipment around towers. Has there been any consideration given to the use of an existing power corridor for the installation in this new proposal? Are there existing easements already in place in other areas to accommodate this new project? Will North Dakotans wake up someday and find a saturated grid work of power lines and windmills to disfigure its natural landscape and beauty, all in the name of progress? Are there other sources of power, namely nuclear power, which would be clean and less disruptive to our countryside? Lastly, I would respectfully ask you to consider a plan for moving the proposed corridor entirely out of Sheridan County. May I hear from you.

Also under: Routing
Environmental Impacts
Agricultural Impacts

Environmental Impacts

In regards to Minnkota's Center to Grand Forks Transmission line - My wife and I own 400 acres on Section 9-14281, of which 70 acres is cropland with 46 acres of irrigated land. Most of this land is irrigated with gated pipe. The southeast area is irrigated using a Heinzman-Traveler Big Gun that puts out 800 gallons per minute. Basin Electric has a line across the southern part of section 9. A Minnkota line would put most of our irrigated fields between the two lines. Static electricity would make working our fields a hazardous job. The rest of the land is mostly cottonwood forest, which includes some of the oldest cottonwood trees in North Dakota. It also includes a mile of Missouri River frontage. The forest and the river frontage have a unique value that is irreplaceable. If you put a power line through this land it will decrease our livelihood and our security in our declining years, as well as the cottonwood trees that we cherish. At 76, I'm too old to start over.

Also under: Routing
Safety

Earlier this week I contacted Senators Dorgan and Conrad to address serious concerns that I have with regard to the proposed power line corridors that could pass through my lands in Sheridan County, North Dakota. I have 3,000 acres in Harris Township and my brother and I have 480 acres in Lamont Township. The 3,000 contiguous acres in Harris Township consist of agricultural land and grasslands. As a native of North Dakota and Sheridan County in particular, I decided to establish my retirement home there to enjoy the peace and quiet of the remote countryside. Now I find Minnkota Power is seeking to disrupt my plans with the proposed installation of power lines in that area. As projected on the map, the proposed corridors run parallel along Highway 200 and it appears as though they could bisect both of my properties north and south of the highway. My most important concern is of the towers and lines running through my property in Harris Township. That property consists of a contiguous area running 4-1/2 miles from east to west right off the paved road 8-1/2 miles north of McClusky. In the last decade, I have made diligent efforts to preserve the grasslands, including 1,000 acres of original short grass prairie. Countless hours and significant personal funds have been expended on this property in the restoration of grasslands, planting trees and employing no-till farming methods. These conservation measures have also enhanced wildlife habitat. I am told by informed sources that my grasslands have among the highest density of potholes for breeding ducks in the United States. The disruption with the installation of power lines could be hazardous to the nesting cycles of wild birds, including song birds, pheasants, sharp tail grouse, partridges and all of the duck species native to the Central Flyway in the Missouri Coteau region of North Dakota. As you may know, the Whooping Cranes, an endangered species, migrate right through this corridor as well. Additionally, I am concerned about the disruption of agricultural operations. Of the land in Harris Township, 1600 acres are under cultivation. We use very large equipment from self propelled sprayers to giant air seeders for planting. We also employ outsized combines and semi-trailer trucks to conduct harvesting operations. It is difficult to maneuver this large equipment around towers. Has there been any consideration given to the use of an existing power corridor for the installation in this new proposal? Are there existing easements already in place in other areas to accommodate this new project? Will North Dakotans wake up someday and find a saturated grid work of power lines and windmills to disfigure its natural landscape and beauty, all in the name of progress? Are there other sources of power, namely nuclear power, which would be clean and less disruptive to our countryside? Lastly, I would respectfully ask you to consider a plan for moving the proposed corridor entirely out of Sheridan County. May I hear from you.

Also under: Routing

Agricultural Impacts

Endangered Species

From Jim Quirk ROW Agent: Helen is a senior who owns land adjacent to & in vicinity of Crystal Lake. Her family has owned land in this twp for generations; her sister Neva Bodin of Casper, WY owns parcels adjacent to hers. The family homestead is in Section 27. Helen's holdings in 27 are cropland, in 35 part cropland & part pastureland. Helen wonders about CGF's impact from & to the hydrology of the area. A lake exists near the center of Sect. 15, accessible from a road along section's eastern boundar. Underground springs exist w/in 1.5's NE 1/4; sweet clover has thrived on the moisture up in Sect. 10 as well as many tall trees. Helen also reports that a tributary of the James R. passes along her southerly parcels: through SE1/4 of Sect. 27 & NE part of Sect. 35. Helen has witnessed frost heave in winter affecting the soils in the area. She asked if we have or are considering these factors in planning for CGF implementation. Helen asked me to verify if any of her holdings might be within the southern corridor. She also asked that I obtain a hard copy of HDR's Macro Corridor Study (10/09) and send this to her for her reference.

General Public Involvement

Name correction. "Albers" not "Weber"

Mailing List Request

Add to Mailing list. Save Shelterbelts.

Also under: Routing

Add to mailing list

Management Areas

T 147. R 69. Section #33. Please research the wildlife status of entire section rather than just SW 1/2 and SE 40 being designated as Robert Morgan Wildlife MA.

At a public meeting at Carrington, North Dakota, on May 12, 2009 after reviewing a map which our township was part of, we noticed and brought to attention of representatives there the fact that their map was incorrect in documenting a wildlife area located as follows: Wells County Township 147 N Range 69W (Cathay) section #33. This entire section is a designated wildlife area and the map they had included only a few acres of the 640 involved. Another meeting on November 17, 2009 still showed that the map was incorrect. No change had been made. Attached is written verification that the entire 640 of Section 33 is , indeed, all a wildlife area owned by ND State Game and Fish. Please make sure this information gets where it needs to go so that these maps convey valid information

Routing

Add to Mailing list. Save Shelterbelts.

Also under: Mailing List Request

We would prefer that you do not come across our land. We are located right north of the Bald Hill Creek and in the Spring the roads can flood over. Also, the lines should be placed at no closer than a mile from the farm structure. We have a water drain and gate on our land that we have spent thousands of dollars on and wouldn't want anything to interfere with that. Also, you need to take into consideration how the lines not only effect people but also livestock and other animals. Have you considered putting the lines underground instead of on top of the land?

Also under: Agricultural Impacts

We do not feel the line should go through our land because of the wetlands and inaccessability to the line and the closeness of the line to occupied residences.

Obviously, the placement of towers in fields is a concern for farmers - on the edge is better of course. If towers must be in agg fields, the size of modern farming equipment must be considered. The distance between towers and roads, trails or other objects must be enough for machinery passage.

Also under: ROW

Follow section lines. Try not to cross diagonally. Go through pastures is necessary before cropland if you go through land.

We own land in 143-81. There was irrigation in the S 1/2 17 143-81 - S 1/2 21 143-81. I sold the pivots because the river levels being low and a sandbar interfered that past few years. There is a pretty good chance we may buy new equipment if the river comes around.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed siting of the "Center to Grand Forks" transmission line. As I'm sure you are aware, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has properties and priority conservation areas wither within or near the proposed corridors. We very much appreciate Minnkota's consideration of unique ecological areas, public wildlife areas, scenic viewsheds and privately-owned natural areas, like those owned and managed by TNC. Since large, unfragmented natural areas are important to our mission of supporting biodiversity, as the transmission corridor is refined we would ask that the power lines avoid TNC properties and public natural lands to the furthest extent possible. We would also ask that the scenic values of the Missouri River are considered when picking a river crossing site by avoiding areas near The Nature Conservancy's Cross Ranch, Cross Ranch State Park, Smith Grove Wildlife Management Area and other protected areas. We appreciate the opportunity to work with you on this project and welcome any questions you may have. Please do keep me apprised of future developments on this project. Thank you very much for your consideration.

In regards to Minnkota's Center to Grand Forks Transmission line - My wife and I own 400 acres on Section 9-14281, of which 70 acres is cropland with 46 acres of irrigated land. Most of this land is irrigated with gated pipe. The southeast area is irrigated using a Heinzman-Traveler Big Gun that puts out 800 gallons per minute. Basin Electric has a line across the southern part of section 9. A Minnkota line would put most of our irrigated fields between the two lines. Static electricity would make working our fields a hazardous job. The rest of the land is mostly cottonwood forest, which includes some of the oldest cottonwood trees in North Dakota. It also includes a mile of Missouri River frontage. The forest and the river frontage have a unique value that is irreplaceable. If you put a power line through this land it will decrease our livelihood and our security in our declining years, as well as the cottonwood trees that we cherish. At 76, I'm too old to start over.

Also under: Safety Environmental

Impacts

Dear Mr. Hennes: I am writing to express my concern about your consideration of crossing the Sheyenne River witha 345kV structure on our property: SW Â¼, Section 34, Township 146, Range 58; S1/2 NW1/4, Section 35, Township 146, Range 58; and SW Â¼ NE1/4, Section 35, Township 146, Range 58. I was not able to attend the public meeting held in Cooperstown, ND and Carrington, ND on November 17, 2009 due to having surgery on that day. I am submitting my request for excluding our farm as a potential Sheyenne River crossing site in written form. Our farm is a small, working farm of approximately 340 acres with land on both sides of the Sheyenne River and has been in our family for four generations. Recently, our family converted ownership of the farm to the E. Myron Erickson Family Trust to assure the farm would continue to be a working farm by renting to four local tenants and also provide a place of enjoyment, hunting opportunities and residence to family members. We paid to have rural water brought to the farm several years ago with the opportunity to build our retirement home on the farm within the next few years. There are three reasons for my request to remove our farm from consideration in placement of 345kV structures on our land. - The beautiful view and serenity of the setting will be disturbed with a large power line passing through our small farm. - Our fields and pastures are small and the need to work around line structures will make the parcels of land less desirable to rent by the local farmers. - The proximity of the line to our intended home building project, and the location of the rural water placement, is an electromagnetic field concern for us. I understand this line needs to follow the ND Highway 200 corridor; however, I believe you can find a more desirable site for crossing the Sheyenne River than the Erickson farm. Thank you for your consideration.

June Weeks stopped at our home in rural Grand Forks county in July 2009. She informed us of the power line project. 7/25/09 -After meeting with June Weeks, I called Kadsmas, Lee and Jackson with a couple questions. Somebody called me back late in the day. 11/16/09 - I went to the Public Meeting in Grand Forks, ND. I had three items that were of interest to me and discussed them with Kadsmas, Lee and Jackson. I still have the same three concerns: 1) reduction in land values - nobody wants a power line on their property 2) Minnkota Power is not easy to work with 3) MOST IMPORTANT. Although th epower line can be no closer than 500 feet to a house, and according to June Weeks, Minnkota Power tries to be at least 1500 feet away, put the lines in the middle of the sections to impact the least number of homes in Grand Forks County.

As a Wilton resident I am very concerned with your Center to Grand Forks transmission project. We have nine families living within two miles of Wilton's west side and more to be built in 2010. There are two developments in this area with the potential of 20 new family dwelling that would substantially help the City of Wilton and a struggling school system. No one at the public meeting could or would explain why the project corridor was so close to Wilton. The transmission line if built should be no closer than three miles of Wilton's city limits, This project should not be completed at the sacrifice of a small town's growth.

We are steadfast against any new power lines on any of our properties. We have paid the local coops to bury all their transmission lines. One of the main reasons is safety. We have had employees have accidents with obstacles in the fields. We will do whatever is necessary to avoid towers on our land.

Also under: Safety

Earlier this week I contacted Senators Dorgan and Conrad to address serious concerns that I have with regard to the proposed power line corridors that could pass through my lands in Sheridan County, North Dakota. I have 3,000 acres in Harris Township and my brother and I have 480 acres in Lamont Township. The 3,000 contiguous acres in Harris Township consist of agricultural land and grasslands. As a native of North Dakota and Sheridan County in particular, I decided to establish my retirement home there to enjoy the peace and quiet of the remote countryside. Now I find Minnkota Power is seeking to disrupt my plans with the proposed installation of power lines in that area. As projected on the map, the proposed corridors run parallel along Highway 200 and it appears as though they could bisect both of my properties north and south of the highway. My most important concern is of the towers and lines running through my property in Harris Township. That property consists of a contiguous area running 4-1/2 miles from east to west right off the paved road 8-1/2 miles north of McClusky. In the last decade, I have made diligent efforts to preserve the grasslands, including 1,000 acres of original short grass prairie. Countless hours and significant personal funds have been expended on this property in the restoration of grasslands, planting trees and employing no-till farming methods. These conservation measures have also enhanced wildlife habitat. I am told by informed sources that my grasslands have among the highest density of potholes for breeding ducks in the United States. The disruption with the installation of power lines could be hazardous to the nesting cycles of wild birds, including song birds, pheasants, sharp tail grouse, partridges and all of the duck species native to the Central Flyway in the Missouri Coteau region of North Dakota. As you may know, the Whooping Cranes, an endangered species, migrate right through this corridor as well. Additionally, I am concerned about the disruption of agricultural operations. Of the land in Harris Township, 1600 acres are under cultivation. We use very large equipment from self propelled sprayers to giant air seeders for planting. We also employ outsized combines and semi-trailer trucks to conduct harvesting operations. It is difficult to maneuver this large equipment around towers. Has there been any consideration given to the use of an existing power corridor for the installation in this new proposal? Are there existing easements already in place in other areas to accommodate this new project? Will North Dakotans wake up someday and find a saturated grid work of power lines and windmills to disfigure its natural landscape and beauty, all in the name of progress? Are there other sources of power, namely nuclear power, which would be clean and less disruptive to our countryside? Lastly, I would respectfully ask you to consider a plan for moving the proposed corridor entirely out of Sheridan County. May I hear from you.

Also under: Environmental Impacts
Agricultural Impacts
Endangered Species

I am a private land owner in central Sheridan County. Our family farm is being approached by Minnkota Power for a power line, also by Otter Tail Services Power Association for a wind farm and a power line for its wind farms. Where we live there is also large tracts of land under control of a government entity like US Fish & Wildlife or garrison division like McClusky Canal. Land paid for by all American citizens and land owned by all of us. But whenever you see a map of a proposed project all public owned land is off limits. Which is a bunch of B.S. All we hear is this is needed for the development of the betterment of our country and its future. Well, I think land owned by us all should be the first places to start and finish. But no one has the guts to stand up.

ROW

Just thought that through common courtesy that someone would visit our place when doing some testing on our property. All we have had is someone visiting earlier letting us know that surveying is going to be done and just visited with a few guys on our property drilling for soil testing. No one let us know and it sure would have been nice to be told! Like I said all we ask is for "common courtesy" on your part. Thank you!

Obviously, the placement of towers in fields is a concern for farmers - on the edge is better of course. If towers must be in agg fields, the size of modern farming equipment must be considered. The distance between towers and roads, trails or other objects must be enough for machinery passage.

Also under: Routing

Three years ago we spent several thousand dollars to have the power poles removed and lines buried on our property. This property is in one of the proposed corridors. We do not want to see any more poles put on our property. The one time payment paid to preperty owners for this inconvenience is a joke and very unfair! If it must go on our property, an annual payment would be the only option, the end user of this electricity can pay a little more so the preperty owner doesn't bare the burden with little or no compensation.

We are very concerned about the proposed Center to Grand Forks 345KV Transmission Line. Long-term health issues from farming under power lines are a concern to us and to our employees. Since the state of North Dakota will not allow residences within 500 feet of these lines, there must be some issues of safety. We are also concerned about how this powerline could impact farming operations in the proposed corridor. We now experience interference on our 800 mghz business band radios under the existing Western Power Administration Line (which Minnkota acknowledges in their information packet) and which we use extensively on our farm for communication. Safety could be a factor in our operation in situations where an emergency could arise if we do not have reliable communication. We have also experienced interference with our GPS system when we are near these power lines. We rely on this signal to steer our tractors in planting and tillage operations. We have no row markers on our planters, so the GPS signal is the only way to plant straight and not have skips or overlaps. Also, as we plant, we map all fields for the amount of seed applied and what variety crop is planted in that particular field. Without GPS, we could not do that. Using GPS for all these uses has been shown to save 5%-10% in costs of production. Costs are higher in farming fields with power lines, The overlap of spraying and fertilizing because of these poles when we have to go around them increases our costs. It also has a negative effect on the environment because of over application around these poles. We would request that any proposed power line not be located on farmland that is in production, but located on pastureland, non-crop land or other right-of-ways that would not interfere with farming operations- It is imperative that all aspects of this line be considered especially for future agriculture implications as technology is always advancing for farming practices. Modern farm tractors and combines have computers, software, and electronics that may not be compatible with farming under these power lines. It is not fair that the farming community bear additional costs for the operation of this proposed power line.

Also under: Safety

Agricultural Impacts

I own approx 49.2 acres directly south of 32nd Ave in Grand Forks (E 1/2 of W 100 Acres Ex .80 RD of NE 1/4 24-151-51 in Brenna Township). I did attend your open meeting in Grand Forks and had a nice visit with a Mr. Phillips. While I realize there is no established route to the Prairie Substation at this time, it appears that my land could easily be affected. I put this land up for sale last year and have declines several offers in regards to selling the land in parcels. Although the offers far exceeded my asking price per/square foot, I declined them for the following reasons: This land served as a "safety net" for my husband, in particular, in the event that he may need additional care. He has since passed away and I am now approaching my retirement years. This is the only 49 acres I have (unlike my surrounding property owners). I'm 60 years old and have no desire in developing the land myself. The land is presently being farmed and asking anyone to "spot" farm the land is very unfair. At my age, it would be devastating to see you take just a portion of my land, more-than-likely reducing the value of the remainder, thereby ending any type of security for my retirement. Ideally, it would be wonderful if YOU purchased all my acres, put the line wherever you want, and make money on the rest! I don't envy the task ahead of you and wish you success in this endeavor. Thank you for putting my concerns into consideration. [map attached]

Safety

In regards to Minnkota's Center to Grand Forks Transmission line - My wife and I own 400 acres on Section 9-14281, of which 70 acres is cropland with 46 acres of irrigated land. Most of this land is irrigated with gated pipe. The southeast area is irrigated using a Heinzman-Traveler Big Gun that puts out 800 gallons per minute. Basin Electric has a line across the southern part of section 9. A Minnkota line would put most of our irrigated fields between the two lines. Static electricity would make working our fields a hazardous job. The rest of the land is mostly cottonwood forest, which includes some of the oldest cottonwood trees in North Dakota. It also includes a mile of Missouri River frontage. The forest and the river frontage have a unique value that is irreplaceable. If you put a power line through this land it will decrease our livelihood and our security in our declining years, as well as the cottonwood trees that we cherish. At 76, I'm too old to start over.

Also under: Routing

Environmental Impacts