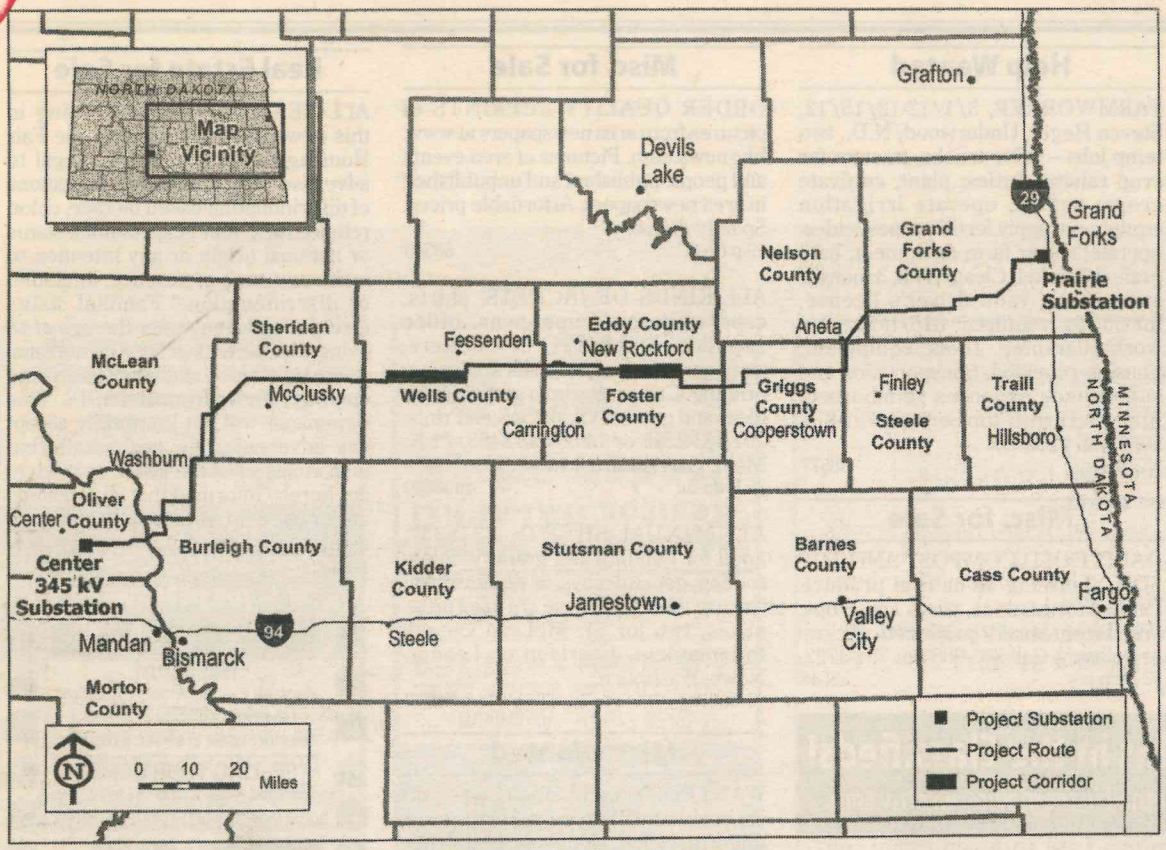
Washburn 1/26

PUBLIC NOTICES



Notice of filing and notice of hearings

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA, PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minnkota Power Co-op, Inc.

345 kV Transmission Line - Center to Grand Forks; Siting Application

Case No. PU-09-670

Jan. 18, 2011

On Sept. 7, 2011, the Commission issued Corridor Certificate No. 121 to Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) designating a transmission facility corridor for approximately 260 miles of 345 kV transmission line and associated facilities to be constructed from the Center Substation near Center, North Dakota to the Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, N.D.

On Dec. 2, 2011, Minnkota filed applications for a modification to the designated corridor, a waiver of procedures and time schedules, and a transmission facility route to be designated within the modified corridor as shown on the attached map.

Minnkota requests the Commission waive requirements under N.D.C.C. chapter 49-22 that separate hearings be held concerning the waiver request, the corridor modification and the route permit.

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

Feb. 22, 2012, 9 a.m. at Memorial Building, 805 Main Ave. Washburn, ND 58577. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Burleigh, McLean, Oliver and western Sheridan Counties.

Feb. 27, 2012, 9 a.m. in the Baker Courtroom at the UND School of Law, 215 Centennial Drive Stop 9003, Grand Forks, ND 58201. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Grand Forks, Nelson and Steele Counties.

March 1, 2012, 9 a.m. at the Chieftain Conference Center Tepee Room, 60 4th Ave.S, Carrington, ND 58204. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Eddy, Foster, Griggs, eastern Sheridan and Wells Counties.

The issues to be considered are:

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

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

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

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

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

ND Public Service Commission
Kevin Cramer, commissioner
Tony Clark, chairman
Brian P. Kalk, commissioner

LN Jan. 26, 2012

Lead

N.D. lig produc million

North Dakota's fou lignite mines produc million tons of lignite 2011 – down about 600, from 2010. The redu due to scheduled out various power plants al increased power product the Garrison Dam.

Since 1988, North D lignite production has cor been about 30 million year, making North Dak of 10 major coal-producin in the United States.

"The lignite mines an plants represent one of o largest and steadiest in providing good-paying substantial tax revenu state," said Steve Van Dy president of commun for the Lignite Energy "Employees at the ligni and power plants earn above almost all other in in the state."

Estimated state tax r resulting from lignite a were $91.3 million i Direct and indirect emp connected to the lignite decreased slightly fron jobs in 2010 to 26,685 jobs according to an econom conducted by North Dak University economics p Larry Leistritz.

About 79 percent of th produced in 2011 was generate electricity, 13.5 was used to generate s natural gas, and 7.5 was used to produce f products. Lignite-base plants in North Dakota g electricity at a cost sign below that of all coal and gas plants nationwide. of lignite to generate el results in lower ele costs for consumers, fa