

HORTISCOPE

BY RON SMITH, NDSU EXTENSION

Q: I had an oversized aloe plant that I repotted. It took three of us to tilt the pot and wiggle it out. I left the mother plant and two smaller plants in the original pot. What I had left was 15 plants. However, they are dying. The mother plant is leaking a brownish-red substance on my floor that is staining my tiles. The leaves on all the plants are limp and turning dark. I did not put a lot of water in the pots. I am so upset because the plants are dying. I hope you can tell me how to revive the plants. I believe I waited too long to repot it, but it was so big and beautiful, I was scared I might mess it up. Ironically, I did anyway. I am sending you a picture of the plant. (email reference)

A: From your description, I don't know what you did wrong. Based on what I know, about the only thing I can recommend is to not overwater the plant in an attempt to get it to perk up. Follow normal watering protocol for this succulent the remainder of the winter. Allow the soil to almost dry out before watering again. As spring starts to advance, get the watering cycles and amounts increased to see if new growth emerges from the roots. In nature, aloe plants have a wet-dry cycle, which has the top dying and regrowth coming back when the rains return. This may be what your plant needs.

Q: We have several plants in the house that have tiny flies flying around. We see a lot of them in the window sill that are dead or going to die. I believe they came from a plant we bought. We are wondering how to get rid of the flies. I heard one should spray plants before

bringing them in the house. Is that true and what type of flies do we have?

A: These could be one of a half-dozen insects. The problem often is fruit flies, even when there is no fruit around. Fruit flies will emerge from the organically rich soil in newly purchased plants. You can spray the plants with a knock-down spray when they are seen. Usually, the flies will die as the winter wanes. One of the best ways of limiting their propagation is to not overwater your houseplants. Drier soil conditions will tend to limit their numbers. With the arrival of summer weather, I would suggest moving the plants outdoors. Before a frost in the fall, bring the plants inside and repot them using pasteurized potting soil.

Q: We live in a house that has an old river birch a few feet from the foundation. Should we be concerned that the roots will hurt our foundation? We live in south-central Kansas if that matters.

A: I've never known a river birch root system that threatened a solid foundation. For that matter, no tree roots ever have penetrated or collapsed a solid, nonleaking foundation that I am aware of. In every instance where roots have been implicated in damage to the foundation, it was the foundation that was at fault because of cracks or breaks that gave the roots an opportunity to follow moving water. If it makes you feel any better, I have a 26-year-old cut leaf weeping birch about 6 feet from my poured-concrete foundation that has not given me any trouble. Enjoy the majesty of the tree as it continues to grow and don't give the foundation a second thought unless some cracking is noted.

Spring Turkey Season set, online apps available

The state Game and Fish Department is offering 5,795 wild turkey licenses for the spring hunting season, a decrease of 925 from last year. The decrease is a result of additional winter mortality the last three years and poor production during spring 2011.

Ten of the 22 hunting units have fewer spring licenses than in 2011, while 11 remain the same. Unit 21 (most of Hettinger and Adams counties) is again closed in 2012 due to lack of turkeys in the unit.

Successful spring turkey applicants must purchase a 2012-13 hunting license, as last year's 2011-12 licenses expire March 31. In addition to the spring turkey license, hunters must have a fishing, hunting and furbearer certificate, and a general game and habitat license. Also, hunters ages 16 and older must possess a small game license, or combination license.

First-time spring turkey hunters ages 15 or younger are eligible to receive one spring license valid for the regular hunting season in a specific unit. To be eligible, the youth hunter must be 15 or younger on opening day of spring turkey season, and have never received a spring turkey license in North Dakota.

Spring turkey applicants can apply online at the Game and Fish Department website, gf.nd.gov. Applications can also be submitted by calling (800) 406-6409.

Application forms will also be available by Feb. 1 at most license vendors, county auditors and Game and Fish offices. The deadline for applying is Feb. 15. Online or phone applications must be logged before midnight that day.

Spring turkey licenses are available only to North Dakota residents. The spring turkey season opens April 14 and continues through May 20.

ND GAME & FISH

BY GREG FREEMAN

BOW Program Offers Darkhouse Spearfishing, Ice Fishing Class

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department's Becoming an Outdoors-Woman program has scheduled a one-day darkhouse spearfishing and ice fishing class Feb. 11 at Upper Souris National Wildlife Refuge in Ward County.

Women interested in attending the class are encouraged to register online at the Game and Fish website, gf.nd.gov. A registration form is also available for download, or by contacting Nancy Boldt, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, 100 N. Bismarck Expressway, Bismarck, ND 58501-5095; (701) 328-6312; or email ndgf@nd.gov.

The cost is \$50, and preregistration with payment is required. Equipment and snacks will be provided.

North Dakota Earth Day Patch Contest

The state Game and Fish Department's annual Earth Day awareness campaign is accepting entries for design of a 2012 Earth Day patch. North Dakota students ages 6-18 are eligible to participate. The deadline to submit entries is March 15.

The Game and Fish Department will announce a winner in three age categories - 6-9, 10-13, and 14-18. Each winner will receive a pair of Nikon 8x40 binoculars. The final patch design will be chosen from the three winners.

The winning design will be used on a patch given to members of Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, 4-H clubs and any school participating in Earth Day cleanup projects on state-owned or managed lands in North Dakota in April and May.

The patch should incorporate some aspect of Earth Day - celebrated April 22 - or keeping North Dakota clean. It must be round and three inches in diameter. There is a limit of five colors on the patch, and lettering must be printed. Name, address, age and phone number of the contestant must be clearly printed on the entry form. Only one entry per person is allowed.

Earth Day entry and reporting forms are available on the Game and Fish Department's website, gf.nd.gov. For more information, contact Pat Lothspeich by email at ndgf@nd.gov, or call (701) 328-6300.

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NOTICE OF FILING AND NOTICE OF HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
Minnkota Power Coop, Inc.
345 kV Transmission Line - Center to Grand Forks
Siting Application

Case No. PU-09-670

NOTICE OF FILING AND NOTICE OF HEARINGS
January 18, 2011

On September 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, North Dakota.

On December 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:

February 22, 2012, 9:00 a.m. at Memorial Hall, 805 Main Ave. Washburn, ND 58577. This hearing will focus primarily on portions of the project in Burleigh, McLean, Oliver and western Sheridan Counties.

February 27, 2012, 9:00 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, 9:00 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:

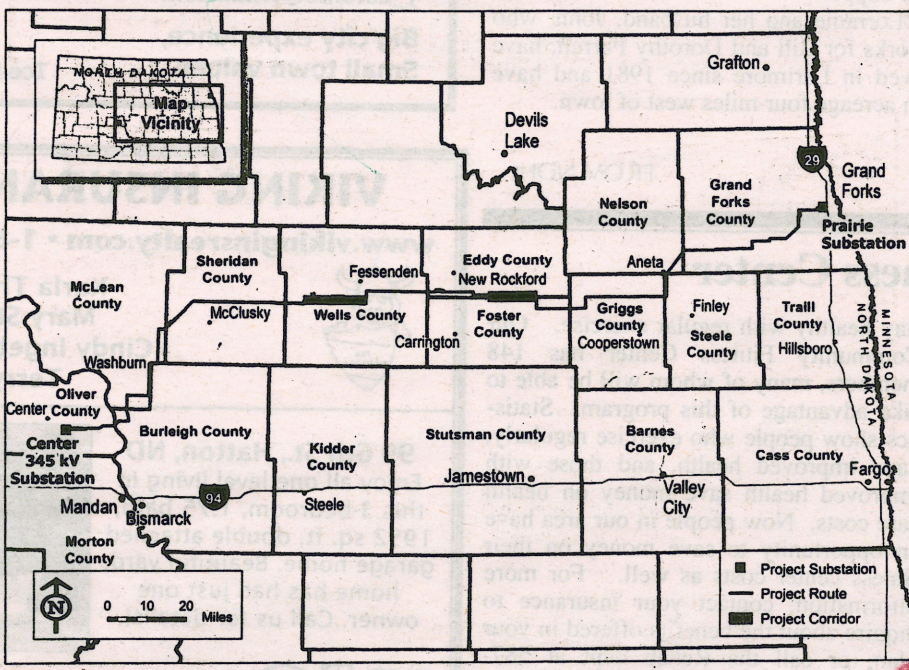
1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Are the proposed facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will 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, North Dakota 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.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
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