

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
Case No. PU-09-670

EXHIBIT R

During the public hearing held in Grand Forks, North Dakota, on Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s ("Minnkota") Route Permit Application, Mr. Jeff Topp testified regarding certain properties in Sections 34 and 35, Township 148 North, Range 64 West, Columbia Township, Eddy County, that are proposed to be crossed by the Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project ("Project"). Mr. Jeff Topp proposed alternatives that would keep the route on property controlled by his family members (Almyra Topp, Jason Topp and Raymond Topp), but would move structures out of the portion of the south half of Section 34 in which the Topp family plan to expand their cattle operations.

Minnkota and the affected Topp family members have tentatively agreed to a route adjustment as shown below. With this proposed route adjustment:

- (a) No additional environmental or cultural resource impacts are anticipated. Wetlands will be spanned and there will be a slight reduction in the number of trees removed from windbreaks in Section 34. Additional cultural resource survey work is not warranted, as this adjustment occurs in an area with a low potential for cultural resources. Additional impacts to farmland (cropland) will occur only to the relevant Topp family members' property.
- (b) No other landowners are involved.
- (c) The route adjustment moves the majority of the route out of the south half of Section 34, as requested by the Topp family.

Not all structures could be removed from the south half of Section 34 because doing so would have impacted other landowners' property. For instance, the diagonal across the southwest quarter of Section 34 is necessary in order to avoid placing the route in closer proximity to an occupied residence in Section 4. The diagonal shift from the northeast quarter of Section 3 across the southwest quarter of Section 35 is proposed so as to avoid impacting the landowners in Section 2.

Minnkota requests that the Commission approve the adjusted route alignment depicted below.

