

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

**EXHIBIT W**

During the testimony presented at the public hearings held in Carrington, North Dakota, on Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s ("Minnkota") Route Permit Application, the Brantford Townsite, which is located in the northwest quarter of Section 35, Township 148 North, Range 65 West, Pleasant Prairie Township, Eddy County, North Dakota, was discussed. During the testimony of a landowner, Mr. Gary Weigum, it was suggested that the route for the proposed Center to Grand Forks 345 kV Transmission Line Project ("Project") should extend straight east in the northeast quarter of Section 34 and through the Brantford Townsite in the northwest quarter of Section 35, rather than turning south in the northeast quarter of Section 34 and extending into Mr. Weigum's property in the southeast quarter of Section 34. During Minnkota's rebuttal testimony, the potential for cultural resources and occupied residences within the Brantford Townsite was discussed.

The Commission requested additional information regarding the potential for cultural resources within the Brantford Townsite. Attached hereto and made a part of this exhibit is a Brantford Townsite Cultural Resources Characterization Technical Memorandum prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc. As noted in the Technical Memorandum, "the Brantford Townsite has a high potential to contain intact surface features and subsurface archaeological deposits and may be potentially eligible for the [National Register of Historic Places]" (*see* bottom of page 2). The Technical Memorandum also identifies those residences within the Brantford Townsite that are occupiable (two residences) and occupied (one residence).

In addition to issues regarding impacts to cultural resources and occupiable and occupied residences, a route through the northeast quarter of Section 34 and the northwest quarter of Section 35 would place the route on land owned by landowners other than Mr. Weigum, at least one of whom does not own property currently crossed by the route.

Minnkota requests approval of the route as presented in the Route Permit Application and at the public hearings in Sections 34 and 35, Township 148 North, Range 65 West, Pleasant Prairie, Eddy County, North Dakota.