

Center to Grand Forks Project



► CGF Project Weekly Status Report

Case No. PU-09-670

Michael Hennes ► Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. ► 6/5/2012

Week 5

Extraordinary Events

Safety: None

Environmental: None.

Damage: None

Threatened or endangered Species: None

Cultural or Historical: None

Attachments: Two

US Army Corps of Engineer's 404 permit
USFWS Special Use Permit

Construction Summary To-Date:

Foundations Installed = 13

182 PU-09-670 Filed: 6/7/2012 Pages: 35
Minnkota Power 345 kV trans. line - Center to Grand
Forks, week ending 6-5-2012

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

CGF Project Weekly Status Report

Case No. PU-09-670

Safety

No injuries or extraordinary safety issues occurred or were identified over the past week.

A Near Miss event occurred involving a crane being backed up down a minimum maintenance road when edge of road collapsed and crane started tipping. Matting was placed on northern side of road and crane was stabilized. Additional matting was laid down and crane was pulled out. Wet area north of road has been restored to original conditions, and road repairs are in progress.

Environmental

The environmentally sensitive areas (ESA), as defined from route and corridor environmental surveys, were marked for the western portion of Eddy Co., all of Nelson Co. and progressing into Grand Forks Co.

Work Progress

Survey crews have complete ESA marking to 1075 near Steele/Nelson Co. line. Structure staking was on hold last week to ensure structure staking doesn't get too far ahead of construction work.

Fencing crews completed re-working gates and fences that were not properly installed during initial work. Fence crews de-mobilized mid-week and will return once additional easements have been obtained.

Tree clearing has progressed to Structure 1117, just east of the Nelson/Grand Forks Co. line.

Material delivery continues with deliveries of structures to the DI-Foster laydown yard. Four (4)

loads worth of material was delivered over the past week.

Foundation installation has completed 961 – 964, and 967 over the past week. Foundation installation is still being challenged by anchor bolt material delivery.

DI-Foster laydown area civil work was completed. Crews mobilized to EI-Griggs laydown yard and will be developing that area over next two (2) weeks.

Work Planned for Next Week

- ROW marking to eastern terminus at Prairie Substation, then complete Eddy Co. westward.
- ESA marking to Structure 1200 in Grand Forks Co.
- Structure staking of Structure 862 to 800.
- Tree Clearing to Structure 1244.
- Foundation installation of Structures 966, 968, 899 – 904, 906 – 907, 866 – 868 (2 drill rigs).

Land Owner/Public Issues

Several calls have come in regarding process for land owner acceptance or rejection of construction spoils (sub-soils, clearing mulch, etc.). Some land owners are becoming confused as contractors are asking them to sign for disposition – even if that disposition is to not be on the land owner's property. Working with Land Owner Liaison to improve communications.

Extraordinary Events

None

Additional Filing Documents

Two:

US Army Corps of Engineer's 404 permit
USFWS Special Use Permit

**National Wildlife Refuge System
General Special Use
Application and Permit**

Name of Refuge Audubon WMD
Address 3275 11th St NW, Coleharbor, ND 58531
Attn: (Refuge Official) Kathy Baer
Phone # 701-442-5474 ext 114 E-mail kathy_baer@fws.gov

Application

(To be filled out by applicant. Note: Not all information is required for each use. See instructions at the end of the notice.)

1) New Renewal Modification Other _____

Applicant Information

2) Full Name: Mike Hennes 6) Phone #: _____
3) Organization: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc 7) Fax #: _____
4) Address: P.O. Box 13200, 1822 Mill Road 8) E-mail: mhennes@minnkota.com
5) City/State/Zip: Grand Forks, ND 58208-3200

9) Assistants/Subcontractors/Subpermittees: (List full names, addresses and phone #'s and specifically describe services provided if subcontractors are used.)

Activity Information

10) Activity type: Event Wood Cutting Group Visit Cabin/Subsistence Cabin Educational Activity
 Other Construction of Powerline facilities on Easement properties prior to exchange.

11) Describe Activity: (Specifically identify timing, frequency, and how the event is expected to proceed.)

Power-line construction activities of 4 power poles on areas protected by Wetland or Grassland Easement prior to easement acreage replacement. Construction will begin in May of 2012 and ending in late 2013. Construction in 2012 is anticipated to be from Grand Forks, ND west toward Hwy 281. 2013 construction will be from Hwy 281 toward Center, ND. This permit is valid until December 31, 2013.

12) Activity/site occupancy timeline: (Specifically identify beginning and ending dates, site occupation timeline, hours, clean-up and other major events.)

Timing of construction activities will be determined by overall construction of the power-line.

(Depending on the activity for which you are requesting a permit, we may ask you for the following activity information. Please contact the specific refuge where the activity is being conducted to determine what activity information is required.)

13) Expected number of participants:
Children _____ Adults _____ Total _____

14) Grade level of educational group:
Grade _____ N/A

15) Will staff time/assistance be required?
 Yes No N/A

16a) Plan of Operation required? Yes No N/A

16b) Plan of Operation attached? Yes No

17) Location: (Specifically identify location; GPS location preferred.)

See Special Condition #1.

18a) Is map of location(s) required?
 Yes No N/A

18b) Is map of location(s) attached?
 Yes No

Insurance Coverage/Certifications/Permits

19a) Is insurance required?
 Yes No N/A

19b) Insurance: (Provided carrier, type and policy number)

20) Other licenses/certifications/permits required: (Specifically identify licenses, certifications, and permits.)

Logistics and Transportation

21) Does activity require personnel to stay overnight onsite? Yes No

22) Personnel involved:
N/A

23) Specifically describe all equipment/gear and materials used:
N/A

24) Transportation description(s) and license number(s) to access refuge(s): [Provide description of and specific auto license/boat/plane registration number(s).]
N/A

25) Specifically describe onsite work and/or living accommodations:
N/A

26) Specifically describe onsite hazardous material storage or other onsite material storage space:
N/A

27) Signature of Applicant  Date of Application: 6/2/12

Sign, date, and print this form and return it to the refuge for processing.
Do not fill out information below this page.

PRINT FORM

For Official Use Only (This section to be filled out by refuge personnel only.)

Special Use Permit

Permit #: 62554-12-E064

1) Date: 4/27/2012 2) Permit Approved Permit Denied 3) Station #: 62554

4) Additional special conditions required: (Special conditions may include activity reports, before and after photographs, and other conditions.)
 Yes No N/A

Additional sheets attached:
 Yes No

5) Other licenses/permits required:
 Yes No N/A

Verification of other licenses/permits, type:

6) Insurance/certifications required:
 Yes No N/A

Verification of insurance/certification, type:

7) Record of Payments: Exempt Partial Full

Amount of payment: _____ Record of partial payment: _____

8) Bond posted: Yes No

This permit is issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and accepted by the applicant signed below, subject to the terms, covenants, obligations, and reservations, expressed or implied herein, and to the notice, conditions, and requirements included or attached. A copy of this permit should be kept on hand so that it may be shown at any time to any refuge staff.

Permit approved and issued by (Signature and title):

 Date: 5/23/12

Permit accepted by (Signature of applicant):

 Date: 6/17/12

Notice

In accordance with the Privacy Act (5 U.S. C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (44 U.S. C. 3501), please note the following information:

1. The issuance of a permit and collection of fees on lands of the National Wildlife Refuge System are authorized by the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act (16 U.S. C. 668dd-ee) as amended, and the Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S. C. 460k-460k-4).
2. The information that you provide is voluntary; however submission of requested information is required to evaluate the qualifications, determine eligibility, and document permit applicants under the above Acts. It is our policy not to use your name for any other purpose. The information is maintained in accordance with the Privacy Act. All information you provide will be considered in reviewing this application. False, fictitious, or fraudulent statements or representations made in the application may be grounds for revocation of the Special Use Permit and may be punishable by fine or imprisonment (18 U.S.C. 1001). Failure to provide all required information is sufficient cause for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to deny a permit.
3. No Members of Congress or Resident Commissioner shall participate in any part of this contract or to any benefit that may arise from it, but this provision shall not pertain to this contract if made with a corporation for its general benefit.
4. The Permittee agrees to be bound by the equal opportunity "nondiscrimination in employment" clause of Executive Order 11246.
5. Routine use disclosures may also be made: (a) to the U.S. Department of Justice when related to litigation or anticipated litigation; (b) of information indicating a violation or potential violation of a statute, rule, order, or license to appropriate Federal, State, local or foreign agencies responsible for investigating or prosecuting the violation or for enforcing or implementing the statute, rule, regulations, order, or license; (c) from the record of the individual in response to an inquiry from a Congressional office made at the request of the individual (42 FR 19083; April 11, 1977); and (d) to provide addresses obtained from the Internal Revenue Service to debt collection agencies for purposes of locating a debtor to collect or compromise a Federal Claim against the debtor, or to consumer reporting agencies to prepare a commercial credit report for use by the Department (48 FR 54716; December 6, 1983).
6. An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This information collection has been approved by OMB and assigned control number 1018-0102. The public reporting burden for this information collection varies based on the specific refuge use being requested. The relevant public reporting burden for the General Use Special Use Permit Application form is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Comments on this form should be mailed to the Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM, Arlington, Virginia, 22203.

General Conditions and Requirements

1. **Responsibility of Permittee:** The permittee, by operating on the premises, shall be considered to have accepted these premises with all facilities, fixtures, or improvements in their existing condition as of the date of this permit. At the end of the period specified or upon earlier termination, the permittee shall give up the premises in as good order and condition as when received except for reasonable wear, tear, or damage occurring without fault or negligence. The permittee will fully repay the Service for any and all damage directly or indirectly resulting from negligence or failure on his/her part, and/or the part of anyone of his/her associates, to use reasonable care.
2. **Operating Rules and Laws:** The permittee shall keep the premises in a neat and orderly condition at all times, and shall comply with all municipal, county, and State laws applicable to the operations under the permit as well as all Federal laws, rules, and regulations governing national wildlife refuges and the area described in this permit. The permittee shall comply with all instructions applicable to this permit issued by the refuge official in charge. The permittee shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent the escape of fires and to suppress fires and shall render all reasonable assistance in the suppression of refuge fires.
3. **Use Limitations:** The permittee's use of the described premises is limited to the purposes herein specified and does not, unless provided for in this permit, allow him/her to restrict other authorized entry onto his/her area; and permits the Service to carry on whatever activities are necessary for: (1) protection and maintenance of the premises and adjacent lands administered by the Service; and (2) the management of wildlife and fish using the premises and other Service lands.
4. **Transfer of Privileges:** This permit is not transferable, and no privileges herein mentioned may be sublet or made available to any person or interest not mentioned in this permit. No interest hereunder may accrue through lien or be transferred to a third party without the approval of the Regional Director of the Service and the permit shall not be used for speculative purposes.
5. **Compliance:** The Service's failure to require strict compliance with any of this permit's terms, conditions, and requirements shall not constitute a waiver or be considered as a giving up of the Service's right to thereafter enforce any of the permit's terms or conditions.
6. **Conditions of Permit not Fulfilled:** If the permittee fails to fulfill any of the conditions and requirements set forth herein, all money paid under this permit shall be retained by the Government to be used to satisfy as much of the permittee's obligation as possible.
7. **Payments:** All payment shall be made on or before the due date to the local representative of the Service by a postal money order or check made payable to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
8. **Termination Policy:** At the termination of this permit the permittee shall immediately give up possession to the Service representative, reserving, however, the rights specified in paragraph 11. If he/she fails to do so, he/she will pay the government, as liquidated damages, an amount double the rate specified in this permit for the entire time possession is withheld. Upon yielding possession, the permittee will still be allowed to reenter as needed to remove his/her property as stated in paragraph 11. The acceptance of any fee for the liquidated damages or any other act of administration relating to the continued tenancy is not to be considered as an affirmation of the permittee's action nor shall it operate as a waiver of the Government's right to terminate or cancel the permit for the breach of any specified condition or requirement.
9. **Revocation Policy:** This permit may be revoked by the Regional Director of the Service without notice for noncompliance with the terms hereof or for violation of general and/or specific laws or regulations governing national wildlife refuges or for nonuse. It is at all times subject to discretionary revocation by the Director of the Service. Upon such revocation the Service, by and through any authorized representative, may take possession of the said premises for its own and sole use, and/or may enter and possess the premises as the agent of the permittee and for his/her account.

10. Damages: The United States shall not be responsible for any loss or damage to property including, but not limited to, growing crops, animals, and machinery or injury to the permittee or his/her relatives, or to the officers, agents, employees, or any other who are on the premises from instructions or by the sufferance of wildlife or employees or representatives of the Government carrying out their official responsibilities. The permittee agrees to save the United States or any of its agencies harmless from any and all claims for damages or losses that may arise to be incident to the flooding of the premises resulting from any associated Government river and harbor, flood control, reclamation, or Tennessee Valley Authority activity.

11. Removal of Permittee's Property: Upon the expiration or termination of this permit, if all rental charges and/or damage claims due to the Government have been paid, the permittee may, within a reasonable period as stated in the permit or as determined by the refuge official in charge, but not to exceed 60 days, remove all structures, machinery, and/or equipment, etc. from the premises for which he/she is responsible. Within this period the permittee must also remove any other of his/her property including his/her acknowledged share of products or crops grown, cut, harvested, stored, or stacked on the premises. Upon failure to remove any of the above items within the aforesaid period, they shall become the property of the United States.

Instructions for Completing Application

You may complete the application portion verbally, in person or electronically and submit to the refuge for review. Note: Please read instructions carefully as not all information is required for each activity. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted if you have questions regarding the applicability of a particular item.

1. Identify if permit application is for new, renewal or modification of an existing permit. Permit renewals may not need all information requested. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted if you have questions regarding the applicability of a particular item.

2-8. Provide full name, organization (if applicable), address, phone, fax, and e-mail.

9. Provide names and addresses of assistants, subcontractors or subpermittees. Names and address are only required if the assistants, subcontractors or subpermittees will be operating on the refuge without the permittee being present. Volunteers, assistants, subcontractors or subpermittees that are accompanied by the permittee need not be identified.

10. Activity type: check one of the following categories:

- a. Event;
- b. Wood cutting;
- c. Group visit;
- d. Cabin/Subsistence cabin;
- e. Educational activity; or
- f. Other—any other activity(s) not mentioned above. Please describe "other" activity.

11. Describe Activity: provide detailed information on the activity, including times, frequency and how the activity is expected to proceed, etc. Permit renewals may not need activity description, if the activity is unchanged from previous permit. Most repetitive activities, such as group visits, do not require an activity description for each visit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if an activity description is required.

12. Activity/site occupancy timeline: identify beginning and ending dates, site occupation timeline, hours, clean-up and other major events. Permit renewals may not need an activity/site occupancy timeline, if the activity is unchanged from previous permit. Most repetitive activities, such as group visits, do not require an activity/site occupancy timeline for each visit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if an activity/site occupancy timeline is required.

13-14 Expected number of participants: Provide an estimate of the number of adults, and children and grade level of group, if applicable.

15. Identify if onsite refuge staff will be required for group activities and anticipated time frame, if applicable.

16a-16b. Identify and attach Plan of Operation, if required. Most repetitive activities, such as group visits, do not require Plans of Operations for each visit. In addition, permit renewals may not require Plans of Operations if the activity is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a Plan of Operations is required.

17. Location: identify specific location (GPS coordinates preferred), if not a named facility. Most repetitive activities, such as group visits, do not require a location. In addition, permit renewals may not require a location if the activity is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a location is required.

18a-18b. Attach a map of location, if required and not conducted at a named facility. Most repetitive activities, such as group visits, do not require a map. In addition, permit renewals may not require a map if the activity is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a map is required.

19a-19b. Provide name, type and carrier of insurance, if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if insurance and type of insurance are required.

20. Specifically identify types and numbers of other licenses, certifications or permits, if required. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine the types of licenses, certifications or permits required, and to coordinate the simultaneous application of several types of licenses, certifications or permits. This Special Use Permit (SUP) may be processed while other certifications are being obtained.

21-22. Provide name(s) of any personnel required to stay overnight, if applicable.

23. Identify all equipment and materials, which will be used, if required. Most repetitive events, such as group visits, do not require a list of equipment. In addition, permit renewals may not require a list of equipment if the event is essentially unchanged from the previous permit. Contact the specific refuge headquarters office where the activity is going to be conducted to determine if a list of equipment is required.
24. Describe and provide vehicle descriptions and license plate or identification numbers of all vehicles, including boats and airplanes, if required. Motor vehicle descriptions are only required for permittee vehicle, and/or if the vehicle will be operated on the refuge without the permittee being present. Motor vehicles that are accompanied by the permittee as part of a group (convoy) activity need not be identified if cleared in advance by refuge supervisor. Specifically describe ship-to-shore, intersite (between islands, camps, or other sites) and onsite transportation mechanisms, and license plate or identification numbers, if required.
25. Specifically describe onsite work and/or living accommodations, if applicable.
26. Specifically describe onsite hazardous material storage, or other onsite material storage space (including on and offsite fuel caches).
27. Sign, date, and print the application. Click on the Print button to print the application (if using the fillable version). The refuge official will review and, if approved, fill out the remaining information, sign, and return a copy to you for signature and acceptance.

The form is not valid as a permit unless it includes refuge approval, a station number, a refuge-assigned permit number, and is signed by a refuge official.

Special Conditions:

1. This Special Use Permit is subject to compliance of the letter dated May 25, 2012 for McLean 452G, Sheridan 409G, Griggs 158X,1 and Nelson 402X wetland and grassland easements.
2. Locations: Grassland Easements: McLean County, T. 146 N., R. 79 W., Section 35 S1/2, and T. 145 N., R. 79 W., Section 2 NW1/4; Sheridan County T. 147 N., R. 76 W., Section 8 S1/2SW1/4. Maps of locations can be found within the USFWS Environmental Assessment for Transmission Facilities on Grassland and Wetland Easements.
3. Wetland Easements: Griggs County, T. 147 N., R 61 W., Section 18; Nelson County, T. 149 N., R. 57 W., Section 32. Coordination with Wetland Management District (WMD) staff on all tower construction on Wetland and/or Grassland easements is required. Staff will be notified when tower sites are staked so they may inspect and ensure towers are not in protected basins.
4. No permanent roads will be installed to towers on Wetland or Grassland Easements.
5. Preferred construction timeframe for the two towers in protected wetland basins is during the winter. If summer construction becomes necessary, all fill placed in protected wetland basins for temporary construction access roads must be removed upon tower completion. The WMD will be notified when tower construction is complete and/or fill is removed so they can inspect the site.
6. Areas disturbed on grassland easements during construction will be reseeded to a native grass and forb mix specified by the WMD office following construction.
7. Prior to construction on Grassland Easements, Minnkota will survey the areas for Sprague's pipits and Dakota skippers. Areas with active nests will be avoided using landscape buffers and timing restrictions.
8. Travel routes to construction sites on Grassland Easements will be minimized to reduce impacts to grassland, ground nesting birds and potential Dakota skipper habitat.
9. No staging or laydown areas will be on grassland easements.
10. No equipment maintenance will take place on grassland easements.
11. Minnkota agrees to provide funding to replace the acres of wetland and grassland lost through construction of the power poles. Replacement will be acre for acre or for those contracts with less than one acre of loss, a minimum of one acre will be used for wetland and/or grassland easements.
12. Minnkota will work with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Realty Office (Realty) in Bismarck to coordinate the purchase of the replacement acres.
13. Continue coordination with the appropriate Wetland Management District Office regarding all construction activities on other areas that have wetland easements to ensure no other poles are placed in protected wetlands.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640
May 18, 2012

[NWO-2009-1037-BIS]

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Attn: Brian Hunker
PO 701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

Dear Mr. Hunker:

We have reviewed your request for Department of the Army (DA) authorization, on behalf of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., for the proposed construction of a new 345kV transmission line. This project is referred to as the Center to Grand Forks 345kV transmission line. The project includes placement of fill material for the construction of foundations for structures. There has been 32 separate transmission structure foundation fills identified, along the approximate 250-mile route, which will be located in wetland areas. This proposed transmission line will cross numerous Sections, Townships and Ranges in Oliver, Burleigh, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Steele, Nelson and Grand Forks Counties, North Dakota.

We have prepared a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) for the 32 sites which is a written indication that the waterway(s) within the project area(s) may be jurisdictional Waters of the United States. Such waters have been treated as jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. for purposes of computation of impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements. If you concur with the findings of the enclosed preliminary JD, please sign it and return it to the letterhead address.

If you believe the preliminary JD is inaccurate, you may request this office complete an approved JD prior to your commencement of any work in a Water of the U.S. An approved JD is an official determination regarding the presence or absence of Waters of the U.S. Completion of an approved JD may require coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you do not want the Corps to complete an approved JD, you may proceed with the proposed foundation fill project(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions of Department of the Army Nationwide Permit No. 12 found in the February 21, 2012 Federal Register (77 FR 10184), Reissuance of Nationwide Permits. Enclosed is a fact sheet that fully describes this Nationwide Permit and lists the General and Water Quality Conditions that must be adhered to for this authorization to remain valid. This authorization does not include the proposed Missouri River crossing.

This determination is applicable only to the permit program administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other applicable Federal, Tribal, State and local permits as required. Please note that deviations from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. is responsible for all work accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit. If a contractor or other authorized representative will be accomplishing the work authorized by this nationwide permit, it is recommended that they be provided a copy of this letter and the attached conditions so that they are aware of the limitations of the nationwide permit. Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of this authorization may result in an enforcement action.

In compliance with General Condition 30, you are required to submit the following project compliance certification within thirty (30) days of project completion. [Please check all applicable statements.]

- I certify that I have completed the project as permitted.
- I certify that I have completed a modified version of the project.
- I certify that I have completed all required mitigation.

Permittee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

This verification will be valid until **May 18, 2014**. Should you at any time become aware that either an endangered and/or threatened species or its critical habitat exists within the project area, you must immediately notify this office

The Omaha District, North Dakota Regulatory Office is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete out Customer Service Survey found on our website at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>. If you do not have Internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Mr. Jason Renschler of this office by letter or telephone at 701-255-0015 and reference Nationwide Permit number **NWO-2009-1037-BIS**.

Sincerely,



for Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota

Enclosure
- Fact Sheet #12

CC: Minnkota Power Coop. (J. Graves)

**FACT SHEET
NATIONWIDE PERMIT 12
(2012)**

UTILITY LINE ACTIVITIES.

Activities required for the construction, maintenance, repair, and removal of utility lines and associated facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project.

Utility lines: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or repair of utility lines, including outfall and intake structures, and the associated excavation, backfill, or bedding for the utility lines, in all waters of the United States, provided there is no change in pre-construction contours. A "utility line" is defined as any pipe or pipeline for the transportation of any gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substance, for any purpose, and any cable, line, or wire for the transmission for any purpose of electrical energy, telephone, and telegraph messages, and radio and television communication. The term "utility line" does not include activities that drain a water of the United States, such as drainage tile or french drains, but it does apply to pipes conveying drainage from another area.

Material resulting from trench excavation may be temporarily sidecast into waters of the United States for no more than three months, provided the material is not placed in such a manner that it is dispersed by currents or other forces. The district engineer may extend the period of temporary side casting for no more than a total of 180 days, where appropriate. In wetlands, the top 6 to 12 inches of the trench should normally be backfilled with topsoil from the trench. The trench cannot be constructed or backfilled in such a manner as to drain waters of the United States (e.g., backfilling with extensive gravel layers, creating a french drain effect). Any exposed slopes and stream banks must be stabilized immediately upon completion of the utility line crossing of each waterbody.

Utility line substations: This NWP authorizes the construction, maintenance, or expansion of substation facilities associated with a power line or utility line in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters of the United States to construct, maintain, or expand substation facilities.

Foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors: This NWP authorizes the construction or maintenance of foundations for overhead utility line towers, poles, and anchors in all waters of the United States, provided the foundations are the minimum size necessary and separate footings for each tower leg (rather than a larger single pad) are used where feasible.

Access roads: This NWP authorizes the construction of access roads for the construction and maintenance of utility lines, including overhead power lines and utility line substations, in non-tidal waters of the United States, provided the activity, in combination with all other activities included in one single and complete project, does not cause the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of non-tidal waters of the United States. This NWP does not authorize discharges into non-tidal wetlands adjacent to tidal waters for access roads. Access roads must be the minimum width necessary (see Note 2, below). Access roads must be constructed so that the length of the road minimizes any adverse effects on waters of the United States and must be as

near as possible to pre-construction contours and elevations (e.g., at grade corduroy roads or geotextile/gravel roads). Access roads constructed above pre-construction contours and elevations in waters of the United States must be properly bridged or culverted to maintain surface flows.

This NWP may authorize utility lines in or affecting navigable waters of the United States even if there is no associated discharge of dredged or fill material (See 33 CFR Part 322). Overhead utility lines constructed over section 10 waters and utility lines that are routed in or under section 10 waters without a discharge of dredged or fill material require a section 10 permit.

This NWP also authorizes temporary structures, fills, and work necessary to conduct the utility line activity. Appropriate measures must be taken to maintain normal downstream flows and minimize flooding to the maximum extent practicable, when temporary structures, work, and discharges, including cofferdams, are necessary for construction activities, access fills, or dewatering of construction sites. Temporary fills must consist of materials, and be placed in a manner, that will not be eroded by expected high flows. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The areas affected by temporary fills must be revegetated, as appropriate. (Sections 10 and 404)

Notification: The permittee must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer prior to commencing the activity if any of the following criteria are met: (1) The activity involves mechanized land clearing in a forested wetland for the utility line right-of-way; (2) a section 10 permit is required; (3) the utility line in waters of the United States, excluding overhead lines, exceeds 500 feet; (4) the utility line is placed within a jurisdictional area (i.e. water of the United States), and it runs parallel to or along a stream bed that is within that jurisdictional area; (5) discharges that result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of waters of the United States; (6) permanent access roads are constructed above grade in waters of the United States for a distance of more than 500 feet; or (7) permanent access roads are constructed in waters of the United States with impervious materials. (See general condition 31.)

Note 1: Where the proposed utility line is constructed or installed in navigable waters of the United States (i.e., section 10 waters) within the coastal United States, the Great Lakes, and United States territories, copies of the pre-construction notification and NWP verification will be sent by the Corps to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), for charting the utility line to protect navigation.

Note 2: Access roads used for both construction and maintenance may be authorized, provided they meet the terms and conditions of this NWP. Access roads used solely for construction of the utility line must be removed upon completion of the work, in accordance with the requirements for temporary fills.

Note 3: Pipes or pipelines used to transport gaseous, liquid, liquescent, or slurry substances over navigable waters of the United States are considered to be bridges, not utility lines, and may require a permit from the U.S. Coast Guard pursuant to Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. However, any discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States associated with such pipelines will require a section 404 permit (see NWP 15).

Note 4: For overhead utility lines authorized by this NWP, a copy of the PCN and NWP verification will be provided to the Department of Defense Siting Clearinghouse, which will evaluate potential effects on military activities.

Nationwide Permit General Conditions

Note: To qualify for NWP authorization, the prospective permittee must comply with the following general conditions, as applicable, in addition to any regional or case-specific conditions imposed by the division engineer or district engineer.

1. Navigation. (a) No activity may cause more than a minimal adverse effect on navigation.

(b) Any safety lights and signals prescribed by the U.S. Coast Guard, through regulations or otherwise, must be installed and maintained at the permittee's expense on authorized facilities in navigable waters of the United States.

(c) The permittee understands and agrees that, if future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.

2. Aquatic Life Movements. No activity may substantially disrupt the necessary life cycle movements of those species of aquatic life indigenous to the waterbody, including those species that normally migrate through the area, unless the activity's primary purpose is to impound water. All permanent and temporary crossings of waterbodies shall be suitably culverted, bridged, or otherwise designed and constructed to maintain low flows to sustain the movement of those aquatic species.

3. Spawning Areas. Activities in spawning areas during spawning seasons must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable. Activities that result in the physical destruction (e.g., through excavation, fill, or downstream smothering by substantial turbidity) of an important spawning area are not authorized.

4. Migratory Bird Breeding Areas. Activities in waters of the United States that serve as breeding areas for migratory birds must be avoided to the maximum extent practicable.

5. Shellfish Beds. No activity may occur in areas of concentrated shellfish populations, unless the activity is directly related to a shellfish harvesting activity authorized by NWPs 4 and 48, or is a shellfish seeding or habitat restoration activity authorized by NWP 27.

6. Suitable Material. No activity may use unsuitable material (e.g., trash, debris, car bodies, asphalt, etc.). Material used for construction or discharged must be free from toxic pollutants in toxic amounts (see Section 307 of the Clean Water Act).

7. Water Supply Intakes. No activity may occur in the proximity of a public water supply intake, except where the activity is for the repair or improvement of public water supply intake structures or adjacent bank stabilization.

8. Adverse Effects From Impoundments. If the activity creates an impoundment of water, adverse effects to the aquatic system due to accelerating the passage of water, and/or restricting its flow must be minimized to the maximum extent practicable.

9. Management of Water Flows. To the maximum extent practicable, the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters must be maintained for each activity, including stream channelization and storm water management activities, except as provided below. The activity must be constructed to withstand expected high flows. The activity must not restrict or impede the passage of normal or high flows, unless the primary purpose of the activity is to impound water or manage high flows. The activity may alter the pre-construction course, condition, capacity, and location of open waters if it benefits the aquatic environment (e.g., stream restoration or relocation activities).

10. Fills Within 100-Year Floodplains. The activity must comply with applicable FEMA-approved state or local floodplain management requirements.

11. Equipment. Heavy equipment working in wetlands or mudflats must be placed on mats, or other measures must be taken to minimize soil disturbance.

12. Soil Erosion and Sediment Controls. Appropriate soil erosion and sediment controls must be used and maintained in effective operating condition during construction, and all exposed soil and other fills, as well as any work below the ordinary high water mark or high tide line, must be permanently stabilized at the earliest practicable date. Permittees are encouraged to perform work within waters of the United States during periods of low-flow or no-flow.

13. Removal of Temporary Fills. Temporary fills must be removed in their entirety and the affected areas returned to pre-construction elevations. The affected areas must be revegetated, as appropriate.

14. Proper Maintenance. Any authorized structure or fill shall be properly maintained, including maintenance to ensure public safety and compliance with applicable NWP general conditions, as well as any activity-specific conditions added by the district engineer to an NWP authorization.

15. Single and Complete Project. The activity must be a single and complete project. The same NWP cannot be used more than once for the same single and complete project.

16. Wild and Scenic Rivers. No activity may occur in a component of the National Wild and Scenic River System, or in a river officially designated by Congress as a "study river" for possible inclusion in the system while the river is in an official study status, unless the appropriate Federal agency with direct management responsibility for such river, has determined in writing that the proposed activity will not adversely affect the Wild and Scenic River designation or study status. Information on Wild and Scenic Rivers may be obtained from the appropriate Federal land management agency responsible for the designated Wild and Scenic River or study river (e.g., National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service).

17. Tribal Rights. No activity or its operation may impair reserved tribal rights, including, but not limited to, reserved water rights and treaty fishing and hunting rights.

18. Endangered Species. (a) No activity is authorized under any NWP which is likely to directly or indirectly jeopardize the continued existence of a threatened or endangered species or a species proposed for such designation, as identified under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), or which will directly or indirectly destroy or adversely modify the critical

habitat of such species. No activity is authorized under any NWP which "may affect" a listed species or critical habitat, unless Section 7 consultation addressing the effects of the proposed activity has been completed.

(b) Federal agencies should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of the ESA. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will review the documentation and determine whether it is sufficient to address ESA compliance for the NWP activity, or whether additional ESA consultation is necessary.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, and shall not begin work on the activity until notified by the district engineer that the requirements of the ESA have been satisfied and that the activity is authorized. For activities that might affect Federally-listed endangered or threatened species or designated critical habitat, the pre-construction notification must include the name(s) of the endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or that utilize the designated critical habitat that might be affected by the proposed work. The district engineer will determine whether the proposed activity "may affect" or will have "no effect" to listed species and designated critical habitat and will notify the non-Federal applicant of the Corps' determination within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification. In cases where the non-Federal applicant has identified listed species or critical habitat that might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, and has so notified the Corps, the applicant shall not begin work until the Corps has provided notification the proposed activities will have "no effect" on listed species or critical habitat, or until Section 7 consultation has been completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(d) As a result of formal or informal consultation with the FWS or NMFS the district engineer may add species-specific regional endangered species conditions to the NWPs.

(e) Authorization of an activity by a NWP does not authorize the "take" of a threatened or endangered species as defined under the ESA. In the absence of separate authorization (e.g., an ESA Section 10 Permit, a Biological Opinion with "incidental take" provisions, etc.) from the U.S. FWS or the NMFS, The Endangered Species Act prohibits any person subject to the jurisdiction of the United States to take a listed species, where "take" means to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct. The word "harm" in the definition of "take" means an act which actually kills or injures wildlife. Such an act may include significant habitat modification or degradation where it actually kills or injures wildlife by significantly impairing essential behavioral patterns, including breeding, feeding or sheltering.

(f) Information on the location of threatened and endangered species and their critical habitat can be obtained directly from the offices of the U.S. FWS and NMFS or their world wide web pages at <http://www.fws.gov/> or <http://www.fws.gov/ipac> and <http://www.noaa.gov/fisheries.html> respectively.

19. Migratory Birds and Bald and Golden Eagles. The permittee is responsible for obtaining any "take" permits required under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's regulations governing compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. The permittee should contact the appropriate local office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to determine if such "take" permits are required for a particular activity.

20. Historic Properties. (a) In cases where the district engineer determines that the activity may affect properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the National Register of Historic Places, the activity is not authorized, until the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) have been satisfied.

(b) Federal permittees should follow their own procedures for complying with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Federal permittees must provide the district engineer with the appropriate documentation to demonstrate compliance with those requirements. The district engineer will review the documentation and determine whether it is sufficient to address section 106 compliance for the NWP activity, or whether additional section 106 consultation is necessary.

(c) Non-federal permittees must submit a pre-construction notification to the district engineer if the authorized activity may have the potential to cause effects to any historic properties listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, including previously unidentified properties. For such activities, the pre-construction notification must state which historic properties may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic properties or the potential for the presence of historic properties. Assistance regarding information on the location of or potential for the presence of historic resources can be sought from the State Historic Preservation Officer or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, as appropriate, and the National Register of Historic Places (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)). When reviewing pre-construction notifications, district engineers will comply with the current procedures for addressing the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The district engineer shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to carry out appropriate identification efforts, which may include background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigation, and field survey. Based on the information submitted and these efforts, the district engineer shall determine whether the proposed activity has the potential to cause an effect on the historic properties. Where the non-Federal applicant has identified historic properties on which the activity may have the potential to cause effects and so notified the Corps, the non-Federal applicant shall not begin the activity until notified by the district engineer either that the activity has no potential to cause effects or that consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA has been completed.

(d) The district engineer will notify the prospective permittee within 45 days of receipt of a complete pre-construction notification whether NHPA Section 106 consultation is required. Section 106 consultation is not required when the Corps determines that the activity does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties (see 36 CFR §800.3(a)). If NHPA section 106 consultation is required and will occur, the district engineer will notify the non-Federal applicant that he or she cannot begin work until Section 106 consultation is completed. If the non-Federal applicant has not heard back from the Corps within 45 days, the applicant must still wait for notification from the Corps.

(e) Prospective permittees should be aware that section 110k of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470h-2(k)) prevents the Corps from granting a permit or other assistance to an applicant who, with intent to avoid the requirements of Section 106 of the NHPA, has intentionally significantly adversely affected a historic property to which the permit would relate, or having legal power to prevent it, allowed such significant adverse effect to occur, unless the Corps, after consultation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), determines that circumstances justify granting such assistance despite the adverse effect created or permitted by the applicant. If circumstances justify granting the assistance, the Corps is required to notify the ACHP and provide documentation specifying the circumstances, the degree of damage to the integrity of any historic properties affected, and proposed mitigation. This documentation must include any views obtained from the applicant, SHPO/THPO, appropriate Indian tribes if the undertaking occurs on or affects historic properties on tribal lands or affects properties of interest to those

tribes, and other parties known to have a legitimate interest in the impacts to the permitted activity on historic properties.

21. Discovery of Previously Unknown Remains and Artifacts. If you discover any previously unknown historic, cultural or archeological remains and artifacts while accomplishing the activity authorized by this permit, you must immediately notify the district engineer of what you have found, and to the maximum extent practicable, avoid construction activities that may affect the remains and artifacts until the required coordination has been completed. The district engineer will initiate the Federal, Tribal and state coordination required to determine if the items or remains warrant a recovery effort or if the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

22. Designated Critical Resource Waters. Critical resource waters include, NOAA-managed marine sanctuaries and marine monuments, and National Estuarine Research Reserves. The district engineer may designate, after notice and opportunity for public comment, additional waters officially designated by a state as having particular environmental or ecological significance, such as outstanding national resource waters or state natural heritage sites. The district engineer may also designate additional critical resource waters after notice and opportunity for public comment.

(a) Discharges of dredged or fill material into waters of the United States are not authorized by NWP's 7, 12, 14, 16, 17, 21, 29, 31, 35, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 49, 50, 51, and 52 for any activity within, or directly affecting, critical resource waters, including wetlands adjacent to such waters.

(b) For NWP's 3, 8, 10, 13, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, 34, 36, 37, and 38, notification is required in accordance with general condition 31, for any activity proposed in the designated critical resource waters including wetlands adjacent to those waters. The district engineer may authorize activities under these NWP's only after it is determined that the impacts to the critical resource waters will be no more than minimal.

23. Mitigation. The district engineer will consider the following factors when determining appropriate and practicable mitigation necessary to ensure that adverse effects on the aquatic environment are minimal:

(a) The activity must be designed and constructed to avoid and minimize adverse effects, both temporary and permanent, to waters of the United States to the maximum extent practicable at the project site (i.e., on site).

(b) Mitigation in all its forms (avoiding, minimizing, rectifying, reducing, or compensating for resource losses) will be required to the extent necessary to ensure that the adverse effects to the aquatic environment are minimal.

(c) Compensatory mitigation at a minimum one-for-one ratio will be required for all wetland losses that exceed 1/10-acre and require pre-construction notification, unless the district engineer determines in writing that either some other form of mitigation would be more environmentally appropriate or the adverse effects of the proposed activity are minimal, and provides a project-specific waiver of this requirement. For wetland losses of 1/10-acre or less that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may determine on a case-by-case basis that compensatory mitigation is required to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment. Compensatory mitigation projects provided to offset losses of aquatic resources must comply with the applicable provisions of 33 CFR part 332.

(1) The prospective permittee is responsible for proposing an appropriate compensatory mitigation option if compensatory mitigation is necessary to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

(2) Since the likelihood of success is greater and the impacts to potentially valuable uplands are reduced, wetland restoration should be the first compensatory mitigation option considered.

(3) If permittee-responsible mitigation is the proposed option, the prospective permittee is responsible for submitting a mitigation plan. A conceptual or detailed mitigation plan may be used by the district engineer to make the decision on the NWP verification request, but a final mitigation plan that addresses the applicable requirements of 33 CFR 332.4(c)(2) – (14) must be approved by the district engineer before the permittee begins work in waters of the United States, unless the district engineer determines that prior approval of the final mitigation plan is not practicable or not necessary to ensure timely completion of the required compensatory mitigation (see 33 CFR 332.3(k)(3)).

(4) If mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program credits are the proposed option, the mitigation plan only needs to address the baseline conditions at the impact site and the number of credits to be provided.

(5) Compensatory mitigation requirements (e.g., resource type and amount to be provided as compensatory mitigation, site protection, ecological performance standards, monitoring requirements) may be addressed through conditions added to the NWP authorization, instead of components of a compensatory mitigation plan.

(d) For losses of streams or other open waters that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer may require compensatory mitigation, such as stream rehabilitation, enhancement, or preservation, to ensure that the activity results in minimal adverse effects on the aquatic environment.

(e) Compensatory mitigation will not be used to increase the acreage losses allowed by the acreage limits of the NWPs. For example, if an NWP has an acreage limit of 1/2-acre, it cannot be used to authorize any project resulting in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, even if compensatory mitigation is provided that replaces or restores some of the lost waters. However, compensatory mitigation can and should be used, as necessary, to ensure that a project already meeting the established acreage limits also satisfies the minimal impact requirement associated with the NWPs.

(f) Compensatory mitigation plans for projects in or near streams or other open waters will normally include a requirement for the restoration or establishment, maintenance, and legal protection (e.g., conservation easements) of riparian areas next to open waters. In some cases, riparian areas may be the only compensatory mitigation required. Riparian areas should consist of native species. The width of the required riparian area will address documented water quality or aquatic habitat loss concerns. Normally, the riparian area will be 25 to 50 feet wide on each side of the stream, but the district engineer may require slightly wider riparian areas to address documented water quality or habitat loss concerns. If it is not possible to establish a riparian area on both sides of a stream, or if the waterbody is a lake or coastal waters, then restoring or establishing a riparian area along a single bank or shoreline may be sufficient. Where both wetlands and open waters exist on the project site, the district engineer will determine the appropriate compensatory mitigation (e.g., riparian areas and/or wetlands compensation) based on what is best for the aquatic environment on a watershed basis. In cases where riparian areas are determined to be the most appropriate form of compensatory mitigation, the district engineer may waive or reduce the requirement to provide wetland compensatory mitigation for wetland losses.

(g) Permittees may propose the use of mitigation banks, in-lieu fee programs, or separate permittee-responsible mitigation. For activities resulting in the loss of marine or estuarine resources, permittee-responsible compensatory mitigation may be environmentally preferable if there are no mitigation banks or in-lieu fee programs in the area that have marine or estuarine credits available for sale or transfer to the permittee. For permittee-responsible mitigation, the special conditions of the NWP verification must clearly indicate the party or

parties responsible for the implementation and performance of the compensatory mitigation project, and, if required, its long-term management.

(h) Where certain functions and services of waters of the United States are permanently adversely affected, such as the conversion of a forested or scrub-shrub wetland to a herbaceous wetland in a permanently maintained utility line right-of-way, mitigation may be required to reduce the adverse effects of the project to the minimal level.

24. Safety of Impoundment Structures. To ensure that all impoundment structures are safely designed, the district engineer may require non-Federal applicants to demonstrate that the structures comply with established state dam safety criteria or have been designed by qualified persons. The district engineer may also require documentation that the design has been independently reviewed by similarly qualified persons, and appropriate modifications made to ensure safety.

25. Water Quality. Where States and authorized Tribes, or EPA where applicable, have not previously certified compliance of an NWP with CWA Section 401, individual 401 Water Quality Certification must be obtained or waived (see 33 CFR 330.4(c)). The district engineer or State or Tribe may require additional water quality management measures to ensure that the authorized activity does not result in more than minimal degradation of water quality.

26. Coastal Zone Management. In coastal states where an NWP has not previously received a state coastal zone management consistency concurrence, an individual state coastal zone management consistency concurrence must be obtained, or a presumption of concurrence must occur (see 33 CFR 330.4(d)). The district engineer or a State may require additional measures to ensure that the authorized activity is consistent with state coastal zone management requirements.

27. Regional and Case-By-Case Conditions. The activity must comply with any regional conditions that may have been added by the Division Engineer (see 33 CFR 330.4(e)) and with any case specific conditions added by the Corps or by the state, Indian Tribe, or U.S. EPA in its section 401 Water Quality Certification, or by the state in its Coastal Zone Management Act consistency determination.

28. Use of Multiple Nationwide Permits. The use of more than one NWP for a single and complete project is prohibited, except when the acreage loss of waters of the United States authorized by the NWPs does not exceed the acreage limit of the NWP with the highest specified acreage limit. For example, if a road crossing over tidal waters is constructed under NWP 14, with associated bank stabilization authorized by NWP 13, the maximum acreage loss of waters of the United States for the total project cannot exceed 1/3-acre.

29. Transfer of Nationwide Permit Verifications. If the permittee sells the property associated with a nationwide permit verification, the permittee may transfer the nationwide permit verification to the new owner by submitting a letter to the appropriate Corps district office to validate the transfer. A copy of the nationwide permit verification must be attached to the letter, and the letter must contain the following statement and signature:

"When the structures or work authorized by this nationwide permit are still in existence at the time the property is transferred, the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit, including any special conditions, will continue to be binding on the new owner(s) of the property. To validate the transfer of this nationwide permit and the associated liabilities associated with compliance with its terms and conditions, have the transferee sign and date below."

(Transferee)

(Date)

30. Compliance Certification. Each permittee who receives an NWP verification letter from the Corps must provide a signed certification documenting completion of the authorized activity and any required compensatory mitigation. The success of any required permittee-responsible mitigation, including the achievement of ecological performance standards, will be addressed separately by the district engineer. The Corps will provide the permittee the certification document with the NWP verification letter. The certification document will include:

- (a) A statement that the authorized work was done in accordance with the NWP authorization, including any general, regional, or activity-specific conditions;
- (b) A statement that the implementation of any required compensatory mitigation was completed in accordance with the permit conditions. If credits from a mitigation bank or in-lieu fee program are used to satisfy the compensatory mitigation requirements, the certification must include the documentation required by 33 CFR 332.3(l)(3) to confirm that the permittee secured the appropriate number and resource type of credits; and
- (c) The signature of the permittee certifying the completion of the work and mitigation.

31. Pre-Construction Notification—(a) Timing. Where required by the terms of the NWP, the prospective permittee must notify the district engineer by submitting a pre-construction notification (PCN) as early as possible. The district engineer must determine if the PCN is complete within 30 calendar days of the date of receipt and, if the PCN is determined to be incomplete, notify the prospective permittee within that 30 day period to request the additional information necessary to make the PCN complete. The request must specify the information needed to make the PCN complete. As a general rule, district engineers will request additional information necessary to make the PCN complete only once. However, if the prospective permittee does not provide all of the requested information, then the district engineer will notify the prospective permittee that the PCN is still incomplete and the PCN review process will not commence until all of the requested information has been received by the district engineer. The prospective permittee shall not begin the activity until either: (1) He or she is notified in writing by the district engineer that the activity may proceed under the NWP with any special conditions imposed by the district or division engineer; or (2) 45 calendar days have passed from the district engineer's receipt of the complete PCN and the prospective permittee has not received written notice from the district or division engineer. However, if the permittee was required to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition 18 that listed species or critical habitat might be affected or in the vicinity of the project, or to notify the Corps pursuant to general condition

20 that the activity may have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, the permittee cannot begin the activity until receiving written notification from the Corps that there is "no effect" on listed species or "no potential to cause effects" on historic properties, or that any consultation required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (see 33 CFR 330.4(f)) and/or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation (see 33 CFR 330.4(g)) has been completed. Also, work cannot begin under NWPs 21, 49, or 50 until the permittee has received written approval from the Corps. If the proposed activity requires a written waiver to exceed specified limits of an NWP, the permittee may not begin the activity until the district engineer issues the waiver. If the district or division engineer notifies the permittee in writing that an

individual permit is required within 45 calendar days of receipt of a complete PCN, the permittee cannot begin the activity until an individual permit has been obtained. Subsequently, the permittee's right to proceed under the NWP may be modified, suspended, or revoked only in accordance with the procedure set forth in 33 CFR 330.5(d)(2).

(b) *Contents of Pre-Construction Notification:* The PCN must be in writing and include the following information: (1) Name, address and telephone numbers of the prospective permittee; (2) Location of the proposed project; (3) A description of the proposed project; the project's purpose; direct and indirect adverse environmental effects the project would cause, including the anticipated amount of loss of water of the United States expected to result from the NWP activity, in acres, linear feet, or other appropriate unit of measure; any other NWP(s), regional general permit(s), or individual permit(s) used or intended to be used to authorize any part of the proposed project or any related activity. The description should be sufficiently detailed to allow the district engineer to determine that the adverse effects of the project will be minimal and to determine the need for compensatory mitigation. Sketches should be provided when necessary to show that the activity complies with the terms of the NWP. (Sketches usually clarify the project and when provided results in a quicker decision. Sketches should contain sufficient detail to provide an illustrative description of the proposed activity (e.g., a conceptual plan), but do not need to be detailed engineering plans); (4) The PCN must include a delineation of wetlands, other special aquatic sites, and other waters, such as lakes and ponds, and perennial, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, on the project site. Wetland delineations must be prepared in accordance with the current method required by the Corps. The permittee may ask the Corps to delineate the special aquatic sites and other waters on the project site, but there may be a delay if the Corps does the delineation, especially if the project site is large or contains many waters of the United States. Furthermore, the 45 day period will not start until the delineation has been submitted to or completed by the Corps, as appropriate; (5) If the proposed activity will result in the loss of greater than 1/10-acre of wetlands and a PCN is required, the prospective permittee must submit a statement describing how the mitigation requirement will be satisfied, or explaining why the adverse effects are minimal and why compensatory mitigation should not be required. As an alternative, the prospective permittee may submit a conceptual or detailed mitigation plan. (6) If any listed species or designated critical habitat might be affected or is in the vicinity of the project, or if the project is located in designated critical habitat, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must include the name(s) of those endangered or threatened species that might be affected by the proposed work or utilize the designated critical habitat that may be affected by the proposed work. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with the Endangered Species Act; and (7) For an activity that may affect a historic property listed on, determined to be eligible for listing on, or potentially eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places, for non-Federal applicants the PCN must state which historic property may be affected by the proposed work or include a vicinity map indicating the location of the historic property. Federal applicants must provide documentation demonstrating compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. (c) *Form of Pre-Construction Notification:* The standard individual permit application form (Form ENG 4345) may be used, but the completed application form must clearly indicate that it is a PCN and must include all of the information required in paragraphs (b)(1) through (7) of this general condition. A letter containing the required information may also be used. (d) *Agency Coordination:* (1) The district engineer will consider any comments from Federal and state agencies concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs and the need for mitigation to reduce the project's adverse environmental effects to a minimal level. (2) For all NWP activities that require pre-construction notification and result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States, for NWP 21, 29, 39, 40, 42, 43, 44, 50, 51, and 52 activities that require pre-construction

notification and will result in the loss of greater than 300 linear feet of intermittent and ephemeral stream bed, and for all NWP 48 activities that require pre-construction notification, the district engineer will immediately provide (e.g., via email, facsimile transmission, overnight mail, or other expeditious manner) a copy of the complete PCN to the appropriate Federal or state offices (U.S. FWS, state natural resource or water quality agency, EPA, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), and, if appropriate, the NMFS). With the exception of NWP 37, these agencies will have 10 calendar days from the date the material is transmitted to telephone or fax the district engineer notice that they intend to provide substantive, site specific comments. The comments must explain why the agency believes the adverse effects will be more than minimal. If so contacted by an agency, the district engineer will wait an additional 15 calendar days before making a decision on the preconstruction notification. The district engineer will fully consider agency comments received within the specified time frame concerning the proposed activity's compliance with the terms and conditions of the NWPs, including the need for mitigation to ensure the net adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment of the proposed activity are minimal. The district engineer will provide no response to the resource agency, except as provided below. The district engineer will indicate in the administrative record associated with each pre-construction notification that the resource agencies' concerns were considered. For NWP 37, the emergency watershed protection and rehabilitation activity may proceed immediately in cases where there is an unacceptable hazard to life or a significant loss of property or economic hardship will occur. The district engineer will consider any comments received to decide whether the NWP 37 authorization should be modified, suspended, or revoked in accordance with the procedures at 33 CFR 330.5. (3) In cases of where the prospective permittee is not a Federal agency, the district engineer will provide a response to NMFS within 30 calendar days of receipt of any Essential Fish Habitat conservation recommendations, as required by Section 305(b)(4)(B) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. (4) Applicants are encouraged to provide the Corps with either electronic files or multiple copies of preconstruction notifications to expedite agency coordination.

Further Information

1. District Engineers have authority to determine if an activity complies with the terms and conditions of an NWP.
2. NWPs do not obviate the need to obtain other federal, state, or local permits, approvals, or authorizations required by law.
3. NWPs do not grant any property rights or exclusive privileges.
4. NWPs do not authorize any injury to the property or rights of others.
5. NWPs do not authorize interference with any existing or proposed Federal project.

**2012 Nationwide Permits
Regional Conditions
Omaha District
State of North Dakota**

The following Nationwide Permit regional conditions will be used in the State of North Dakota. Regional conditions are placed on Nationwide Permits to ensure projects result in less than minimal adverse impacts to the aquatic environment and to address local resources concerns.

Wetlands Classified as Peatlands – Revoked for Use

All Nationwide Permits, with the exception of 3, 5, 20, 32, 38 and 45, are revoked for use in peatlands in North Dakota.

Peatlands are saturated and inundated wetlands where conditions inhibit organic matter decomposition and allow for the accumulation of peat. Under cool, anaerobic, and acidic conditions, the rate of organic matter accumulation exceeds organic decay. Peatlands can be primarily classified into ombrotrophic bogs and minerotrophic fens; the latter subdivided into poor, moderate-rich, and extreme-rich fens, each with distinctive indicator species, community physiognomy, acidity, alkalinity, and base cation content.

Wetlands Classified as Peatlands – Pre-construction Notification Requirement

For Nationwide Permits 3, 5, 20, 32, 38, and 45 permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition 31 (Notification) prior to initiating any regulated activity impacting peatlands in North Dakota.

Waters Adjacent to Natural Springs – Pre-construction Notification Requirement

For all Nationwide Permits permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition No. 31 (Notification) for regulated activities located within 100 feet of the water source in natural spring areas in North Dakota. For purposes of this condition, a spring source is defined as any location where there is artesian flow emanating from a distinct point at any time during the growing season. Springs do not include seeps and other groundwater discharge areas where there is no distinct point source.

Missouri River, including Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe within the State of North Dakota – Pre-construction Notification Requirement

For all Nationwide Permits permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition No. 31 (Notification) prior to initiating any regulated activity in the Missouri River, including Lake Sakakawea and Lake Oahe, within the State of North Dakota.

Borrow Site Identification – All Nationwide Permits

The permittee is responsible for ensuring that the Corps is notified of the location of any borrow site that will be used in conjunction with the construction of the authorized activity so that the Corps may evaluate the site for potential impacts to aquatic resources, historic properties, and endangered species. For projects where there is another lead Federal agency, the permittee shall provide the Corps documentation indicating that the lead Federal agency has complied with the National Historic Preservation Act and Endangered Species Act for the borrow site. The permittee shall not initiate work at the borrow site in conjunction with the authorized activity until approval is received from the Corps.

Counter-sinking Culverts and Associated Riprap – All Nationwide Permits

That culverts and riprap proposed to be installed within waters of the United States listed as Class III or higher on the 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota shall be installed one foot below the natural streambed. The 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at: <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>.

REGIONAL CONDITIONS APPLICABLE TO SPECIFIC NATIONWIDE PERMITS

Nationwide Permit 7 – Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures and Nationwide Permit 12 – Utility Line Activities

Intake Structures - Intake screens with a maximum mesh opening of 1/4-inch must be provided, inspected annually, and maintained. Wire, Johnson-like, screens must have a maximum distance between wires of 1/8-inch. Water velocity at the intake screen shall not exceed 1/2-foot per second.

Pumping plant sound levels will not exceed 75 dB at 50 feet.

Intakes located in Lake Sakakawea, above river mile 1519, are subject to the following conditions:

- The intakes shall be floating.
- At the beginning of the pumping season, the intake shall be placed over water with a minimum depth of 20 feet.
- If the 20-foot depth is not attainable, then the intake shall be located over the deepest water available.
- If the water depth falls below six feet, the intake shall be moved to deeper water or the maximum intake velocity shall be limited to 1/4 foot per second.

Intakes located in Lake Sakakawea, below river mile 1519, and in the Missouri River below Garrison Dam are subject to the following conditions:

- The intakes shall be submerged.
- At the beginning of the pumping season, the intake will be placed at least 20 vertical feet below the existing water level.
- The intake shall be elevated 2 to 4 feet off the bottom of the river or reservoir bed.
- If the 20-foot depth is not attainable, then the intake velocity shall be limited to 1/4-foot per second with the intake placed at the maximum practicable attainable depth.

Nationwide Permit 11 – Temporary Recreational Structures - Boat Docks

- a. If future operations by the United States require the removal, relocation, or other alteration, of the structure or work herein authorized, or if, in the opinion of the Secretary of the Army or his authorized representative, said structure or work shall cause unreasonable obstruction to the free navigation of the navigable waters, the permittee will be required, upon due notice from the Corps of Engineers, to remove, relocate, or alter the structural work or obstructions caused thereby, without expense to the United States. No claim shall be made against the United States on account of any such removal or alteration.
- b. No boat dock shall be located on a sandbar or barren sand feature located in or along the banks of the Missouri River.
- c. The farthest point riverward on the dock located on the Missouri River proper shall not exceed a total length of 30 feet from the ordinary high water line found along the high bank out into the River. Information Note: Issuance of this permit does not supersede authorization required by the North Dakota State Engineer's Office.
- d. Any boat dock located on the Missouri River shall be anchored to the top of the high bank.
- e. Any boat dock located within an excavated bay or marina off the main river channel may be anchored to the bay or marina bottom with spuds.

Nationwide Permit 13 - Bank Stabilization

Permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition No. 31 (Notification) prior to initiating any regulated activity within the State of North Dakota.

Nationwide Permit 23 - Approved Categorical Exclusions

Permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition No. 31 (Notification) prior to initiating any regulated activity within the State of North Dakota. In addition to information required by General Condition 31, permittees must identify the approved categorical exclusion that applies and provide documentation that the project fits the categorical exclusion.

Nationwide Permit 27 - Aquatic Habitat Restoration, Establishment and Enhancement Activities

Permittees must notify the Corps in accordance with General Condition No. 31 (Notification) prior to initiating any regulated activity within the State of North Dakota.

GENERAL CONDITIONS (REGIONAL ADDITIONS)

General Condition 3- Spawning Areas

No regulated activity within waters of the United States listed as Class III or higher on the 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota or on the North Dakota Game and Fish Department's website as a North Dakota Public Fishing Water shall occur between 15 April and 1 June. No regulated activity within the Red River of the North shall occur between 15 April and 1 July. North Dakota Public Fishing Waters can be accessed at: <http://gf.nd.gov/fishing/nd-fish-wat.html>. The 1978 Stream Evaluation Map for the State of North Dakota can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at: <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>.

General Condition 6 – Suitable Material

Permittees are reminded that General Condition No. 6 prohibits the use of unsuitable material. In addition, organic debris, some building waste, and materials excessive in fines are not suitable material. Specific verbiage on prohibited materials can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at: <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>.

General Condition 9 - Management of Water Flows

Permittees are reminded that water flow management addressed in General Condition 9 is applicable to all aspects of a permitted project, including temporary features.

General Condition 31 – Pre-construction Notification

Prospective permittees should be aware that a **field delineation** may be required for applications where notification is required in accordance with General Condition 31 and/or mitigation may be required. The Corps 1987 Wetland Delineation Manual and applicable Regional Supplements to the Manual can be accessed on the North Dakota Regulatory Office's website at: <http://www.nwo.usace.army.mil/html/od-rnd/ndhome.htm>.



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.

PRELIMINARY JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATION FORM

This preliminary JD finds that there "may be" waters of the United States on the subject project site, and identifies all aquatic features on the site that could be affected by the proposed activity, based on the following information:

A. Report Completion Date for Preliminary Jurisdictional Determination (JD):

May 18, 2012

B. Name and Address of Person Requesting Preliminary JD:

Connect

BHDR Engineering, Inc.
701 Xenia Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416-3636

C. District Office, File Name, and Number:

Omaha District; HDR / Minnkota Power Coop.; NWO-2009-1037-BIS

D. PROJECT LOCATION(S), BACKGROUND INFORMATION, AND WATERS:

State: North Dakota

City: Center to Grand Forks

County: Oliver, Burleigh, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Steele, Nelson and Grand Forks.

Name of nearest waterbody: Missouri River, James River, Sheyenne River.

Identify amount of waters in the review area: Approximately 250-miles of 150-foot wide project corridor; +/- 545-acres of wetlands within the ROW.

Name of any water bodies on the site that have been identified as Section 10 waters:

Tidal:

Non-Tidal: Missouri River.

Table 1 - Waters of the U.S.

Site #	Latitude	Longitude	Stream Flow	Cowardin Class	Estimated amount of aquatic resources in review area	Estimated amount of aquatic resource impact	Class of aquatic resource
1	47.32703	-100.72748	none	Palustrine	3.5-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
2	47.48699	-100.63557	none	Palustrine	50-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
3	47.56075	-100.53555	none	Palustrine	10-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
4	47.56370	-100.32460	none	Palustrine	3.9-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
5	47.56350	-100.21968	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
6	47.55945	-99.93601	none	Palustrine	4-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
7	47.60926	-99.55556	none	Palustrine	7.5-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
8	47.60904	-99.52297	none	Palustrine	12.3-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal

9	47.60900	-99.49105	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
10	47.60894	-99.44861	none	Palustrine	18.3-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
11	47.60888	-99.42414	none	Palustrine	.57-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
12	47.61361	-99.22324	none	Palustrine	25-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
13	47.61640	-99.22324	none	Palustrine	25-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
14	47.60925	-99.18930	none	Palustrine	4.4-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
15	47.60926	-99.18435	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
16	47.60930	-99.15935	none	Palustrine	1.6-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
17	47.60647	-99.02095	none	Palustrine	18.8-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
18	47.59021	-98.75761	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
19	47.54416	-98.57986	none	Palustrine	.21-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
20	47.54422	-98.55953	none	Palustrine	1.76-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
21	47.54422	-98.54703	none	Palustrine	8.27-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
22	47.54405	-98.48586	none	Palustrine	.56-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
23	47.58692	-98.39030	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
24	47.58693	-98.20927	none	Palustrine	34.09-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
25	47.67833	-97.96776	none	Palustrine	71.5-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
26	47.82646	-97.26910	none	Palustrine	340-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
27	47.82835	-97.26596	none	Palustrine	340-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
28	47.83235	-97.25935	none	Palustrine	1.8-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
29	47.85040	-97.25047	none	Palustrine	.1-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
30	47.85318	-97.25045	none	Palustrine	.86-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
31	47.85601	-97.25042	none	Palustrine	.09-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal
32	47.85878	-97.25038	none	Palustrine	.05-acres	.001-acre	Non-tidal

E. REVIEW PERFORMED FOR SITE EVALUATION (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- Office (Desk) Determination. Date: **May 7, 2012**
 Field Determination. Date(s):


F. SUPPORTING DATA:


Data reviewed for preliminary JD (check all that apply - checked items should be included in case file and, where checked and requested, appropriately reference sources below):

- Maps, plans, plots or plat submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant:
 Data sheets prepared/submitted by or on behalf of the applicant/consultant.
 Office concurs with data sheets/delineation report.
 Office does not concur with data sheets/delineation report.
 Data sheets prepared by the Corps:
 Corps navigable waters' study:
 U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Atlas:
 USGS NHD data.
 USGS 8 and 12 digit HUC maps.
 U.S. Geological Survey map(s). Cite quad name: **numerous**.
 USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Soil Survey.

- National wetlands inventory map(s). Cite name: **several.**
- State/Local wetland inventory map(s):
- FEMA/FIRM maps:
- 100-year Floodplain Elevation is: (National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929)
- Photographs: Aerial (Name & Date):
or Other (Name & Date): **site photos in delineation report.**
- Previous determination(s). File no. and date of response letter:
- Other information (please specify): **Goggle Earth Pro.**

IMPORTANT NOTE: The information recorded on this form has not necessarily been verified by the Corps and should not be relied upon for later jurisdictional determinations.

 5/18/12.
Signature and date of
Regulatory Project Manager
(REQUIRED)

 6/1/12
Signature and date of
person requesting preliminary JD
(REQUIRED, unless obtaining the
signature is impracticable)

G. EXPLANATION OF PRELIMINARY AND APPROVED JURISDICTIONAL DETERMINATIONS:

1. The Corps of Engineers believes that there may be jurisdictional waters of the United States on the subject site, and the permit applicant or other affected party who requested this preliminary JD is hereby advised of his or her option to request and obtain an approved jurisdictional determination (JD) for that site. Nevertheless, the permit applicant or other person who requested this preliminary JD has declined to exercise the option to obtain an approved JD in this instance and at this time.
2. In any circumstance where a permit applicant obtains an individual permit, or a Nationwide General Permit (NWP) or other general permit verification requiring "pre-construction notification" (PCN), or requests verification for a non-reporting NWP or other general permit, and the permit applicant has not requested an approved JD for the activity, the permit applicant is hereby made aware of the following: (1) the permit applicant has elected to seek a permit authorization based on a preliminary JD, which does not make an official determination of jurisdictional waters; (2) that the applicant has the option to request an approved JD before accepting the terms and conditions of the permit authorization, and that basing a permit authorization on an approved JD could possibly result in less compensatory mitigation being required or different special conditions; (3) that the applicant has the right to request an individual permit rather than accepting the terms and conditions of the NWP or other general permit authorization; (4) that the applicant can accept a permit authorization and thereby agree to comply with all the terms and conditions of that permit, including whatever mitigation requirements the Corps has determined to be necessary; (5) that undertaking any activity in reliance upon the subject permit authorization without requesting an approved JD constitutes the applicant's acceptance of the use of the preliminary JD, but that either form of JD will be processed as soon as is practicable; (6) accepting a permit authorization (e.g., signing a proffered individual permit) or undertaking any activity in reliance on any form of Corps permit authorization based on a preliminary JD constitutes agreement that all wetlands and other water bodies on the site affected in any way by that activity are jurisdictional waters of the United States, and precludes any challenge to such jurisdiction in any administrative or judicial compliance or enforcement action, or in any administrative appeal or in any Federal court; and (7) whether the applicant elects to use either an approved JD or a preliminary JD, that JD will be processed as soon as is practicable. Further, an approved JD, a proffered individual permit (and all terms and conditions contained therein), or individual permit denial can be administratively appealed pursuant to 33 C.F.R. Part 331, and that in any administrative appeal, jurisdictional issues can be raised (see 33 C.F.R. 331.5(a)(2)). If, during that administrative appeal, it becomes necessary to make an official determination whether CWA jurisdiction exists over a site, or to provide an official delineation of jurisdictional waters on the site, the Corps will provide an approved JD to accomplish that result, as soon as is practicable.

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
North Dakota Regulatory Office
1513 South 12th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58504
Telephone (701) 255-0015 Fax (701) 255-4917**

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR PERMIT CUSTOMERS

Notice of the Reissuance of Nationwide Permits was published in the Federal Register [77 FR 10184] on February 21, 2012. The Nationwide Permits went into effect on March 19, 2012. Project compliance certification is required by General Condition 30. The following instructions are provided to clarify the information contained within the nationwide permit authorization letter and attachments.¹

STEP 1

Review the permit authorization and be sure you understand the terms and conditions for the authorization to remain valid. If you do not understand, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this office at the above address.

STEP 2

Complete your project in accordance with the permit terms and conditions. [Remember that any deviation from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.]

STEP 3

Within thirty (30) days of project completion, please complete the permit compliance certification contained within your permit authorization letter. A photocopy of the first page (marked with a colored COPY stamp) has been provided for this purpose. Mark the applicable statements, sign and date where indicated, and forward the COPY to this office at the above address.

¹There is no charge associated with any aspect of this nationwide authorization or the follow-up compliance certification.

COPY

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. is responsible for all work accomplished in accordance with the terms and conditions of this nationwide permit. If a contractor or other authorized representative will be accomplishing the work authorized by this nationwide permit, it is recommended that they be provided a copy of this letter and the attached conditions so that they are aware of the limitations of the nationwide permit. Failure to comply with all the terms and conditions of this authorization may result in an enforcement action.

In compliance with General Condition 30, you are required to submit the following project compliance certification within thirty (30) days of project completion. [Please check all applicable statements.]

- I certify that I have completed the project as permitted.
- I certify that I have completed a modified version of the project.
- I certify that I have completed all required mitigation.

Permittee's Signature: _____ Date: _____

This verification will be valid until **May 18, 2014**. Should you at any time become aware that either an endangered and/or threatened species or its critical habitat exists within the project area, you must immediately notify this office

The Omaha District, North Dakota Regulatory Office is committed to providing quality and timely service to our customers. In an effort to improve customer service, please take a moment to complete our Customer Service Survey found on our website at <http://per2.nwp.usace.army.mil/survey.html>. If you do not have Internet access, you may call and request a paper copy of the survey that you can complete and return to us by mail or fax.

If you have any questions concerning this determination, please contact Mr. Jason Renschler of this office by letter or telephone at 701-255-0015 and reference Nationwide Permit number ~~NWO 2009-1037-BIS~~

Sincerely,

Daniel E. Cimarosti
Regulatory Program Manager
North Dakota

Enclosure
- Fact Sheet #12

CC: Minnkota Power Coop. (J. Graves)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
CORPS OF ENGINEERS, OMAHA DISTRICT
NORTH DAKOTA REGULATORY OFFICE
1513 SOUTH 12TH STREET
BISMARCK ND 58504-6640

May 18, 2012

[NWO-2009-1037-BIS]

COPY

HDR Engineering, Inc.
Attn: Brian Hunker
PO 701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 600
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55416

Dear Mr. Hunker:

We have reviewed your request for Department of the Army (DA) authorization, on behalf of Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., for the proposed construction of a new 345kV transmission line. This project is referred to as the Center to Grand Forks 345kV transmission line. The project includes placement of fill material for the construction of foundations for structures. There has been 32 separate transmission structure foundation fills identified, along the approximate 250-mile route, which will be located in wetland areas. This proposed transmission line will cross numerous Sections, Townships and Ranges in Oliver, Burleigh, McLean, Sheridan, Wells, Eddy, Foster, Griggs, Steele, Nelson and Grand Forks Counties, North Dakota.

We have prepared a preliminary jurisdictional determination (JD) for the 32 sites which is a written indication that the waterway(s) within the project area(s) may be jurisdictional Waters of the United States. Such waters have been treated as jurisdictional Waters of the U.S. for purposes of computation of impacts and compensatory mitigation requirements. If you concur with the findings of the enclosed preliminary JD, please sign it and return it to the letterhead address.

If you believe the preliminary JD is inaccurate, you may request this office complete an approved JD prior to your commencement of any work in a Water of the U.S. An approved JD is an official determination regarding the presence or absence of Waters of the U.S. Completion of an approved JD may require coordination with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

If you do not want the Corps to complete an approved JD, you may proceed with the proposed foundation fill project(s) in accordance with the terms and conditions of Department of the Army Nationwide Permit No. 12 found in the February 21, 2012 Federal Register (77 FR 10184), Reissuance of Nationwide Permits. Enclosed is a fact sheet that fully describes this Nationwide Permit and lists the General and Water Quality Conditions that must be adhered to for this authorization to remain valid. This authorization does not include the proposed Missouri River crossing.

This determination is applicable only to the permit program administered by the US Army Corps of Engineers. It does not eliminate the need to obtain other applicable Federal, Tribal, State and local permits as required. Please note that deviations from the original plans and specifications of your project could require additional authorization from this office.