

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Case No. PU-09-670

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE,
INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR
COMPATIBILITY AND ROUTE PERMIT TO
CONSTRUCT THE CENTER TO GRAND
FORKS 345 kV TRANSMISSION LINE
PROJECT IN OLIVER, MCLEAN,
BURLEIGH, SHERIDAN, WELLS, EDDY,
FOSTER, GRIGGS, STEELE, NELSON, AND
GRAND FORKS COUNTIES, NORTH
DAKOTA**

AFFIDAVIT OF MICHAEL HENNES

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF GRAND FORKS)

Michael Hennes, being first duly sworn upon oath, states and alleges as follows:

1. I am the Project Manager for Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s (Minnkota) proposed Center, North Dakota to Grand Forks, North Dakota 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Project), which is the subject of the above-captioned matter.

2. On September 7, 2011, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) issued its Order granting Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 121 (Certificate Order) to Minnkota for the Project. On April 25, 2012, the Commission issued its Order granting First Amended Certificate of Corridor Compatibility No. 121 and Route Permit No. 144 (together with the Certificate Order, hereinafter referred to as the Order) to Minnkota for the Project.

3. Following issuance of the Order, the owner of the E1/2 and the E1/2 of E1/2 of W1/2 Section 32, Township 142 North, Range 82 West, in Oliver County, North Dakota, requested

that Minnkota adjust the route in order to avoid certain trees that provide wind protection for his livestock.

4. The route modification requested by the owner of the E1/2 and the E1/2 of E1/2 of W1/2 Section 32, Township 142 North, Range 82 West, in Oliver County, North Dakota, is within the corridor approved by the Commission in its Order.

5. To accommodate the landowner's request, Minnkota requests that the Commission approve the route modification depicted on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit 1**. Both the corridor and route approved by the Commission in its Order and the proposed route modification are depicted in **Exhibit 1**.

6. The proposed route modification would be located entirely within the E1/2 and the E1/2 of E1/2 of W1/2 of Section 32, Township 142 North, Range 82 West, in Oliver County, North Dakota, and, as such, would not affect other landowners.

7. In addition to minimizing removal of the landowner's trees, the proposed modification will enable Minnkota to place structures on more level ground providing better access for construction and stringing of the wire, which will slightly reduce the length of the Project.

8. The owner of the E1/2 and the E1/2 of E1/2 of W1/2 of Section 32, Township 142 North, Range 82 West, in Oliver County, North Dakota, has executed an easement in favor of Minnkota consistent with the proposed modification.

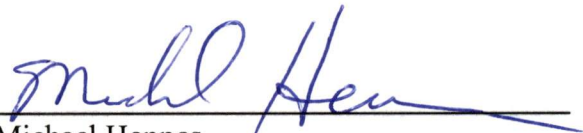
9. The Project is consistent with Minnkota's 2012-2022 Ten-Year Plan. *See* Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s 2012-2022 Ten-Year Plan, Docket No. PU-12-252, filed June 5, 2012.

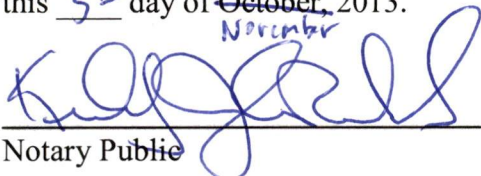
10. Minnkota is at 83 percent complete with foundation construction of the Project, and anticipates that the Project will be commissioned and in-service in the first quarter of 2014.

11. Minnkota plans to begin clearing activities for the portion of the Project where the proposed route modification is located as soon as possible, with foundation and structure installation to be completed in late 2013 and early 2014.

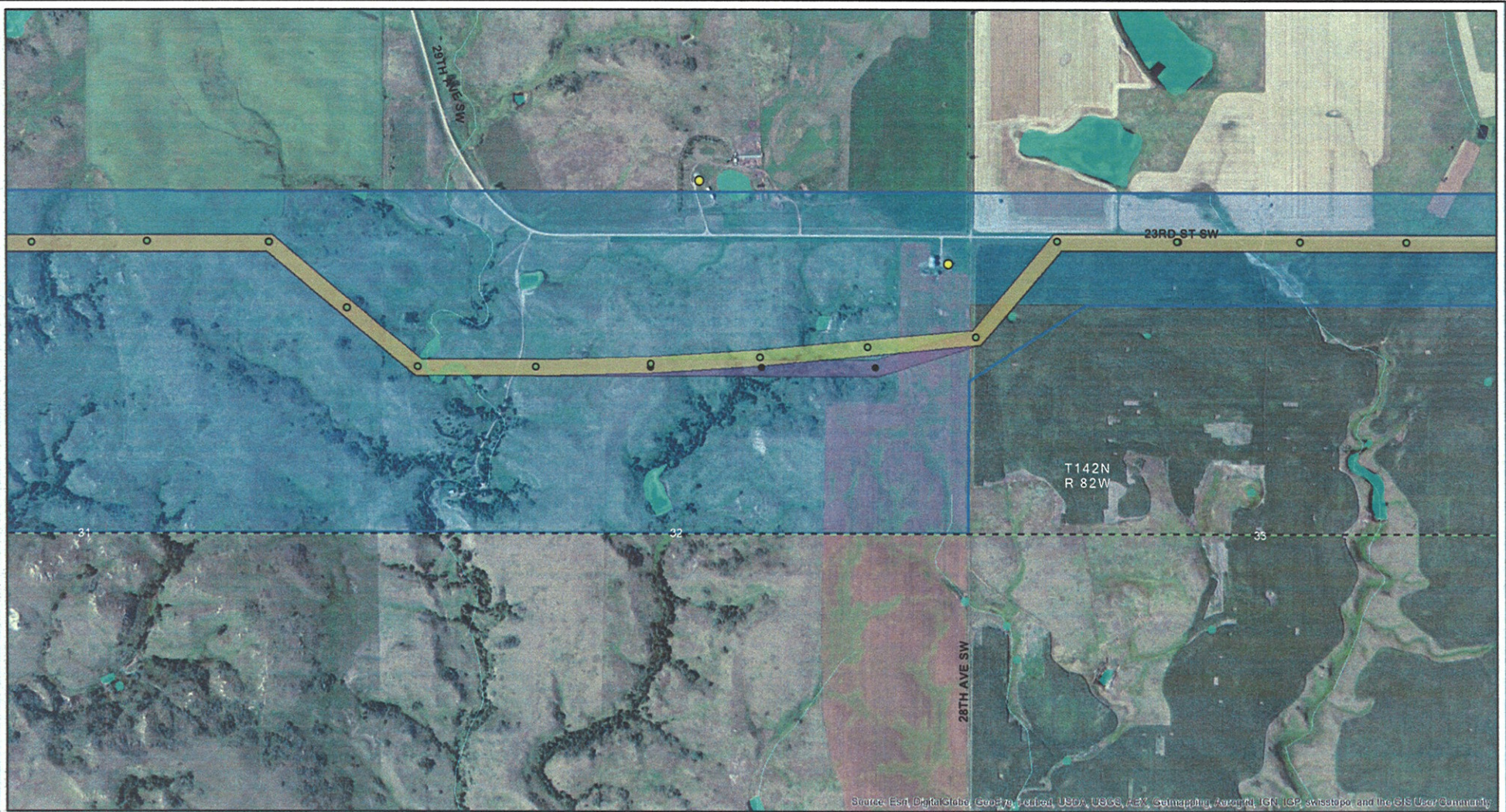
12. Minnkota needs to be able to complete clearing of the right-of-way within the modified portion of the Project route as soon as possible in order to maintain its construction schedule, which is essential to completing the Project in a timely and efficient manner.

FURTHER AFFIANT SAYETH NOT.


Michael Hennes

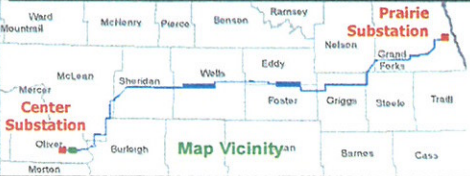
Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 5th day of ~~October~~ ^{November}, 2013.

Notary Public

KIMBERLY JOHNSON RUSTAD
Notary Public
State of North Dakota
My Commission Expires Oct. 9, 2018



Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, IGN, GeoEye, USGS, USDA, Keyhole, Airphoto, IGN, ISP, swisstopo and the GIS User Community

Sensitive location information has been redacted from this Figure.



- Approved Corridor
- Approved Project ROW
- Proposed Project ROW
- Approved Project Structure Location
- Proposed Project Structure Location
- Home
- USGS Mapped Waterway
- Modified Wetland
- Existing Transmission Lines
- 250-kV DC

Exhibit 1
Proposed Project Route Modification
Oliver County, North Dakota
Center to Grand Forks Project
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.

Scale 1:10,000

Aerial photography published by National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP), 2009.