

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kalk, Christmann and Fedorchak
Fr: Jerry Lein
Da: May 23, 2014
Re: Minnkota Tree Mitigation Plan, PU-09-670.

In accordance with paragraph 10 of the Commission's Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications attached to the Commission's Order in Case No. PU-09-670, Minnkota has filed its tree and shrub replacement plan. Paragraph 10 requires:

- 10. Prior to tree and shrub replacement, documentation identifying the number and variety of trees and shrubs removed, as well as the mitigation plan for the proposed number, variety, type, location and date of replacement plantings, must be filed with the Commission for approval.*

Paragraph 14 further requires:

- 14. At the conclusion of the project, documentation identifying the actual number, variety, type, location and date of the replacement plantings must be filed with the Commission.*

Minnkota's replacement plan was developed from an inventory performed in accordance with its tree inventory plan, Hearing Exhibit N. In summary, Minnkota's replacement plan would replace 23,762 trees removed with 47,524 new tree plantings, and 5,465 shrubs removed with 10,930 new plantings. Trees and shrubs expected to naturally regenerate via suckering were not included in this replacement inventory unless they were located within the permanent impact area associated with each structure. Appendix A provides tree and shrub regeneration and replacement strategy outlining what species will regrow naturally if the roots are not impacted.

Minnkota reports it has contacted the county soil and water conservation districts to assist with coordinating interested landowners in identifying suitable planting locations, conducting the planting activities, and conducting the annual monitoring. Tree and shrub replacement species are being identified in consultation with landowners and the county soil and water conservation districts. Planting is to begin this year and continue into 2015 and 2016.

JRL