



minnesota power

30 west superior street / duluth, minnesota 55802-2093 / fax: 218-723-3955 / www.allete.com

AN ALLETE COMPANY

David R. Moeller  
Senior Attorney  
218-723-3963  
dmoeller@allete.com

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

August 10, 2011

Mr. Darrell Nitschke  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58505-0480

RE: Bison 2 Wind Project  
Oliver/Morton Counties  
Case No. PU-11-57

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Minnesota Power hereby submits an original and ten copies of Notes from Preconstruction Conference and Notice of Construction Commencement date in the above-referenced case.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at the number listed above.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

kl  
Enc.  
c: Jerry Lein, NDPSC

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Notes from preconstruction conference, notice of construction commencement date

AN ALLETE COMPANY

Allete, Inc.

David Moeller

**State of North Dakota  
Public Service Commission**

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AUG 11 2011

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Notes from Preconstruction Conference  
Notice of Construction Commencement Date**

ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power  
Bison 2 Wind Project  
Case No. PU-11-57

In accordance with North Dakota Public Service Commission's (PSC) Certification, Paragraph 2, Mr. Jerry Lein from the PSC conducted a preconstruction conference with Minnesota Power on August 10, 2011 at approximately 1:00 p.m. Attendees from Minnesota Power were the following: Ron Gullicks, Jim Atkinson, Ken Benoit, Dan McCourtney, Matt Freudenrich, and David Moeller. Mr. Atkinson is Minnesota Power's designated representative and Mr. Freudenrich is the construction supervisor.

In accordance with the PSC Certification, Paragraph 5, Minnesota Power hereby provides the notice that it will commence construction on or about **Thursday, August 11, 2011** for the Bison 2 Wind Project.

Mr. Lein and representatives of Minnesota Power discussed each paragraph of the PSC's Certification that is attached to the Order approved at its August 10, 2011 agenda meeting. Except as noted below, there was no further discussion or clarification necessary on specific Certification paragraphs.

4. Minnesota Power has obtained approval for all required permits, but has not yet received the written permit from Oliver County. Upon receipt of that written permit, Minnesota Power will submit to the PSC copies of the Oliver county permit. In addition, Minnesota Power will be submitting copies of its stormwater plan certification that were filed August 9, 2011 with the North Dakota Department of Health.

5. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed expectations for the weekly construction report. Also, it was clarified that when construction activity is suspended for a winter season, the last update prior to suspension should note the suspension and further weekly reports are not necessary until construction resumes in the spring.

10. Minnesota Power has already received approval from the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office and submitted that approval to the PSC during the July 7, 2011 public hearing.

16. Paragraph 16 of the Certification is modified by Paragraph 39 of the Findings of Fact to require only a depth of only 42 inches to the top of the lines.

20. The Certificate of Site Compatibility includes the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications that is deemed attached to and part of the Order except as modified by Paragraph 39 of the Findings of Fact relating to Paragraphs 2 and 3 of those specifications.

21. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein clarified that if a fence or gate is removed at the request of a landowner and the landowner requests that the fence or gate not be replaced that Minnesota Power should provide the PSC notice of such waiver along with documentation of the landowner's consent to deviate from Paragraph 21. All such notices will be filed with the PSC concurrent with the as-built drawings required under Paragraph 34.

29. Mr. Lein clarified that transformer failures would be covered by this reporting requirement.

32. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein clarified that for design drawings, PDFs of the collection system were sufficient and should include additions to the existing substation.

35. Minnesota Power will submit a decommissioning plan for Bison 2 prior to the project being placed in-service.

38. Mr. Lein informed Minnesota Power that the undergrounding damage notification requirements are relatively new and that PSC determinations are required prior to resuming construction.