



June 10, 2011

Jerry Lein
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RECEIVED

JUN 15 2011

Re: Minnesota Power's Bison 3 Wind Energy Project

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Dear Mr. Lein:

Minnesota Power is planning to construct a wind energy conversion facility—the Bison 3 Wind Energy Project—in Morton and Oliver Counties in North Dakota. Minnesota Power has retained Barr Engineering Co. (Barr) to assist with the environmental permitting process for the project.

Enclosed is a map of the proposed Bison 3 Wind Energy Project location. The table on Page 2 includes the townships, ranges, and sections encompassed within the Bison 3 project boundary. The 105 MW Bison 3 Wind Energy Project will interconnect with the 230kV Bison Substation and then the Square Butte Substation. The wind-generated electricity will then be transmitted to Minnesota Power's transmission system via an existing 250kV DC Line and existing AC transmission system as available and is intended to be used to meet Minnesota Power's share of State of Minnesota renewable energy and Integrated Resource Plan requirements.

Minnesota Power will seek a Certificate of Site Compatibility from the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) pursuant to Chapter 49-22 of the North Dakota Century Code and Article 69-06 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. Minnesota Power plans to file the Certificate application in June 2011 in order to obtain Commission approval by the fall of 2011. Minnesota Power plans to begin construction in the spring of 2012.

The purpose of this letter is to inform your organization of the proposed Bison 3 Wind Project and to seek your comments regarding environmental permits and approvals that may be required. Copies of all correspondence received in response to this letter will be included with the Certificate application for the Commission's records. Therefore, we would greatly appreciate receiving your comments in writing by July 10, 2011.

If you have comments regarding this proposed project, you are encouraged to contact Daniel Flo at Barr at the address listed below, by e-mail (dflo@barr.com), or by phone (952-832-2975).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel Flo".

Daniel Flo
Environmental Scientist

Enclosure: Project Overview Map

4 **PU-11-162** Filed: 6/15/2011 Pages: 3
Letter enclosing map of the proposed Bison 3 wind energy project location

Allele, Inc.

Daniel Flo, Environmental Scientist

Table: Sections within the Bison 3 Wind Energy Project Boundary

County	Township	Range	Section
Morton	140N	85W	5, 6
		86W	2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 30
		87W	2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27
Oliver	141N	85W	29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34
		86W	25, 26, 35, 36
		87W	35, 36