



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

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

October 13, 2011

**VIA OVERNIGHT DELIVERY**

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

RE: Bison 3 Wind Project  
Oliver/Morton Counties  
Case No. PU-11-162

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



# State of North Dakota Public Service Commission

## Notes from Preconstruction Conference Notice of Construction Commencement Date

ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power  
Bison 3 Wind Project  
Case No. PU-11-162

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 October 12, 2011 at approximately 1:00 p.m. Attendees from Minnesota Power were the following: Ron Gullicks, Jim Atkinson, Ken Benoit, Dan McCourtney, and David Moeller. Mr. Atkinson is Minnesota Power's designated representative and Mr. Benoit 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 **Monday, October 17, 2011** for the Bison 3 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 October 12, 2011 agenda meeting. Except as noted below, there was no further discussion or clarification necessary on specific Certification paragraphs.

4. Minnesota Power has obtained all necessary approvals and filed with the PSC copies of all required permits.
5. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed expectations for the weekly construction report and that Minnesota Power will be filing a combined report for all three Bison wind projects.
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.
33. Mr. Lein noted that very minor shifts in turbine locations may be approved at the Staff level.