

MEMORANDUM

To: Commissioners Kalk, Cramer and Fetch
Fr: Jerry Lein
Da: August 27, 2012
Re: ALLETE Bison III Tree Mitigation Plan, Case No. PU-11-162.

ALLETE (Minnesota Power) has filed for approval of its Bison III Tree and Shrub Mitigation Plan as required by the Commission's Order in Case No. PU-11-162. Minnesota Power reports removing 37 trees and 2 Shrubs, resulting in a requirement to plant 74 trees and 4 shrubs. All affected landowners did not want replacements planted on their property so MN Power has arranged for an alternate planting site in T140N, R86W, S 4 in Morton County. MN Power reports Siberian elm and Russian olive trees removed are being replaced with Green ash species more native to ND and Honeysuckle will be replaced with Buffaloberry due to availability.

I recommend the Commission approve the plan.

JRL