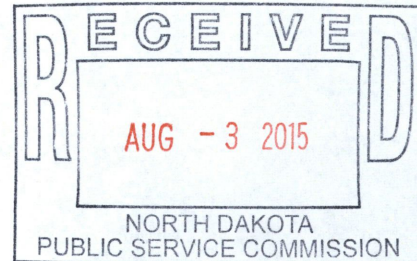




30 West Superior Street Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2093 218.355.3232
www.alletecleanenergy.com

David R. Moller
Senior Attorney
218-723-3963
Fax: 218-723-3955
E-mail: dmoeller@allete.com

July 27, 2015



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

Re: ALLETE Clean Energy through Thunder Spirit Wind, LLC
Thunder Spirit Wind Project
Case No. PU-11-601

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Please find attached in the above-referenced case, ALLETE Clean Energy's June 24, 2015 Power Line Strike Incident Report.

Please contact Dan McCourtney at 218.355.3515 or dmccourtney@allete.com with any questions.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr
Attachments
c: Jerry Lien - North Dakota Public Service Commission (jlein@nd.gov)
Dan McCourtney
Wells McGiffert
Frank Frederickson
John Hollingsworth

124 PU-11-601 Filed: 8/3/2015 Pages: 6
June 24, 2015 power line strike incident report



THUNDER SPIRIT WIND FARM
Power Line Strike
Access Road to 37
Wanzek Construction

Over view: On July 24th, 2015 at approximately 5:30 PM it was discovered that the reason for the power outage on site, which started at 1 PM, was the result of an arc that occurred between the overhead neutral wire and live power wire at the entrance to the access road to tower site 37 from 4th Ave. Fairly recent equipment tracks were found going under the power line on the north side of the access road, leading to the discovery of a damaged spot in the neutral power line. Further investigation found that the tracks were those of an excavator and inspection of the boom turned up a small fragment of aluminum along with a clean scrape about 12 inches in length along the out most side of the boom on the operators side. The point of contact between the neutral and live line were approximately 20 feet away from the point where the boom of the excavator made contact with the neutral line leading to the conclusion that the line rolled off the boom and whipped back into the live line resulting in the arc. No injuries were a result of the incident.

1. Utility Company was contacted to look into the reason for the power outage as there was no report of power line contact to Wanzek Supervision.
2. Spotter use and 360 awareness have been a weekly reminder to avoid property damages and/ or near misses.
3. Incident reporting is one point emphasized in the site specific orientation.
4. Site conditions were mostly sunny with winds approximately 5 to 7 MPH and temperatures around 80 degrees.
5. Regular spot checks were being performed
6. Overhead power line signs are posted and visible in the location of the strike.
7. The operator and spotter were contacted to get an explanation for the strike, but are claiming that they did not make contact with the line.

BASIC UNDERLYING ROOT CAUSE

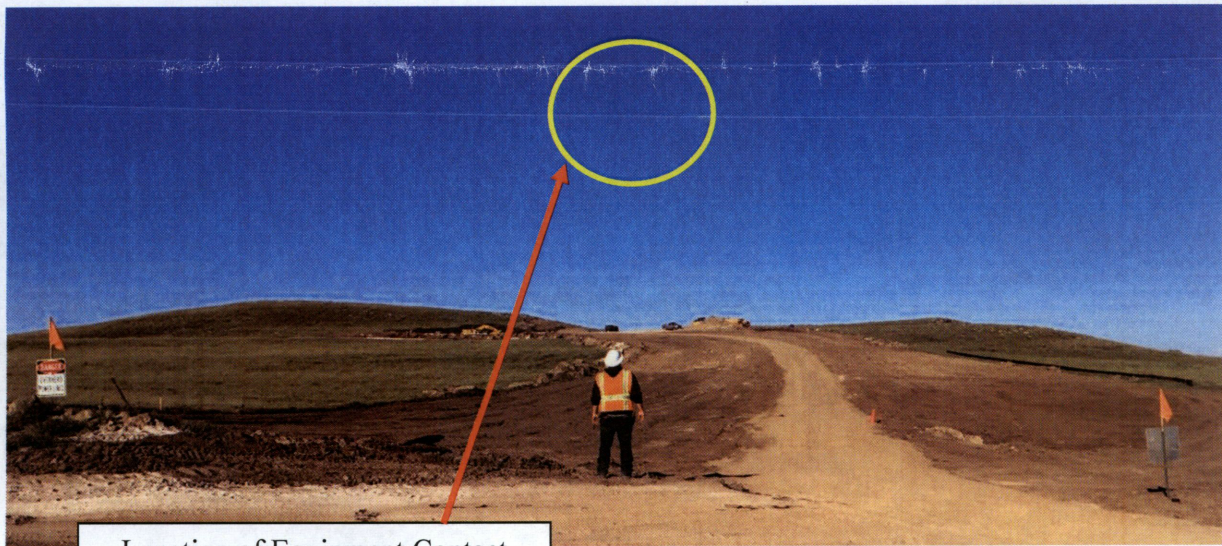
1. The potential for contact with stationary objects/ materials was not recognized
2. Proper spotter procedures were not being followed
3. Warning signs were not heeded
4. Judging by the tracks and travel path followed; when the excavator went from the road into the ditch to start heading in the direction to tower site 37, it would have resulted in the operator needing to raise the boom slightly in order to avoid dragging the back boom cylinder into the ground while crossing the ditch, but when the piece of equipment started traveling on level ground the boom was not lowered closer to the ground to gain the needed clearance between the equipment and the overhead power line resulting in the line strike.



ACTIONS TAKEN

1. After the notification from the utility company about the location of the arc, a full investigation was conducted.
2. The known operator of that piece of equipment that day was contacted by the supervisor.
3. Notification was made to the client when the cause of the incident was determined.
4. The operator and spotter have been removed from the project.
5. Proper equipment walking procedures and spotter procedure reviews were conducted by crew's supervision to refresh our team.
6. Looking into the possibility of having the utility company install an orange rubber cover on the power lines over access roads impacted by the project.

Pictures:



Location of Equipment Contact

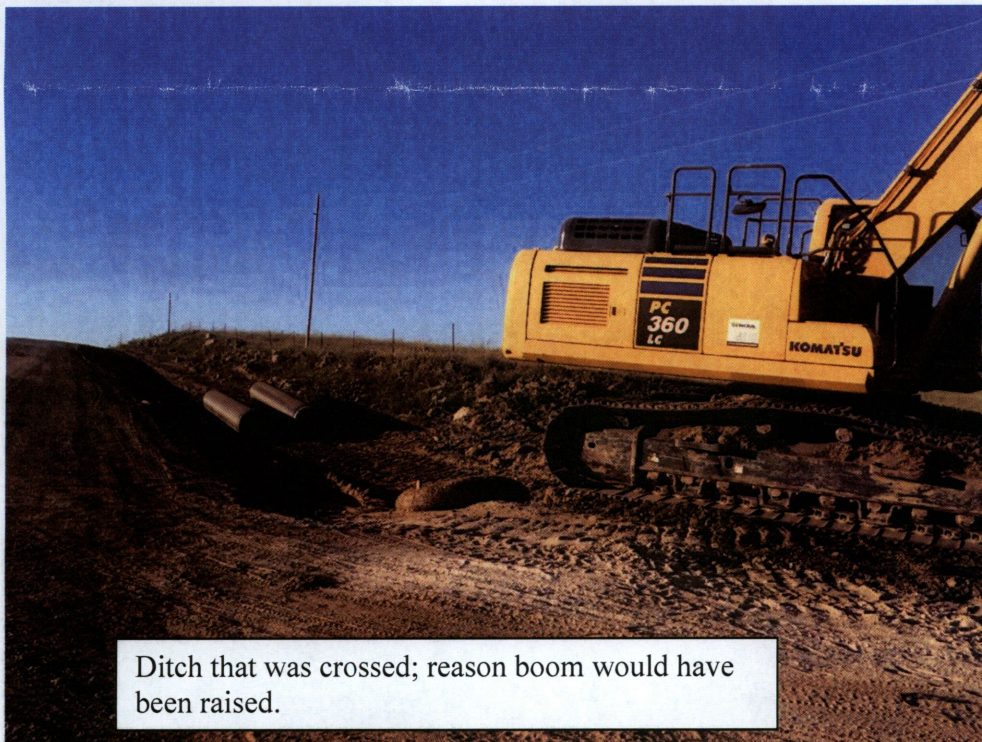


WANZEK

a MasTec company



Ditch Crossed and Tracks

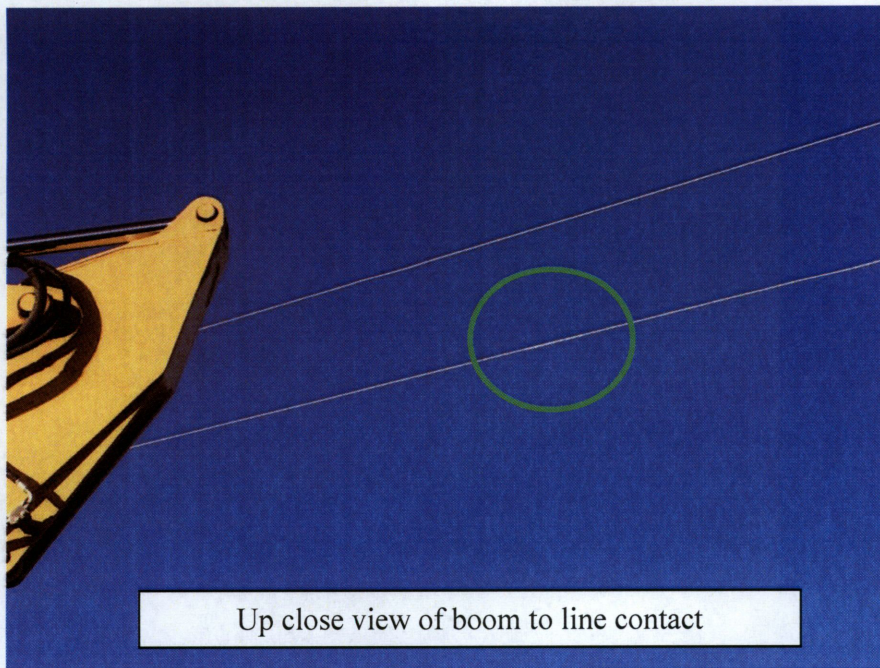


Ditch that was crossed; reason boom would have been raised.



WANZEK

a MasTec company



WANZEK

a MasTec company



Proper Boom position to walk under power lines

2028 2nd Ave NW, West Fargo, ND 58078
phone 701.282.6171 fax 701.282.6166



www.mas Tec.com
www.wanzek.com