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September 14, 2015

VIA EMAIL: NDPSC@ND.GOV

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 ALLETE Clean Energy's September 11, 2015 Fiber Optic Cable Incident Report in the above-referenced case.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr

Attachments

c: Emmy Baskerville - Houston Engineering (ebaskerville@houstoneng.com)
Jerry Lien - North Dakota Public Service Commission (jlein@nd.gov)
Dan McCourtney
Wells McGiffert
Frank Frederickson
Tim Sweeney
John Hollingsworth

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Thunder Spirit Wind Fiber Optic Cable Incident
Report

Allete, Inc.



Thunder Spirit Wind Underground Fiber Optic Cable Incident

On Friday, September 11, 2015, the Thunder Spirit Wind Project site team was notified by Wanzek that 2 active underground fiber optic cables, owned by Consolidated Cable, had been cut while CEI, Wanzek's trenching sub-contractor, was trenching for the underground electrical collection system. The area of impact, shown in Attachment A, was on the north side of the string road approach, which veers off of 2nd St. and runs east towards WTG 5. Immediately after the incident took place, work was suspended near the area of impact and crews vacated the area, until CEI was able to reach Consolidated Cable. Once communication with Consolidated Cable was in place, Consolidated Cable instructed CEI to expose a 40 ft. section of the fiber lines in preparation for a fiber splice repair. Consolidated Cable arrived shortly after to start their repair work and was able to repair all active strands to re-establish service for the area residents the same night. Repair work will resume on Monday, September 14, 2015 to repair the unused fiber strands, dedicated for future use. Wanzek/CEI will receive written confirmation from Consolidated Cable once the repair work is complete on Monday.

CEI did not have a current and up to date One Call verification in place at the time of the incident. Wanzek did have a current One Call verification in place at the time of the incident for their civil reclamation activities, but the fiber line marking flags were removed during Wanzek's civil activities, prior to CEI's mobilization to the area of impact.

The site has been remarked to avoid future incidents.

