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September 26, 2013



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: Minnesota Power's Bison 4 Wind Project Siting Application
for a Certificate of Site Compatibility for the Bison 4 Wind Project
Oliver County, North Dakota
Case No. PU-13-127**

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. The Storm Water Permit and anticipated Bison 4 construction schedule are also included.

If you have any questions, or need additional information, please contact me at the number above.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

kl
Enc.
c: Jerry Lein, NDPSC



41 PU-13-127 Filed: 9/26/2013 Pages: 5
Preconstruction conference notes, notice of construction commencement, storm water permit, construction schedule
Allete, Inc.
David R. Moeller

State of North Dakota Public Service Commission

Notes from Preconstruction Conference Notice of Construction Commencement Date

ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power
Bison 4 Wind Project
Case No. PU-13-127

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 September 26, 2013 at approximately 8:30 a.m. Attendees from Minnesota Power were the following: Matt Freudenrich, Dan McCourtney, Barry Gartner, Mike Pontius and David Moeller. Mr. McCourtney is Minnesota Power's designated representative and Mr. Freudenrich is the construction supervisor. Emma Baskerville and Bart Schultz from Houston Engineer, the PSC's third-party construction inspector, were also on the conference call.

In accordance with the PSC Certification, Paragraph 5, Minnesota Power hereby provides the notice that it will commence construction on or about **Thursday, September 26, 2013** for the Bison 4 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 September 25, 2013 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. The Bison 4 storm water permit is being filed concurrently with this notice.

5. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed expectations for the weekly construction report and that Minnesota Power will be filing a combined report with the new Tri-County Substation and the new 230 kV Transmission Line already permitted under PU-11-620. The weekly reports will also be filed with Houston Engineering.

17. Paragraph 17 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.

21. 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.

34. Mr. Lein noted that very minor shifts in turbine locations may be approved at the Staff level.



**APPLICATION (NOTICE OF INTENT) TO OBTAIN
 COVERAGE UNDER NDPDES GENERAL PERMIT
 FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES ASSOCIATED
 WITH CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY (NDR10-0000)**
 NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY
 SFN 19145 (01/10)

FOR DEPT. USE ONLY

Application No.
Date Received

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Owner of Construction Project Minnesota Power	Contact Person Name (Mr / Ms) Daniel McCourtney	Contact Phone No. 218.355.3515
Mailing Address 30 West Superior Street	City Duluth	State/Province MN
		Zip Code 55802
Name of Operator Working at Site (attach additional, if needed) Minnesota Power	Contact Person Name (Mr / Ms) Daniel McCourtney	Contact Phone No. 218.355.3515
Mailing Address 30 West Superior Street	City Duluth	State/Province MN
		Zip Code 55802

PROJECT INFORMATION


Name of Construction Project Bison 4 Wind Energy Conversion Facility			
Brief Description of Construction Activity Minnesota Power is proposing the construction of the Bison 4 Wind Energy Conversion Facility; the project is referred to as the Bison 4 project (Project). The Project, when completed, will generate up to 210 megawatts (MW) of electricity and will use 64 wind turbine generators. Associated permanent facilities include access roads, an electrical collection system, and a meteorological tower.			
Project Start Date September 26, 2013	Estimated Completion Date December 31, 2014	Estimated Total Area of Site (acres) 47,062	Estimated Area of Disturbance (acres) 675
Project Location	Street Address See attached		City
	OR	Township	Range
		Section	County
		1/4	1/4
		1/4	Oliver
	Latitude		Longitude
Receiving Waters	Name of Municipal Storm Sewer System, Including Receiving Water See attached		
	OR	Name or Description of Receiving Water	

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) Requirements

Has a SWPPP been developed in accordance with Part II.C of NDR10-0000?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	STOP: A SWPPP must be prepared and available for review at the time of application. See Part I.D.2 of NDR10-0000 for submittal information.
SWPPP Contact (NDR10-0000, Part II.C.2.a) Rebecca Forman, Merjent	SWPPP Contact Phone No. 651.202.8652	SWPPP Location (NDR10-0000, Part III.B) On-site job trailer

Signature Information

RETURN COMPLETED APPLICATION TO: North Dakota Department of Health Division of Water Quality, 4 th Floor 918 East Divide Avenue Bismarck, ND 58501-1947 Telephone: (701) 328-5210 Fax: (701) 328-5200	I certify under penalty of law that I have personally examined and am familiar with the information submitted herein. Based on my inquiry of those individuals immediately responsible for obtaining the information, I believe the submitted information is true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information including the possibility of fine and imprisonment.	
	Printed Name of Owner(s) Daniel McCourtney	Title Siting and Permitting
	Signature of Owner(s) 	Date 9/19/13
	Printed Name of Operator(s) Daniel McCourtney	Title Siting and Permitting

	Signature of Operator(s) 	Date 9/9/13
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(Attach additional pages if needed)

Bison 4

ID	Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2014												2015											
					Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan		
1	Regulated 208 MW Bison 4	0 days	Wed 8/1/12	Wed 8/1/12																								
2	Balance of Plant - Roads, Crane Pads, Collector Sys, WTG Foundations	290 days	Thu 9/19/13	Tue 10/28/14																								
3	Construction Services	290 days	Thu 9/19/13	Tue 10/28/14																								
4	Balance of Plant	290 days	Thu 9/19/13	Tue 10/28/14																								
5	Mobilization	5 days	Thu 9/19/13	Wed 9/25/13																								
6	Roads and Crane Pads 2013	53 days	Thu 9/26/13	Mon 12/9/13																								
7	Roads and Crane Pads 2014	76 days	Mon 4/14/14	Mon 7/28/14																								
8	Road Restoration	63 days	Mon 8/4/14	Tue 10/28/14																								
9	Foundations	46 days	Mon 9/30/13	Mon 12/2/13																								
10	Collector System & Fiber Optics 2013	40 days	Mon 10/7/13	Fri 11/29/13																								
11	Collector System & Fiber Optics 2014	66 days	Thu 5/1/14	Thu 7/31/14																								
12	Collector Restoration	30 days	Fri 8/1/14	Wed 9/10/14																								
13	Bison & TriCounty Sub Additions	227 days	Wed 9/18/13	Thu 7/31/14																								
14	TriCounty Transmission Line	117 days	Mon 11/4/13	Tue 4/15/14																								
15	Turbine Delivery, Erection, and Commissioning	133 days	Mon 6/30/14	Tue 12/30/14																								
16	Major Wind Turbine Component Delivery	50 days	Mon 6/30/14	Thu 9/4/14																								
17	Erection	67 days	Mon 7/7/14	Mon 10/6/14																								
18	Unit Commissioning	118 days	Mon 7/21/14	Tue 12/30/14																								
19	Anticipated Commercial Operation	0 days	Wed 12/31/14	Wed 12/31/14																								

Bison 4 Date: Thu 9/26/13	Task		Rolled Up Progress		Inactive Task		Duration-only		Progress	
	Milestone		Split		Inactive Task		Manual Summary Rollup		Deadline	
	Summary		External Tasks		Inactive Milestone		Manual Summary			
	Rolled Up Task		Project Summary		Inactive Summary		Start-only			
	Rolled Up Milestone		Group By Summary		Manual Task		Finish-only			