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July 1, 2014

VIA EMAIL: [NDPSC@ND.GOV](mailto:NDPSC@ND.GOV)

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

RE: Bison 4 Wind Project  
Oliver/Morton Counties  
Siting Application  
Case No. PU-13-127

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

On June 26, 2014, Minnesota Power filed an Underground Incident Report in the above-reference case. Attached is additional information regarding that incident in response to a request by North Dakota Public Service Commission Staff for a further explanation.

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr

Attachments

c: Houston Engineering (email-[ebaskerville@houstoneng.com](mailto:ebaskerville@houstoneng.com))  
Mike Pontius, Minnesota Power

73 PU-13-127 Filed: 7/3/2014 Pages: 4  
Additional Information regarding Allete 210MW  
Bison 4 Wind Project – Incident Report



Allete, Inc.  
David Moeller

## **Bison 4 Underground Incident Report – Supplemental Information**

### **Case No. PU-13-127**

Minnesota Power did not meet all of the requirements spelled out in Paragraph 39 of the Site Permit. The Commission was not notified “as soon as reasonably possible”, and we did not wait for “clearance to proceed from the commission”. The delay was the result of a question whether this incident needed to be reported separately from the weekly construction report. All Minnesota Power personnel and contractors at the Bison 4 are now fully aware of the reporting requirements. If there is another incident we will ensure that the notification is timely and work in that area will cease until we are authorized to proceed by the Commission. Minnesota Power apologizes for not fully meeting the requirements of its Site Permit.

North Dakota Century Code Chapter 49-.23 is the code requiring excavators to obtain a one call ticket prior to any excavation, which was done. The code also requires the excavator to notify facility owners if any damage occurs, this was done within minutes of the incident.

Here is the order of events:

6/11/14 Contractor contacted ND One Call and received ticket # 14077596 – shown below.

6/16/14 Excavation work in the locate area began, contractor hand dug to expose fiber optic cable.

Contractor operating the excavator inadvertently collapsed some of the trench back onto the cable and proceeded to cut through the now hidden cable. All activities at that work location stopped, and West River Telephone was immediately notified that their fiber optic cable had been damaged. West River repair crew came to the site within one hour, our contract crews helped West River expose enough fiber optic cable to make the necessary repairs, which were completed in about 2 hours.

The following information is from the internal incident report:

Ground man hand dug and exposed fiber optic line the operator. Operator started excavating around the line. Some of the spoil pile fell back into the trench covering the fiber line. Instead of the ground man hand digging the dirt off to expose the line again, the operator tried mechanically taking the dirt off the line with the bucket, subsequently snagging and breaking the fiber optic line in half. The operator was given 3 days off without pay.

**NORTH DAKOTA ONE-CALL**

Request #: 14077596          LORQ ROUTINE

Send To: MPARRI01   Seq No: 1   Map Ref:

Original Call Date: 6/11/14   Time: 5:27 PM CT   Op: webusr

Work to Begin Date: 6/16/14   Time: 7:00 AM CT

Transmit    Date: 6/11/14   Time: 6:12 PM CT   Op: webusr

County: OLIVER          Place: WEST OLIVER UT

Address:          Street: 29TH ST SW

Nearest Intersecting Street: 51ST AVE SW

Type of Work: INSTALLATION OF UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC SERVICE Work Being Done For: MINNESOTA POWER

Depth: 48INCHES          Explosives: N    Tnling/Boring: N

Extent of Work: SECTION 33. T141N R86W. COLLECTION OF UNDERGROUND POWER

: ENTERS THE SECTION IN THE SOUTHEAST CORNER. THE ROUTE CONTINUES NORTH

: PASSING THROUGH TOWERS 415, 416, AND 417 AND EXITS INTO SECTION 28.

: COLLECTION ROUTES CAN BE CONFUSING. MAPS ARE AVAILABLE. THE UNDERGROUND

: POWER WILL BE MARKED WITH ORANGE STAKES WITH WHITE FLAGGING. MARK ALL

: UTILITIES THAT WOULD CROSS OR PARALLEL EXCAVATION WITHIN 100 FEET. TOP SOIL

: WILL BE STRIPPED 10 INCHES AND TRENCH WILL BE 48 INCHES DEEP. CONTACT INFO

: IS AS FOLLOWS, [ACASE@HENKELS.COM](mailto:ACASE@HENKELS.COM) 989-944-3235.

Remarks: CALLER REQUESTS AREA BE MARKED WITH PAINT AND FLAGS

: WORK TO BEGIN MONDAY

Twp: 141N    Rng: 86W    Sect-Qtr: 34-SW-NW,33,32-SE-NE,29-SE-NE,28,27-SW-\*W,2

Twp:          Rng:          Sect-Qtr:

Ex. Coord NW Lat: 47.0107078Lon: -101.5959611SE Lat: 46.9814654Lon: -101.5735001

Company : HENKELS & MCCOY, INC.

Fax:

Contact Name: ADAM CASE

(989)944-3235

Alt. Contact: ZAK KAVAJECZ

Phone: (701)301-2246

Caller Address: 985 JOLLY ROAD

Call Back:

BLUE BELL, PA 19422

RRIDER01 WRVRCM01