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September 19, 2014



VIA EMAIL and U.S. MAIL

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

RE: Minnesota Power's Application for a Corridor
Certificate and Route Permit for a DC Line
Reroute in Cass County, North Dakota
Case No. PU-14-121

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed are ten paper copies of Minnesota Power's Notice of Construction Commencement Date and notes from the Preconstruction Conference Meeting held on September 17, 2014.

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

Yours truly,

David R. Moeller

DRM:sr
Enc.
cc: Jerry Lein



State of North Dakota Public Service Commission

Notes from Preconstruction Conference Notice of Construction Commencement Date

ALLETE, Inc. d/b/a Minnesota Power
250 kV DC Trans Line Reroute Cass County
Case No. PU-14-121

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 17, 2014 at approximately 3:30 p.m. Attendees from Minnesota Power were the following: Dan McCourtney, Kyle Larson, Craig Kvale, and David Moeller. Mr. McCourtney is Minnesota Power's designated representative and Mr. Larson is the construction supervisor. The PSC will designate a third-party construction inspector as soon as possible.

In accordance with the PSC Certification, Paragraph 5, Minnesota Power hereby provides the notice that it will commence construction on or about **Monday, September 22, 2014** for the DC Line Reroute Project.

Mr. Lein and representatives of Minnesota Power discussed each paragraph of the PSC's Certification that is attached to the Order approved dated July 10, 2014. Except as noted below, there was no further discussion or clarification necessary on specific Certification paragraphs.

5. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed expectations for the weekly construction report given the staggered construction schedule for this project. The weekly reports will also be filed with third-party construction inspector.
13. Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed the need for communication with local township officials regarding the use of gravel roads.
19. Regarding the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications, Minnesota Power and Mr. Lein discussed a clarification that Paragraph 8 of that Section related to clearing more than 50 feet is not applicable where Minnesota Power must clear the entire Right-of-Way width, which is standard practice consistent with NERC and other requirements.
27. Mr. Lein clarified that any event that meets the criteria in Paragraph 27 requires an immediate notification to the PSC and not to wait for the weekly construction report.
35. Mr. Lein emphasized that any damage as set forth in Paragraph 35 requires not only notification, but that Minnesota Power must wait for PSC clearance to proceed with construction.