



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

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November 1, 2016

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David R. Moeller
Senior Attorney
Minnesota Power, An Allete Company
30 West Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802-2093

RE: Post Construction Inspection, Case No. PU-14-121

Dear Mr. Moeller:

The North Dakota Public Service Commission retained a third-party vendor to conduct a post construction inspection under the authority provided in the above referenced case. Below we provide a weblink to the third-party post construction inspection report for your review and a link to the Commission's order in this proceeding. We also list actions recommended in the post construction inspection report for follow-up by the Company to confirm compliance with the Commission order.

As per the post construction inspection report, the following actions should be undertaken with information documenting these actions provided to the Commission:

- Final as-built design specifications, drawings and associated GIS files. (Certification Relating to Order Provision 32)
- Verification of removal of old transmission line structures with reclamation of the area (Certification Relating to Order Provision 16)
- Removal and proper disposal of concrete waste left on site (Certification Relating to Order Provision 24)
- Pre and post-construction aviation monitoring studies (Certification Relating to Order Provisions 27 and 28)
- Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specification No. 15 requires a survival rate of 75 percent after three years and if the survival rate is less than 75 percent, the Commission may order additional planting(s). The Company's 2016 Tree and Shrub Survival Report was received on September 30, 2016 and shows great survival rates. I assume that the Company will continue to report on the status of surviving trees and shrubs in the fall of 2017 and 2018. If after three years, if the 75 percent survival rate isn't achieved, the Company may need to take additional mitigation efforts.

The construction report can be found at:

<http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/14-0121/031-020.pdf>

The Commission Order can be found at:

<http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/14-0121/018-040.pdf>

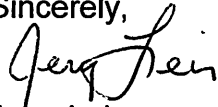
The Certification Relating to Order Provisions and Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications can be found at:

<http://www.psc.nd.gov/database/documents/14-0121/016-010.pdf>

Please forward your response confirming the activities that are complete and describe actions and timelines for activities that are not complete. Please provide this documentation within 30 days, absent the reporting on trees and shrubs which can be completed at the end of the growing season.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact me at 701-328-1035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerry Lein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

Jerry Lein
Public Utility Analyst