

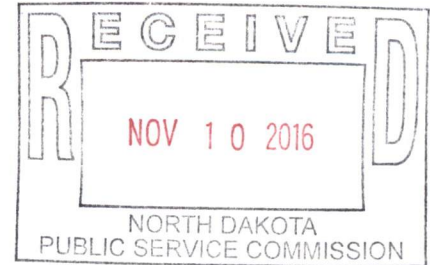


AN ALLETE COMPANY

Environmental Services

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November 10, 2016



North Dakota Public Service Commission
Public Utilities Division
600 E Boulevard Ave, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Subject: DC Transmission Line Reroute Project
Case No. PU-14-121
Final Construction Inspection

Attn: Mr. Jerry Lein
North Dakota Public Service Commission

Mr. Lein,

This letter is written in response to the North Dakota Public Service Commission's (PSC) Minnesota Power 250 kV DC Transmission Line Reroute Post-Construction Inspection Report PU-13-103 (report) filed in June 2016. The report was prepared by Wenck Associates, Inc. 301 1st Street NE, Suite 202, Mandan, ND 58554.

The following are excerpts are from page 4-1 of the report that lists each specification requiring Minnesota Power's elaboration and response:

4.1 PROJECT SPECIFICATIONS NEEDING WRITTEN VERIFICATION

Necessary Items

- *As-built design specifications and associated GIS files*

Potential Items

- *Verification of compliance with the National Electric Safety Code*
- *Removal and proper disposal of concrete waste left on site*
- *Ten-Year Plan*
- *Pre and post-construction aviation monitoring studies*
- *Tree and Shrub Survival Report*

Minnesota Power's response to each project specification is as follows:

Specification:

- *As-Built Design Specifications and GIS Files*

MP Response:

- ✓ Minnesota Power has included the As-Built design locations and GIS Files with the enclosed CD that can be filed in the permit docket.

Specification:

- *Verification of compliance with the National Electric Safety Code*

MP Response:

- ✓ The design criteria utilized within Minnesota Power's PLS-CADD model for this transmission line was formulated to meet or exceed the basic requirements established by the National Electric Safety Code (NESC). To ensure the facility was constructed in accordance with the design, and hence the NESC, Minnesota Power utilized several inspectors and surveyors during construction.

Specification:

- *Removal and proper disposal of concrete waste left on site*

MP Response:

- ✓ Minnesota Power removed all concrete waste off site post construction. The small amount of concrete waste found was not generated by Minnesota Power.

Specification:

- *Ten-Year Plan*

MP Response:

- ✓ Minnesota Power submitted its 10 year plan with the North Dakota Public Service Commission on June 30, 2016.

Specification:

- *Pre and post-construction aviation monitoring studies*

MP Response:

- ✓ Minnesota Power consulted with the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department and determined that pre- and post-construction avian monitoring studies were not necessary for a project of this size and scope.

Specification:

- *Tree and Shrub Survival Report*

MP Response:

- ✓ Minnesota Power filed its 2016 Tree and Shrub Survival Report under the project docket on September 30, 2016.

4.2 ABANDONED/REMOVED STRUCTURES

It appeared that there might be some areas where the previous structures were removed that were not reclaimed properly. Wenck recommends that the PSC request documentation from MP showing that all old structures along the original alignment were fully removed and reclaimed.

MP Response:

Minnesota Power reclaimed all removed structure locations based on landowner preference. All reclamation activities performed were in accordance to landowner direction.

If any additional information is required by the PSC please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel P. McCourtney
Siting and Permitting

DPM:sr

cc: David Moeller
Brian Maslowski
Craig Kvale