minnesota power

AN ALLETE COMPANY

July 17, 2025

**VIA E-FILING AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

Steve Kahl
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 E. Boulevard Ave
Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-048
Via email to ndpsc@nd.gov

**Re:** *In the Matter of the Application of Minnesota Power for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for a High Voltage Transmission Line for the HVDC Modernization Project in Center, ND*
Case No. PU-24-381

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Minnesota Power encloses for filing an original and four (4) copies of this letter and the July 16, 2025 preconstruction meeting minutes for Minnesota Power's HVDC Modernization Project held pursuant to Provision 7 of the Certification Relating to Order Provisions attached and incorporated into the Order issued by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) on June 4, 2025. Electronic versions of the same were filed with the Commission today via e-mail.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. Please feel free to contact me at 218-355-3515 if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

Daniel McCourtney
Manager- Strategic Environmental Initiatives
ALLETE/Minnesota Power

Enclosures

cc: Adam Renfandt (via e-mail)

**Minnesota Power HVDC Modernization Project – Oliver County**
**North Dakota Public Service Commission Case No. PU-24-381**
Preconstruction Meeting Minutes
Date/Time: July 16, 2025, 1:30 p.m. central time

**Attendees and Contact Info:**
Minnesota Power (MP)

- Dan McCourtney: Manager- Strategic Environmental Initiatives 218.355.3515
- Kyle Larson: Senior Construction Manager 218.355.2454
- Ron Ulseth: Project Manager 218.355.6748

North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC)

- Adam Renfandt - PSC Analyst 701.328.4153

SEH, LLC (Third-Party PSC Inspector)

- Dalton Jorgenson - Graduate Engineer 701.354.5618
- Loretta Marshik - Project Manager 701.354.5619

**Meeting Minutes:**
Meeting started at 1:35 p.m., with introductions from participants. After introductions, Mr. Renfandt reviewed the NDSPC Order for Case PU-24-381, and the Minnesota Power Certification Relating to Order Provisions. Specific Order Provisions covered in the review included:

- Minnesota Power to file copies of the Dakota skipper survey report once completed.
- All non-NDPSC permits will need to be filed under the ND PSC case docket.
- Topsoil removal will need to be stripped, segregated
- MP to coordinate topsoil removal with the third-party inspector (SEH).
- Any frozen topsoil removal procedures will need to be approved by the Commission.
- MP is required to file with the Commission a monthly construction status report.
- All postconstruction restoration will need to comply with NRCS specifications.
- Trees and shrubs removed during construction will need to be inventoried and replaced.
- All landowners that have easements will need to be sent notice prior to construction.
- MP will be expected to keep the third-party inspector informed of the project status.
- Upon completion of construction, GIS as-builts will need to be filed.
- Route adjustments have unique filing requirements specified in the Certification.

SEH is the third-party inspector, Dalton Jorgenson will be the primary point of contact. SEH will be performing topsoil, construction, and final/remediation inspections. SEH will want MP to coordinate those inspections.

Converter equipment will be delivered and constructed on-site.

The meeting concluded at approximately 1:58 p.m.