

December 11, 2024

**VIA E-MAIL AND FEDERAL EXPRESS**

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

**RE: In the Matter of the Consolidated Application of Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for a HVDC Modernization Project in Oliver County, North Dakota  
Case No. PU-24-\_\_\_\_**

**and**

**In the Matter of the Consolidated Application of Great River Energy for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for a HVDC Modernization Project in Oliver County, North Dakota  
Case No. PU-24-\_\_\_\_**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed for filing on behalf of Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., and Great River Energy are two (2) copies of this letter and the following documents:

1. Application for Protection of Information;
2. A Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Minnesota Power HVDC Modernization Project, Oliver County, North Dakota (NON-PUBLIC); and
3. Addendum: A Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of Minnesota Power's HVDC Modernization Project (NON-PUBLIC); and
4. Archaeological Site Testing for Minnesota Power's HVDC Modernization Project (NON-PUBLIC).

Non-public GIS data associated with the above cultural resource reports is provided on the enclosed USB drive.

Electronic copies of this letter and the Application for Protection of Information were filed with the Commission today via e-mail. Electronic and hard copies of the redacted public version of the above-referenced reports provided with the above-referenced Consolidated Application.

Mr. Steven Kahl  
December 11, 2024  
Page 2

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mollie M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

MMS/ms/83582209  
Enclosures

MOLLIE M. SMITH

cc: Victor Schock (via e-mail)  
Brian Johnson (via e-mail)

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION OF  
MINNESOTA POWER FOR A  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR  
COMPATIBILITY AND ROUTE PERMIT  
FOR HVDC MODERNIZATION PROJECT  
IN OLIVER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. PU-24-\_\_\_\_\_

IN THE MATTER OF THE  
CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION OF  
GREAT RIVER ENERGY FOR A  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR  
COMPATIBILITY AND ROUTE PERMIT  
FOR HVDC MODERNIZATION PROJECT  
IN OLIVER COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. PU-24-\_\_\_\_\_

---

**Application of Minnesota Power and Great River Energy  
for Protection of Information**

---

Pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) § 69-02-09-01, Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., and Great River Energy (together, Applicants) submit this application to protect from disclosure certain confidential information filed with the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) in the above-captioned matters. The purpose of this application for protection of information is to protect from public disclosure cultural resource location information pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) § 49-22-26 (“The [C]ommission may limit access to, and release of, information that contains data that specifically identifies the location of cultural, archaeological, historical, or paleontological sites.”).

Specifically, the Applicants request that protection be given to the cultural resource location information contained in the cultural resource reports provided in support of Applicants’ Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit, filed concurrently. Specifically, the Applicants request that the unredacted, nonpublic versions of the

reports be available only to the Commission, the Commission's counsel, the Commission's siting analysts, and the Administrative Law Judge (should one be designated).

Two (2) hard copies of the unredacted, nonpublic versions of the following reports are being provided with this request:

- *A Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of the Minnesota Power HVDC Modernization Project, Oliver County, North Dakota;*
- *Addendum: A Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory of Minnesota Power's HVDC Modernization Project; and*
- *Archaeological Site Testing for Minnesota Power's HVDC Modernization Project.*

Also provided is a USB drive containing nonpublic GIS data. The redacted public versions of the reports are provided in Appendix F to the Applicants' Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit.

Dated this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.

FREDRIKSON & BYRON, P.A.

By   
MOLLIE M. SMITH, ND Bar #06714  
BRIDGET A. DUFFUS, ND Bar #09235  
*Attorney for Minnesota Power and Great River  
Energy*  
60 South Sixth Street, Suite 1500  
Minneapolis, MN 55402-4400  
(612) 492-7270  
msmith@fredlaw.com