



**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
600 E BOULEVARD AVE, DEPT 602  
BISMARCK, ND 58505-0020

DOUG GOEHRING  
COMMISSIONER

May 8, 2026

Chairman Randy Christmann  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

RE: Case No. PU-25-304  
(202.5 MW Longspur Wind Project – Morton Cty / Siting Application)

Dear Chairman Christmann,

Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc., (Minn Pwr) is working with the North Dakota Department of Agriculture (NDDA) to mitigate potential adverse environmental impacts in relation to the proposed construction and operation of the Longspur Wind Project (Project).

The Project is an approximate 202.5-megawatt wind energy conversion facility located in Morton County, North Dakota. Minn Pwr has proposed in good faith to provide voluntary compensatory mitigation offsets.

A fair and transparent basis for cooperatively estimating an appropriate compensatory mitigation offset of similar habitat for the Project was calculated using a multi-step formula. NDDA will oversee and guide the design and delivery of the mitigation offsets on working lands in North Dakota on behalf of Minn Pwr.

Minn Pwr has voluntarily agreed to contribute two hundred and thirty thousand dollars (\$230,000.00) as compensatory mitigation offset to the Environmental Impact Mitigation Fund (Fund) pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-09.2. This \$230,000 contribution is currently projected to be deposited into the Fund in two equal installment payments – one when Minn Pwr files with PSC a Notice of Intent to Start Construction of the Project and the second when the Project becomes commercially operational.

The funds from Minn Pwr's contribution shall be expended in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 4.1-01-21.1. NDDA may be able to lower mitigation administrative and overhead costs, as appropriate, by partnering with State and local government conservation agencies and others to assist in implementing appropriate mitigation efforts.

We expect to complete all mitigation offsets within five (5) years of completing construction of the Project and it becoming operational.

I believe these cooperative mitigation offset efforts under N.D.C.C. § 4.1-01-21.1 – to create, restore, or mitigate similar habitat affected by the construction or operation of an energy conversion or transmission facility – will collectively appropriately mitigate potential environmental impacts in relation to the construction and operation of the Project.

Please let me know if you need any additional information.



Doug Goehring  
Agriculture Commissioner

cc: Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart  
Commissioner Jill Kringstad  
Director Jeb Williams, North Dakota Game & Fish Department