

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Minnesota Power
202.5 MW Longspur Wind Project – Morton Cty
Siting Application

Case No. PU-25-304

Minnesota Power
Longspur Wind 230kV Trans Ln – Morton & Mercer Cty
Siting Application

Case No. PU-25-305

STAFF RESPONSE TO APPLICATION FOR PROTECTION OF INFORMATION

On June 19, 2026, Minnesota Power (the Company) filed an Application for Protection of Information to protect certain information in the captioned cases.

On December 30, 2025, Minnesota Power filed an Application for a Certificate of Site Compatibility (PU-25-304) and a Consolidated Application for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit (PU-25-305). Subsequently, on January 22, 2026, Minnesota Power filed a Class I and Class III Cultural Resources Inventory Report with the Commission. Case No. PU-25-304, Docket No. 7, Attachment B; Case No. PU-25-305, Docket No. 7, Attachment C. On May 6, 2026, Minnesota Power filed a Class I and III Cultural Resource Survey Addendum and an Architectural and Viewshed Report with the Commission. Case No. PU-25-304, Docket No. 26, Attachments A & B; Case No. PU-25-305, Docket No. 28, Attachments A & B. The three reports referenced above are collectively referred to herein as the "Public Reports". The Public Reports contain confidential information identifying the location of cultural, archaeological, historical, or paleontological sites and thus redacted copies were provided to the Commission. Subsequently, at the public hearing in the above-referenced matter, Minnesota Power received a request to file the confidential, unredacted versions of the Public Reports.

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Applicants submit this application to protect certain confidential information filed in this matter from disclosure. Specifically, this application seeks protection of the location of certain cultural, archaeological, historical, or paleontological sites under N.D.C.C. § 49-22-26. Section 49-22-26 provides the Commission "may limit access to, and release of, information that contains data that specifically identifies the location of cultural, archaeological, historical, or paleontological sites." Therefore, Applicants request that protection be given to the redacted portions of the resource and site location information contained in the Public Reports.

Staff believes that the Company's application satisfies the requirements of the North Dakota Century Code for protection of the information, which is the subject of this request.

For reasons set forth above, Staff recommends that the Commission grant the application of Minnesota Power, to protect certain information filed in the captioned case.

Dated this 3rd day of August 2026.



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