

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION  
OF MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE,  
INC., FOR A CERTIFICATE OF  
CORRIDOR COMPATIBILITY AND  
ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE AGASSIZ  
TRANSMISSION LINE AND  
SUBSTATION IN CASS COUNTY,  
NORTH DAKOTA

CASE NO. PU-26-22

**SITE PLAN MODIFICATION TO MINNKOTA POWER COOPERATIVE, INC.'S  
CONSOLIDATED APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE OF CORRIDOR  
COMPATIBILITY AND ROUTE PERMIT FOR THE AGASSIZ TRANSMISSION LINE  
AND SUBSTATION IN CASS COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA**

Pursuant to N.D.C.C. Chapter 49-22, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (MPC) submits this memorandum detailing proposed modifications to the Agassiz Transmission Line and Substation (Project) Site Plan. The modifications primarily occur within the proposed corridor, with an underground fiber optic line and approximately 0.34 acres of additional temporary workspace (ATWS) outside the proposed corridor for a transmission line pullback-tensioning site. The Project Site Plan modifications include modifications requested by the engineering and construction team as plans have been refined and are depicted on Exhibit A.

**I. Agassiz Substation Site Plan Revisions**

a. Stormwater Management

In MPC's initial application for the Project, the original design for stormwater management at the substation site included a stormwater swale surrounding the substation pad. Since that time, geotechnical and drainage analysis indicated that a swale would require substantial fill in the substation pad to achieve the necessary grading and longitudinal slope to convey surface runoff via gravity flow to the detention basin. The use of detention ponds on the northern and southern

boundaries of the substation pad was found to substantially reduce the amount of fill needed for effective stormwater management. Culverts will be installed beneath the proposed access drives to maintain uninterrupted stormwater conveyance and hydraulic continuity.

b. Underground Fiber Optic Line

For purposes of a redundant fiber communications pathway to improve reliability and safety between Agassiz, Maple River, and Bison substation, it is proposed to install a permanent underground fiber optic line between the Agassiz substation and the existing MPC owned Maple River-Winger 230kV transmission line immediately northwest of the Agassiz substation. The line is approximately 2,000 feet long, emerging within the substation site and transmission structure no. 26. All work will occur within MPC's legacy right of way for its Maple River-Winger 230kV line and Agassiz substation property as depicted on Exhibit A.

c. Access Drive

The original Project Site Plan proposed a permanent access drive on the eastern portion of the substation property that would connect to 45<sup>th</sup> Street North. MPC has been informed this portion of 45<sup>th</sup> Street North may be vacated and unable to be used and developed as a permanent access point. Two proposed permanent access drives are planned to connect the substation to 64th Ave North while the eastern access drive will only be used temporarily.

d. Substation Temporary Workspace

In the initial Project application, the uses of the temporary workspace location west of the substation pad of the substation site were not identified. The constructing planning team has proposed this workspace be used for temporary crew and visitor parking, temporary construction buildings, an offloading zone, a materials staging and rebar tying area, and an overflow materials staging area. This area is identified as the "Matted Area" on Exhibit A. The proposed uses for this

workspace will not affect the placement of permanent infrastructure. Vehicles and material will be moved as needed during stringing of the overhead lines.

## **II. Agassiz Transmission Line**

### **a. Additional Temporary Workspace Outside Corridor**

Due to the length and complexity of the transmission line installation across Interstate 29, the BNSF Railroad, and County Road 81, a longer pullback-tensioning site southwest of Structure 6AB may become necessary for safety and constructability. The additional 0.34-acre workspace, as shown on Exhibit A, is predominately located in cultivated farmland on MPC owned property and within the right of way for their existing transmission line. MPC has also coordinated with the adjacent landowner for a temporary construction easement. Following construction, MPC will pay for resulting crop damages and the ATWS will be restored and returned to cultivation in accordance with the terms of the temporary construction easement.

## **III. Study Area and Surveys**

The proposed Project corridor, as outlined in MPC's application, does not cross any exclusion or avoidance areas. In addition, MPC conducted a cultural survey in 2026 on the ATWS outside of the proposed corridor and found no cultural resources present. MPC anticipates completing consultation with the North Dakota State Historic Preservation Office prior to April 3 with a finding of no significant sites affected. No exclusion or avoidance areas are to be impacted by the proposed modifications.

## **IV. Conclusion**

The Project Site Plan modifications comply with the Commissioner's Exclusion, Avoidance, Selection, and Policy Criteria and are presented herein in compliance with N.D.C.C. Ch. 49-22.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2026.

VOGEL LAW FIRM

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