

September 30, 2026

VIA E-MAIL AND FEDEX

Mr. Brian Johnson
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 North Plains Connector LLC
for a Certificate of Corridor Compatibility and Route Permit for the North
Plains Connector Transmission Project in Golden Valley, Slope, Hettinger,
Grant, Morton, and Oliver Counties, North Dakota
Case No. PU-26-82**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Enclosed for filing in connection with the above-referenced matter are an original and seven (7) copies (eight (8) total) of this filing letter and the following:

1. Proposed Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order;
2. Late-Filed Hearing Exhibit 17: Route Adjustments;
3. Late-Filed Hearing Exhibit 18: EMF Information; and
4. Landowner Structure Acknowledgement.

At the September 1, 2026 Technical Hearing, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (“Commission”) requested an update on the status of the federal and Montana permitting processes, which is provided below:

The Department of Energy (“DOE”) and Montana Department of Environmental Quality (“Montana DEQ”) jointly published a Final Environmental Impact Statement (“FEIS”) on Friday, August 28, 2026, concluding an approximately twenty-two month review of the North Plains Connector Transmission Project (“North Plains Connector”) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”) and Montana Environmental Policy Act (“MEPA”). In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife is consulting on the North Plains Connector subject to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act and is anticipated to publish its Biological Opinion in early October. Following publication of the Biological Opinion, the

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DOE, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agricultural Research Service, are expected to issue Records of Decision and right-of-way grants or special permits, as applicable, in early October.

On September 22, 2026, the Montana DEQ issued Findings Necessary for Certification and Opinion (“Certificate of Compliance”) certifying that the design, location, construction, operation, maintenance, and decommissioning of the Montana portion of the North Plains Connector complies with the Montana Major Facility Siting Act.

Please note that we are sending copies of the enclosed documents directly to Ms. Hogan and Mr. Pelham, with the remaining six copies being delivered to the Commission. Also enclosed in the submission to the Commission is a USB drive containing GIS data (public data only) pertaining to the Route and Corridor Adjustments (Late-Filed Hearing Exhibit 17).

Electronic copies of this letter and the above-referenced proposed hearing exhibits were filed with the Commission today via e-mail.

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.

MOLLIE M. SMITH

MMS/92672994
Enclosures

cc: Hope Hogan (via e-mail and FedEx)
Zachary Pelham (via e-mail and FedEx)
Brant Johnson (via e-mail)
D.J. Worth (via e-mail)