

May 11, 2026

**VIA EMAIL & HAND-DELIVERY**

Mr. Brian Johnson  
Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
600 E. Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480  
ndpsc@nd.gov

**Re: Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.  
Maple River—Bison 345 kV Transmission Line  
OPGW Installation  
Case No.: PU-26-\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please accept for filing Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.'s (MPC) Certification Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code § 49-22-03(4)(a)(4) relating to the installation of optical ground wire (OPGW) on the Maple River—Bison Line.

The Maple River—Bison Line is a 345kV electric transmission line spanning approximately 12 miles from the Maple River substation to the Bison substation in Cass County, North Dakota. Prior to the construction of the Bison substation, the line was originally known as the Maple River—Jamestown Line, the construction of which occurred prior to April 9, 1975. Accordingly, for purposes of the North Dakota Energy Conversion and Transmission Facility Siting Act, a corridor width of 350 feet on either side of the existing centerline applies pursuant to N.D.C.C. § 49-22-03(4)(a)(1)(c) (Legacy Corridor).

The Bison substation was developed as part of the Fargo—St. Cloud 345kV CapX2020 Transmission Line Project, the approval of which was received on September 12, 2012. Case No. PU-07-759.117.

The scope of the proposed project consists of replacing overhead static wire with OPGW to improve regional transmission reliability, communication, and electrical service. The OPGW is predominately an overhead wire and does not require significant disturbance of the ground. Anticipated ground disturbance is limited to the burial of the OPGW at the Maple River and Bison substation sites.

A map depicting the location of the existing centerline and Legacy Corridor is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**. MPC's construction activities will be conducted wholly within the Legacy Corridor and the approved corridor of the Bison substation. MPC holds all property rights necessary to complete the project.

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MPC, along with its consultant, Burns and McDonnell, conducted an environmental and cultural analysis of the proposed project and determined the installation of OPGW will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance area. The State Historical Society of North Dakota issued a letter dated February 10, 2026 for the Bison substation and another letter dated March 9, 2026 for the Maple River substation, finding no impacts to significant sites related to the installation of OPGW. Those letters are attached hereto as **Exhibit B and C**, respectively.

In accordance with North Dakota Century Code § 49-22-03(4)(a)(4), enclosed please find a notarized certification indicating the planned improvement activities for the Maple River—Bison Line will not affect any known exclusion or avoidance areas as defined in in North Dakota Administrative Code 69-06-08-02 (1) and (2) and that MPC will comply will all applicable conditions and protections in the siting laws and rules.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Johnson", written in a cursive style.

Bennett L. Johnson

Enclosures

cc: Samuel Schmitz, MPC