

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

[Date], 2009

CONTACT: Michael Hennes
Project Manager
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc
mhennes@minnkota.com

Kevin Fee
Communications Supervisor
Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
kfee@minnkota.com

Minnkota publishes updated study corridors for the Center to Grand Forks transmission line project

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – In April 2009, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., announced a major transmission line project required to secure additional energy from Milton R. Young 2, a 455-megawatt (MW) coal-fired plant near Center, N.D., owned by Square Butte Electric Cooperative.

Public open houses to announce the Project were held earlier this year in Washburn, Wing, Carrington, Cooperstown and Grand Forks, N.D. Since that time, the study corridors have been revised; notable changes include:

- Eliminating a corridor that included Regan, Wing, and Tuttle, N.D.
- Eliminating a corridor that included Washburn, N.D.
- Expanding the study area between Center and Wilton, N.D.

To share these changes with the area most impacted, Minnkota is hosting another open house in Center, N.D., to display the updated maps, answer questions and address concerns.

Public Open House
August 20, 2009, 6 – 9 P.M.
Center Civic Center Building
312 N Lincoln Ave
Center, ND 58530

A map of the updated study corridors can be found on the Internet at www.minnkota.com; look for the Center to Grand Forks project link. Comments and questions on the Project can be sent to the Project Manager via a toll free project hotline at (800-473-5679) or posted on the web page.

Project background

Currently, the output from Young 2 is purchased under contract by Minnkota and Minnesota Power, with each utility receiving approximately 50 percent. Electricity generated by Young 2 flows over a direct current (DC), 465-mile transmission line from Center to Duluth, Minn., where it is converted back to alternating current (AC) for further transmission into the Minnesota Power and Minnkota service areas.

Minnesota Power will take 100 percent ownership of the existing DC line and DC/AC conversion facilities in early 2010, and will utilize the line to deliver additional wind energy that Minnesota Power plans to develop near the Young Station. Starting in 2013, Minnkota will begin receiving increasing allocations of Young 2 energy until the year 2026, when Minnkota will purchase 100 percent of the Young 2 output.

Additional information on the Center to Grand Forks transmission line project, as well as the updated study corridors map, can be found at www.minnkota.com; look for the Center to Grand Forks project link.