

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**April 24, 2009**

**CONTACT: Michael Hennes**  
**Project Manager**  
**Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc**  
**[mhennes@minnkota.com](mailto:mhennes@minnkota.com)**

## **Minnkota announces transmission line project**

GRAND FORKS, N.D. – Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Grand Forks, N.D., announces 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.

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 to Duluth additional wind energy the utility 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.

To bring the energy generated by Young 2 into the Red River Valley, Minnkota will construct a new 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line from Center to Grand Forks. Building the new transmission line will enable the existing DC transmission line from the Milton R. Young Station to carry more renewable wind energy.

With construction schedule to start in late 2010, this project is planned to be completed in the first quarter of 2013. Minnkota is actively working to obtain all the federal, state, and local permits required for the new transmission line.

Minnkota is dedicated to providing accurate and timely information regarding this project to the surrounding communities and landowners. A series of public meetings are scheduled in May to share information regarding the Center to Grand Forks project.

**Meeting dates and locations:**

Washburn:

Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Headwaters Fort Mandan Visitors Center

838 28th Avenue West

Washburn, ND 58577

Tuttle/Wing:

Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Wing Public School, Lunchroom

4th and Main

Wing, ND 58494

Carrington:

Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

5:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Chieftain Conference Center

Highway 281

Carrington, ND 58421

Cooperstown:  
Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Griggs County Central High School, Gymnasium  
1207 Foster Avenue NE  
Cooperstown, ND 58425

Grand Forks:  
Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 PM – 8:00 PM  
Red River High School, Commons, Door #1  
2211 17th Ave. S.  
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Opportunities for public involvement will occur throughout the project. Those unable to attend the meetings may send their comments and questions to the Project Manager or they may contact the toll free project hotline at (800-473-5679). Meetings are held in buildings that are accessible to persons with disabilities. Additional information on the Center to Grand Forks transmission line project can be found on the web at [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com); look for the Center to Grand Forks project link.