

## Center to Grand Forks Project

**Minnkota Power**  
MPC COOPERATIVE, INC.



# U.S. Department of Agriculture

## Rural Utilities Service Public Open House Meeting

The purpose of this meeting is to:

- Provide information on the Center to Grand Forks Project
- Answer questions
- Identify public comments regarding potential environmental concerns



# Rural Utilities Service (RUS)

- A federal agency within the U.S. Department of Agriculture
- Provides financing for the installation, expansion and modernization of rural electric systems
- Is the lead Federal agency for this proposed project



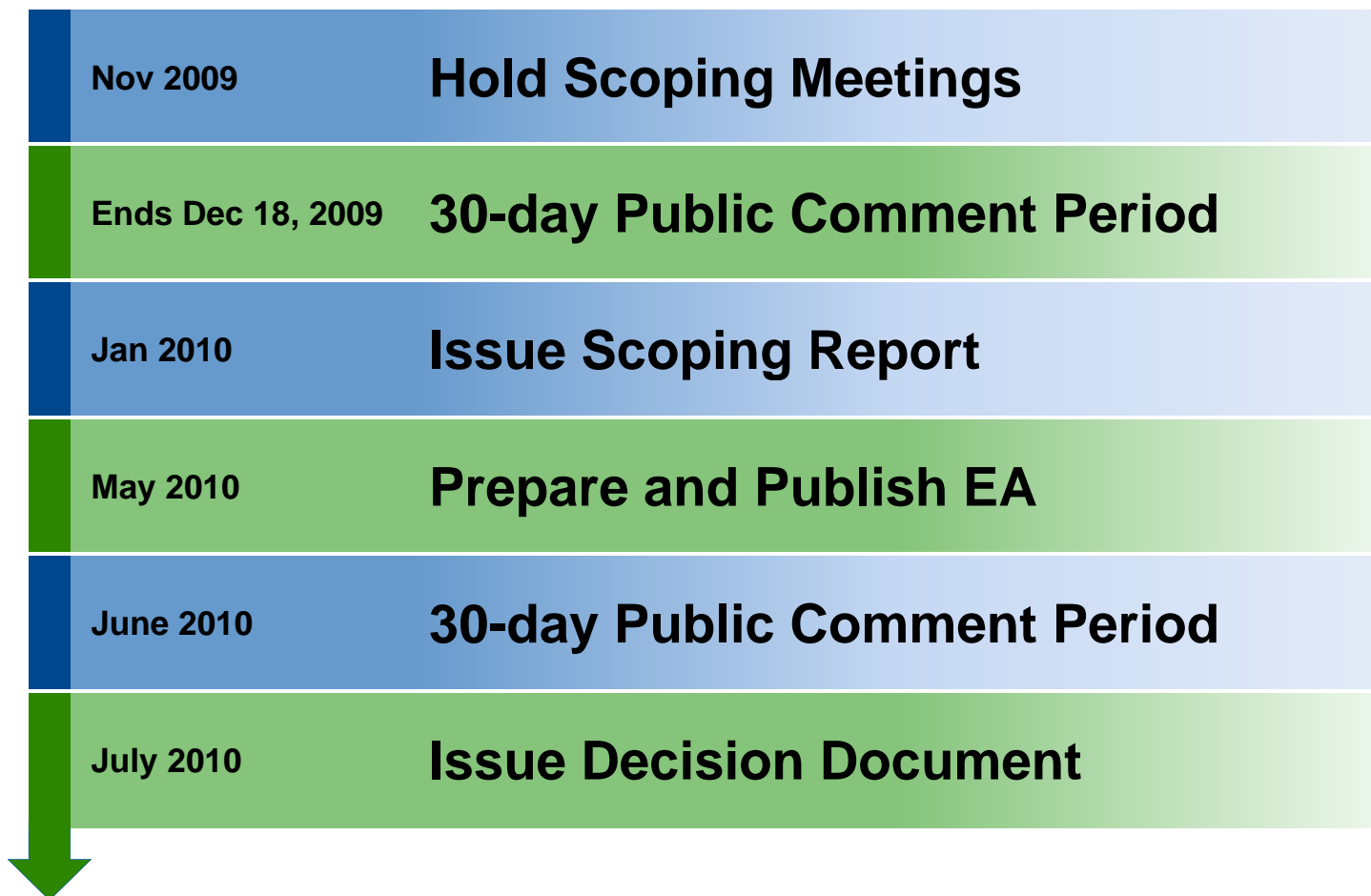
# National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Requirements

- RUS is required to conduct an environmental review before it makes a financing decision.
  - Results will guide decisions related to human and environmental aspects such as wetlands, endangered species, cultural resources, land use and water.
- Comments collected from this open house and scoping period will be considered during the environmental review.



# Environmental Assessment (EA) Process

Anticipated Timeline



Center to Grand Forks Project

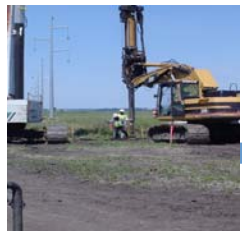
# Center to Grand Forks Project

A redistribution of existing power that eliminates the need for a new coal-fired plant

- Calls for 260 miles of new transmission from Center, N.D. to Grand Forks, N.D.
- Allows for the development of more North Dakota wind energy
- Construction is anticipated to begin in 2011



# Transmission Line Construction



Auger Holes for Footings



Pour and Set Foundation



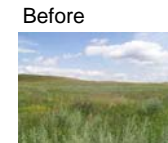
Erect Poles



Replace and Regrade Fill



String the Wire



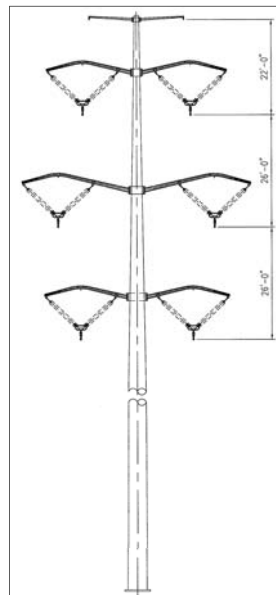
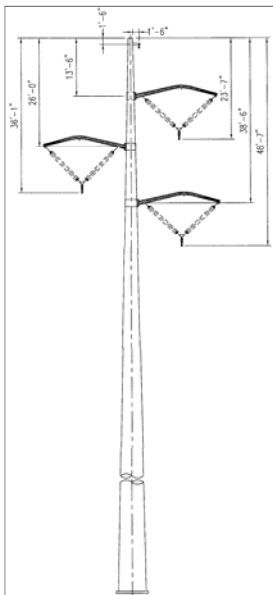
Before



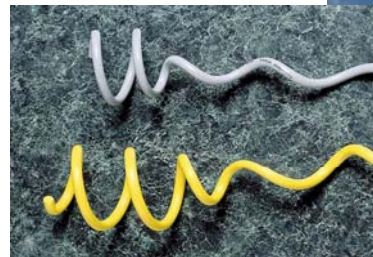
After

Restore ROW and Energize Transmission Line

## Typical 345kV Structures



## Preventing Bird Collision



Bird flight diverters make the line look larger to flying birds

Center to Grand Forks Project

# Your Participation is Important

Submit written comments at this meeting or directly to:

Dennis Rankin  
USDA Rural Utilities Service  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20250–1571  
[dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:dennis.rankin@wdc.usda.gov)

**Comment Deadline**  
**December 18, 2009**

Participate in upcoming public comment periods

June 2010	<b>Environmental Assessment Public Comment Period</b>
Winter 2010/ Spring 2011	<b>Public Service Commission Public Hearing</b>

Follow the project on the web: [www.minnkota.com](http://www.minnkota.com)