NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE TO

ISSUE AN UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT
and
EXEMPT A PORTION OF THE DAKOTA AQUIFER

October 30, 2025

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

THE PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE IS TO STATE THE DEPARTMENT'S INTENTION TO ISSUE A CLASS I UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT AND TO EXEMPT A PORTION OF THE DAKOTA AQUIFER UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF ARTICLE 33.1-25 OF THE NORTH DAKOTA ADMINISTRATIVE CODE.

PERMIT INFORMATION

APPLICANT NAME:	Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
MAILING ADDRESS:	3401 24th St SW Center, ND 58530
FACILITY LOCATION:	Milton R. Young Station 6 Miles Southeast of Center, ND
APPLICANT CONTACT	Scott Hopfauf, Plant Environmental Superintendent
CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER:	701-794-7220
PERMIT NUMBER:	ND-UIC-111

UNDERGROUND INJECTION CONTROL PERMIT

The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, intends to issue a Class I underground injection control permit to Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc. (Minnkota) for two Class I non-hazardous waste underground injection wells (FREEMAN-1 and RUBEN-1) located at the Milton R. Young (MRY) Station located near Center, North Dakota.

The permitted waste stream consists of non-hazardous process fluids generated from operations at the MRY Station and may include existing plant waste streams and Project Tundra waste streams The proposed waste streams will be tested to ensure that only non-hazardous wastes are injected into the wells.

The anticipated required flow rate for wastewater disposal at the MRY Station is 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm). If the FREEMAN-1 well cannot achieve a flow rate of 1,500 gpm, or if Minnkota decides that an additional well will provide needed redundancy or operational flexibility, then Minnkota will construct and operate a second well (RUBEN-1). If the RUBEN-1 well is constructed, the maximum injection rate in each well will be 1,100 gpm.

The proposed injection zone is the permeable sandstone intervals of the Inyan Kara Formation in the interval from approximately 3,649 to 3,823 feet below ground surface (bgs). The Inyan Kara Formation is part of the Dakota Group, which also includes the Mowry, Newcastle, and Skull Creek Formations. While various terms have been used to describe this geologic unit, including the Lower Cretaceous aquifer, Inyan Kara Group, and Lakota Formation, it is generally acceptable to simply reference it as the "Dakota aquifer". The uppermost perforated injection interval is approximately 2,444 feet below the lowermost underground source of drinking water (USDW), the Fox Hills Sand.

The maximum permitted injection rate for the FREEMAN-1 well is 1,500 gpm under the one injection well scenario, and the maximum permitted volume will be 1.89×10^{10} gallons over a twenty-year period. If Minnkota elects to drill a second injection well (RUBEN-1), the maximum injection rate in the FREEMAN-1 well will be reduced to 1,100 gpm, and the permitted maximum injection volume will be 1.38×10^{10} gallons over a twenty-year period.

Injection Permit ND-UIC-111 will be issued for a five-year period, beginning on the date the permit is signed by the Director of the Division of Water Quality.

AQUIFER EXEMPTION

The Department proposes to request the Environmental Protection Agency to approve an aquifer exemption for a portion of the Dakota aquifer underlying the MRY Station, in accordance with the provisions of North Dakota Administrative Code (NDAC) 33.1-25-01.

The EPA considers aquifers that have a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of less than 10,000 milligrams per liter (mg/L) and that either are, or could be in the future, used for drinking water purposes to be potential "underground sources of drinking water" (USDW). If certain criteria (summarized in NDAC 33.1-25-01) are met (e.g., the TDS concentration of water within the aquifer is greater than 3,000 mg/L and less than 10,000 mg/L), the EPA can "exempt" an aquifer and approve the injection of wastewater into it. A water sample collected from the Dakota aquifer in a stratigraphic test hole drilled at the facility contained a total dissolved solids (TDS) concentration of 3,480 mg/L. Consequently, an aquifer exemption is required to inject MRY Station's plant process water into the Dakota aquifer.

Minnkota submitted an Aquifer Exemption Request to the Department to allow the injection of MRY Substation's plant wastewater into the Dakota aquifer. The proposed area of the exemption is a fixed 1.9-mile radius circle around the proposed injection wells. This fixed radius represents the maximum radius of fluid displacement over a twenty-year injection period. The aquifer exemption request is based on several criteria, including (1) the TDS concentration of water within the aquifer is greater than 3,000 mg/L and less than 10,000 mg/L, (2) the Dakota aquifer does not currently serve as a source of drinking water in Oliver County and (3) it is economically impractical as a future source of drinking water due to the

depth of the aquifer and the cost for treatment and distribution. The information presented in the Aquifer Exemption Request supports the exemption for a portion of the Dakota aquifer in the vicinity of the MRY Station.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The Permit Application, Aquifer Exemption Request, Draft Permit, and Fact Sheet will be available for public review and comment for forty-five (45) days following publication of the Public Notice. The public comment period begins October 30, 2025 and ends December 14, 2025. Interested people may submit written comments to the Department on the Draft Permit during this period.

The Department has tentatively scheduled a Public Hearing on the Draft Permit on December 9, 2025 at 4:00 pm Central Time at the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Room 208, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, ND. The Public Hearing will be held if there is sufficient public interest pertaining to the proposed Draft Permit or if a Public Hearing is specifically requested in writing. The specific issues to be raised should be stated in a request for a Public Hearing. If sufficient public interest is not raised and a Public Hearing is not requested by December 1, 2025, the Public Hearing will be cancelled. Please check the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality website (deq.nd.gov) or call the Department at 701-328-5210 on or after December 2, 2025 for confirmation of the Public Hearing.

The Department will consider all comments prior to taking any action on the permit. Comments, questions, and written communication should be directed to:

Marty Haroldson, Director
North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality
Division of Water Quality
4201 Normandy Street
Bismarck, ND 58503-1324

The Permit Application, Aquifer Exemption Request, Draft Permit, and Fact Sheet are available for review during the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Water Quality, 4201 Normandy Street, Bismarck, North Dakota. Copies of this Public Notice and the Draft Permit are also on the Department's website at: http://deq.nd.gov. Anyone requiring special access or accommodation to review the documents may contact the Department at 701-328-5210.

NDDEQ Non-Discrimination Statement

The Department will consider every request for reasonable accommodations to provide an accessible meeting facility or other accommodation for people with disabilities, language interpretation for people with limited English proficiency (LEP), and translations of written material necessary to access programs and information. Language assistance services are available free of charge to you. To request accommodations, contact the NDDEQ Non-discrimination Coordinator at 701-328-5210 or deqEJ@nd.gov. TTY users may use Relay North Dakota at 711 or 1800-366-6888.

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