

# NOTICE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is soliciting public comments for a new proposed use. Ottertail Power Company would like to replace a section of a power line and obtain a new Right-of-Way in Pierce County, North Dakota, on a portion of the Clear Lake Waterfowl Production Area (WPA). The current power line and associated ROW is located in an existing wetland on the WPA. Several years of above average precipitation and high water levels have damaged the existing power line and it is currently not functioning and can't be repaired. Ottertail is requesting a new Right-of-Way for the power line. Ottertail will remove the old power line infrastructure and abandon the old Right-of-Way after a new Right-of-Way is secured and the new power line is installed.

The proposed work locations include:

The proposed work location is T151N R74W Section 27 part of NW1/4 (Parcel #3) and Section 28 part of the E1/2NE1/4 (Parcel #4) (See attached map).

The proposed work is as follows:

The new power line will consist of approximately 950 feet of cable, five power poles, conductors, and guide wires to be located on the WPA. A standard crew truck will be used to access the area and will also be used to drill the holes for the power poles. The crew truck will be able to carry all the supplies and tools needed to construct the power line.

The crews may need to remove some brushy vegetation; otherwise, there would be minimal impact to the surface. Any temporary disturbance to upland areas will be re-seeded by Ottertail. Much of this area is tame grass, so there will be no disturbance to native prairie habitat.

The new power line route will eliminate three power poles and over 750 feet of cable that is currently on the WPA. Final reclamation details will be issued to the Refuge for approval prior to issuance of a Special Use Permit.

This notice will be posted at the J. Clark Salyer NWR headquarters and on the J. Clark Salyer NWR web site ([http://www.fws.gov/refuge/J\\_Clark\\_Salyer/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/J_Clark_Salyer/)) from March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 through March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2016. A copy of the draft Compatibility Determination and associated maps is available upon request. People wishing to provide comments can do so by close of business on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2016 by submitting them in writing to Att: Project Leader, J. Clark Salyer NWR, 681 Salyer Road, Upham, ND 58789, or at the refuge office located at this same address. For more information, contact Frank Durbian, Project Leader, 701-768-2548 x113.