

## Target Logistics housing on wheels moving into McClusky trailer court

By: Lauren Donovan – August 13, 2013

BISMARCK, N.D. —

Target Logistics, best known for man camp housing in the oil patch, will move 16 mobile housing units into McClusky later this month.

The company is providing housing for up to 84 workers on the Minnkota Power Cooperative transmission line that will stretch from near Center to Grand Forks.

The line is mostly complete on the eastern end. The shift into McClusky signals startup of work on the western-Carrington-to-Center stretch, said Minnkota spokesman Kevin Fee.

The units, which are more mobile than the company's traditional modules in oil counties of Mountrail, Dunn and Williams, are currently located near McHenry in Foster County. Construction on the 345-kV line started in that region last summer.

Target Logistics spokes-man Travis Kelley said the units will be unplugged in the morning and pulled by semi to McClusky so workers can sleep in them that night.

He said the event will be a learning experience for the housing team.

"This is the first time we've moved it," he said.



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The McClusky City Council approved the temporary housing last month, for a location on the north side of state Highway 200 in town.

Now, the company plans to locate the units at a trailer court site on the other side of town, and at least one council member isn't entirely pleased about it.

Councilman Andy Werth said the new location puts the worker units near the school and in a residential area.

"We gave permission for a specific spot that would have worked best. Now, we'll have a lot of traffic by our school and in a residential area," Werth said.

He said he's not opposed to the units being in town, but he does have reservations.

"They'll bring in a lot of extra people and that's not necessarily a bad thing," he said. But he's concerned about negative feedback from the community.

"I'll tell you in six months," Werth said.

Jim Lelm, whose family owns the trailer court, said the construction company has a good reputation and the housing is short-term, not long-term like in the oil patch.

"They have zero tolerance for any shenanigans," he said. Target Logistics likes the trailer court because the utility hookups are already in place, he said.

Lelm said workers used the trailer court without problems during the '70s, when the McClusky Canal was under construction.

"The town was booming then," Lelm said. He said the transmission line workers put in long hours, but he still expects they'll spend money in town over the next six months.

Tina Majors of McClusky said she's worried whether the city has enough water and sewer capacity to handle the housing, and she said residents should have been allowed more say.

The first location near the highway was just across from her house.

"How would you feel if, on a whim, the city decided to move a man camp right next to where you live — literally, a block away from where you live?" she said.

The new location is "not as much in my face," but moves the same situation to other residents.

She said the city made the decision at one meeting, without any regard for the residents. "I don't think that's fair; it's not right," Majors said.

Kelley said there haven't been any issues with the workers in Foster County. He said Target Logistics applies the same security and no-alcohol, drug and firearms policies for the mobile units as it does for its other housing. It also provides on-site dining, security and other services.

"All our facilities are low impact on the community. There were no problems in McHenry, and we're in good standing in the town," he said.

Minnkota's Fee said the new transmission line will be activated at the end of February, taking electricity from the Milton R. Young Stations at Center into the company's Red River Valley and Minnesota service area. That's two months longer in the construction schedule than first estimated.

Overall, the project got started a year later than planned due to intense environmental reviews, he said.

Fee said the project's cost is now estimated at \$351 million. When first proposed, it was estimated at \$312 million.