

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) PROCEDURAL SCHEDULING
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. AND OTTER) ORDER
TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO)
CONSTRUCT THE BIG STONE SOUTH TO) EL13-028
ELLENDALE 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)**

On August 23, 2013, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation, and Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, (jointly, the Applicants) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for a Facility Permit for the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line (Application) and a Motion to Schedule Prehearing Conference (Motion). The Application requests approval of a permit to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line of approximately 150 to 160 miles in South Dakota (Project). The line will cross the South Dakota and North Dakota border in Brown County, South Dakota, and extend south and east through Brown, Day, and Grant counties to the Big Stone South Substation in Grant County, South Dakota, near Big Stone City. Modifications to the Project may occur depending on the final route permitted, land rights, and final engineering design.

On August 26, 2013, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status (Order). On August 29, 2013, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Application and the intervention deadline of October 22, 2013, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On September 13, 2013, the Order was served on the governing bodies of all counties and municipalities in the project area, and notices of the public hearings were published in project area newspapers as provided in SDCL 49-41B-5.2 and 49-41B-15. The public hearings were held as scheduled on October 17, 2013, in Aberdeen and Milbank. On October 18, 2013, Gerald Pesall filed an Application for Party Status. On November 6, 2013, the Commission issued an Order Granting Intervention and Party Status to Gerald Pesall.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, particularly 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22, specifically 20:10:22:40.

On January 8, 2014, Commission Counsel held a telephonic scheduling conference with counsel for the parties. The parties agreed on a procedural schedule covering discovery and pre-filed testimony to match up with the hearing dates as scheduled by the Commission of June 10-12, 2014. The schedule agreed to by the parties is as follows (all dates 2014):

Final discovery requests served by all parties	March 10
Responses to all discovery requests served by all parties	April 11
Pre-filed direct testimony served and filed by all parties	April 25
Pre-filed rebuttal testimony served and filed by all parties	May 9
Pre-filed surrebuttal testimony served and filed by all parties	May 23

Evidentiary hearing, Rm. 413, State Capitol Building,
beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT with days two and three
beginning at 8:00 a.m. CDT

June 10-12

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the parties shall follow the procedural schedule as set forth above
except as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 13th day of January, 2014.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.

By:

Date:

Joy Lashley
01/13/14

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner