

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. AND OTTER) TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO) CONSTRUCT THE BIG STONE SOUTH TO) ELLENDALE 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)	ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION AND PARTY STATUS EL13-028
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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 project (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. 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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on November 5, 2013, the Commission considered Mr. Pesall's Application for Party Status. Applicants did not object. The Commission voted unanimously to grant intervention and party status to Mr. Pesall. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Gerald Pesall's Application for Party Status and intervention is granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of November, 2013

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: <u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date: <u>11-6-13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

<u>Gary Hanson</u> GARY HANSON, Chairman
<u>Chris Nelson</u> CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner
<u>Kristie Fiegen</u> KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner