

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

In the Matter of the Transmission Permit for the
Big Stone South to Ellendale Project

EL13-028

**HENRY FORD REBUTTAL
TESTIMONY**



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2 **Q. Please state your name, employer, and work address.**

3 A. My name is Henry Ford. I am the Director of Electric Transmission Development for
4 Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ("MDU"). My business address is 400 N. St., Bismarck, ND
5 58501.

6 **Q. Did you prepare and direct testimony regarding the Big Stone South to
7 Ellendale Project ("the Project")?**

8 A. Yes, I did.

9 **Q. What is the purpose of your rebuttal testimony?**

10 A. To address the testimony of Gregory Tylka, Ph.D, who prepared direct testimony on
11 behalf of Gerald Pesall, and which was filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
12 ("the Commission"). Specifically, I am going to address Dr. Tylka's testimony about the alleged
13 effect of the construction of the Project on the possible spread of soybean cyst nematode
14 ("SCN").

15 **Q. Other than Gerald Pesall, has anyone else expressed concern regarding the
16 effect of the construction of the Project on transmission of SCN?**

17 A. No. Landowners, local governments, or governmental agencies who have
18 communicated with the Project have never discussed SCN or the effect of the Project on the
19 spread of SCN.

20 **Q. Has MDU ever encountered allegations that construction or maintenance of
21 transmission projects will increase the spread of SCN in any of MDU's other transmission
22 projects?**

1 A. No, this case is the first time where alleged spread of SCN has been raised as a
2 concern.

3 **Q. How many miles of transmission line does MDU have?**

4 A. MDU owns and maintains approximately 3,000 miles of transmission line.

5 **Q. What experience has co-owner Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) had regarding**
6 **SCN in the construction and maintenance of transmission lines?**

7 A. Like MDU, OTP has not encountered the complaint that construction or maintenance
8 of a transmission line spreads SCN.

9 **Q. When was the first time the Project learned anyone had concerns that the**
10 **construction or maintenance of the transmission line would spread SCN?**

11 A. Upon receiving the direct filed testimony of Dr. Tylka, which was filed by Gerald
12 Pesall on April 24, 2014.

13 **Q. What steps are Project taking in light of Dr. Tylka's testimony?**

14 A. The Project intends to research the effect construction or maintenance of the
15 transmission line might likely have on the spread of SCN.

16 **Q. How do you propose updating the Commission regarding the Project's plan for**
17 **addressing SCN?**

18 A. Because SCN is a new issue for the Project, and because the short time frame for
19 rebuttal testimony after Gerald Pesall filed Dr. Tylka's testimony, the Project needs additional
20 time to complete their study and research. Following the completion of our study and research,
21 the Project will supplement their prefiled rebuttal testimony.

22 **Q. Does this complete your prefiled rebuttal testimony at this time?**

23 A. Yes.