

**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 SUPPLEMENTAL
REBUTTAL TESTIMONY**

1 **Q. Please state your name, business address, and current employment position.**

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

5 **Q. Have you previously prepared any testimony in this matter?**

6 A. Yes, I prepared direct testimony filed on April 25, 2014. I also prepared rebuttal
7 testimony that was filed on May 9, 2014.

8 **Q. In your rebuttal testimony, did you indicate what steps the Project was taking to
9 address Dr. Tylka's testimony about soybean cyst nematode ("SCN")?**

10 A. Yes. I indicated that the Project was researching the effect of the construction and
11 maintenance of the transmission line on the spread of SCN.

12 **Q. What research has the Project done?**

13 A. The Project consulted with South Dakota State University regarding the presence of
14 SCN in Brown, Day, and Grant Counties, and how SCN is spread. The Project also reviewed
15 academic literature on SCN.

16 **Q. What did your research indicate?**

17 A. SCN is present in Brown, Day, and Grant Counties, but the Project is not aware at this
18 time what particular parcels within those counties have SCN present. SCN can be spread in any
19 method that dirt is spread from field to field.

20 **Q. Why is the Project unaware of the particular parcels containing SCN?**

21 A. The Project is unaware of which landowners have tested for SCN and which parcels
22 the South Dakota State University extension office may have tested in the project area.

1 Additionally, the extension office would not be able to provide any information that may be
2 available because the information is private.

3 **Q. Can the construction of the Project contribute to the spread of the SCN?**

4 A. Based on our research, anything that causes dirt to move from field to field can cause
5 spread of SCN, including wind, erosion, farming practices, and the construction of the Project.

6 **Q. Based on the research, does the Project intend to engage in any mitigation to
7 reduce the spread of SCN?**

8 A. Yes, we are intending to adopt and implement a plan.

9 **Q. Please describe the mitigation plan.**

10 A. The Project is still developing a mitigation plan. Although not yet finalized, the
11 Project is considering five components to the plan – consultation, sampling, cleaning, training,
12 and monitoring. The details of the mitigation will depend on the results of consultation and
13 sampling.

14 **Q. When do you expect the mitigation plan to be filed?**

15 A. I expect a working draft mitigation plan to be filed before the evidentiary hearing on
16 June 10 so that I can testify about it at the hearing.

17 **Q. What plans does the Project have regarding addressing the possible spread of
18 SCN through maintenance activities?**

19 A. The mitigation plan will address reasonable and appropriate efforts to reduce the
20 spread of SCN during maintenance activities.

21 **Q. Does this complete your supplemental rebuttal testimony?**

22 A. Yes.