

to share right-of-way with a railroad. Therefore the transmission line would likely have many bends and inflections to follow the railroad right-of-way, and/or be further out into a cropped field in areas where the right-of-way is wider. And finally, trains that derail where a transmission line runs parallel to it could potentially cause a disruption in electrical service and a safety hazard if derailed cars were to collide with a nearby transmission line structure.

- 2-32) If induction of rails is a reason listed in the previous two questions, what steps could the Applicant take to mitigate issues with induction and, further, what impact would those steps have on project costs?

RESPONSE: The best method for reducing the effects of induced voltage in parallel facilities such as railroads is to route the transmission line so that it is a safe distance away from the railroad or applicable parallel facility. If a transmission line remains close to the railroad then a study must be performed to evaluate induced voltage issues. Mitigation techniques and costs can vary significantly depending on the results of the study and particulars of the situation. Options for mitigation include: installation of a grounding conductor, replacement or upgrade of railroad signaling equipment, installation of AC drain filters, and reconfiguring the size of the signal track blocks. Costs can be into the millions of dollars depending on the level of mitigation required.

- 2-33) Per the suggestion by Mr. Welk on pages 109 and 110 of the Aberdeen Public Hearing transcript, was a letter provided to Mr. Feickert regarding disbursement of property taxes? If so, please provide the letter. If not, please provide the information requested.

RESPONSE: A letter has been sent to Mr. Feickert, which is attached at BSSE 323 to 328 and which contains the requested information as to the disbursement of property taxes.

- 2-34) Are corner structures going to have guy-wires? If so, what additional impacts would guy-wires have on landowners and/or farming operations? Further, will the Applicant construct a corner structure without guy-wires should a landowner request such?

RESPONSE: Corner structures located on cultivated land will not have guy-wires. Corner structures located on non-cultivated land could have guy wires depending upon the terrain and location of the structure. If a landowner with corner structures on non-cultivated land requests a structure without guy-wires, then the Project may consider that request on a case-by-case basis.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Thomas J. Welk, do hereby certify that I am a member of the law firm of Boyce, Greenfield, Pashby & Welk, LLP, attorneys for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company and that on this 15th day of April, 2014, a true and correct copy of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company's Responses to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests to Applicants Dated March 10, 2014 was served via e-mail and first-class mail as well as a CD containing BSSE 64 to 267 and BSSE 329 to 331, for which confidential treatment has been requested, and a CD containing BSSE 268 to 328 was transmitted via first-class mail to the following addresses listed:

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And a true and correct copy of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company's Responses to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests to Applicants Dated March 10, 2014 was served via e-mail and first-class mail as well as a CD containing BSSE 268 to 328 was transmitted via first-class mail to the following addresses listed:

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