

## **Public Hearing**

May 20, 2014











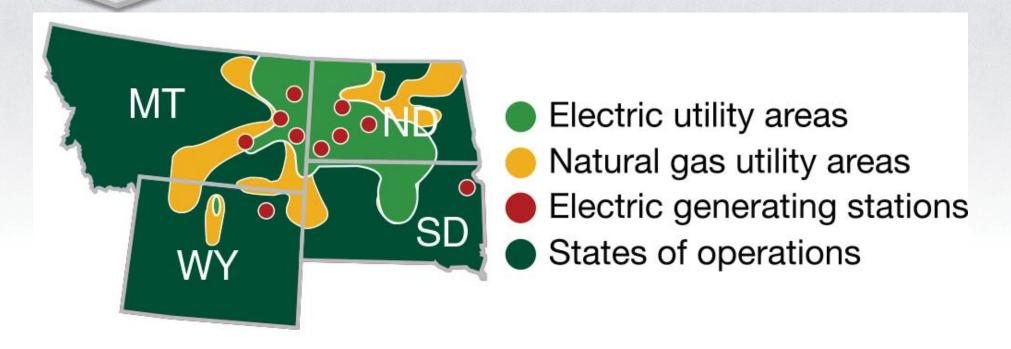


#### Today's presentation will cover:

- Applicant overviews
- Project development
- Project overview
- Routing process
- Route Change Requests
- Engineering design
- Project outreach
- Right-of-way
- Next steps



#### Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.



- Headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota
- Electric and/or natural gas service to parts of Montana,
   North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Service area covers about 168,000 square miles
- Approximately 312,000 customers



#### Otter Tail Power Company

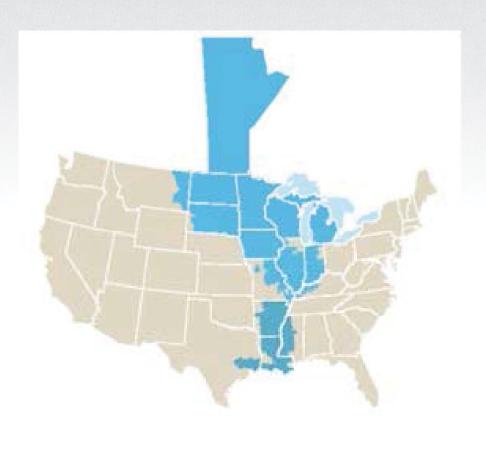


- Headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota
- Electric service to parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- Service area covers about 70,000 square miles
- Approximately129,400 customers in422 communities



#### Project Development

 MISO (Midcontinent) Independent System Operator) consists of 48 transmission owning utilities including Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company.





## Project Development

 MISO is an essential link in the safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. As a Regional Transmission Organization, MISO assures consumers of unbiased regional grid management and open access to the transmission facilities under MISO's functional supervision.



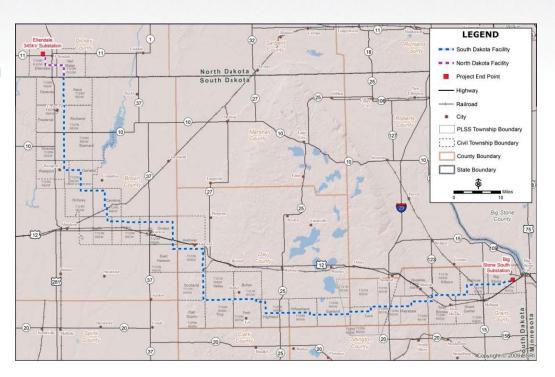
### Project Development

- Multi-value project (MVP)
  - Regional reliability
  - Economic value
  - Support for renewable energy public policy objectives
  - On December 8, 2011 MISO approved a portfolio of 17 MVP projects which included the BSSE 345kV transmission line.



### Project overview

- Joint project with Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- New 345 kV transmission line
  - Ownership to be approximately 50% MDU and 50% OTP
- Approximately 160-170 miles
- Endpoints:
  - Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, SD
    - OTP ownership
  - New Ellendale substation near Ellendale, ND
    - MDU ownership
- Anticipated project cost \$290-\$370 Million
- In service 2019





#### Local economic benefits

- Short term local economic benefits during construction
  - Construction expenditures (estimated range \$3 \$7 Million through construction period)
  - Other tax benefits: (estimated range \$5.5 \$9 Million)
    - Sales and use taxes
    - Contractor taxes
- Long term local benefits
  - Increased taxes paid to affected counties/townships
  - Estimated annual property taxes paid by Project:
    - \$715,000 \$885,000 in Brown County
    - \$535,000 \$755,000 in Day County
    - \$490,000 \$605,000 in Grant County



#### Owners' routing criteria

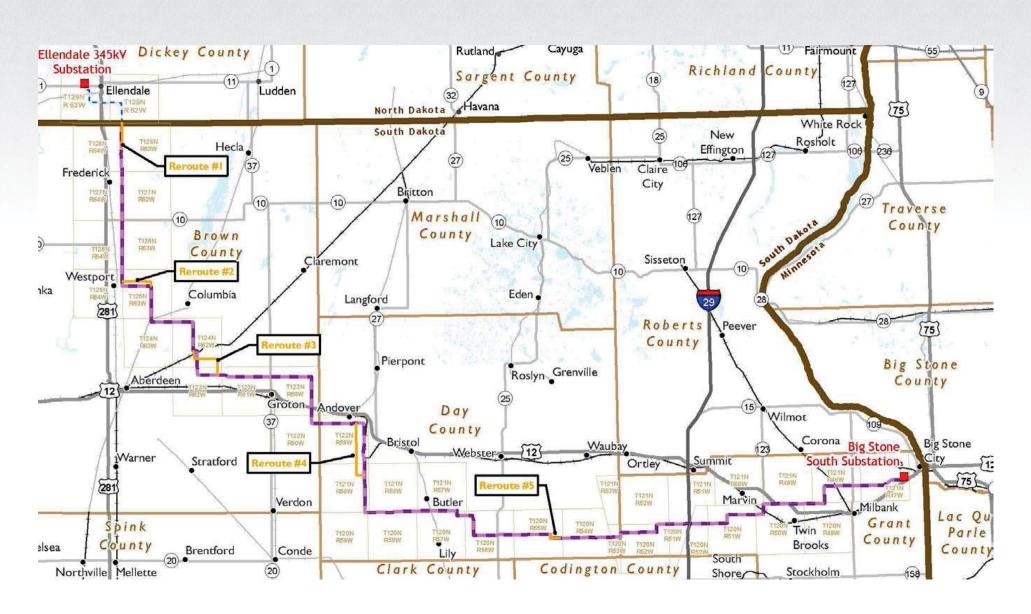
#### Information evaluated:

- Overall length and cost
- Existing high voltage transmission lines and transportation infrastructure
- Section lines
- Populated areas/residences
- Environmental and engineering considerations
- River crossing locations
- Public and agency feedback



- Total of 36 Route Change Requests (RCR) have been reviewed by the project team
- Of this total, 5 RCRs are under negotiation that required additional landowner notifications
- The 32 landowners impacted by these 5 RCRs are the reason this additional hearing is occurring

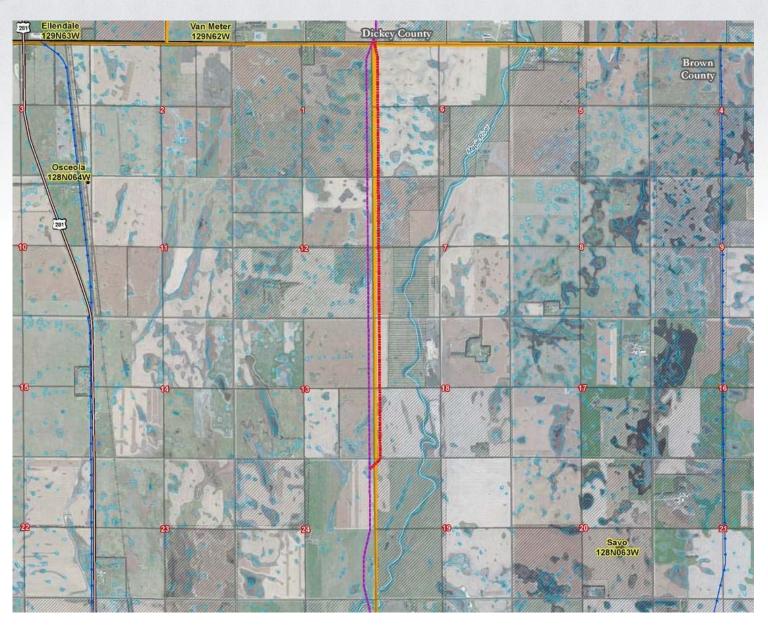




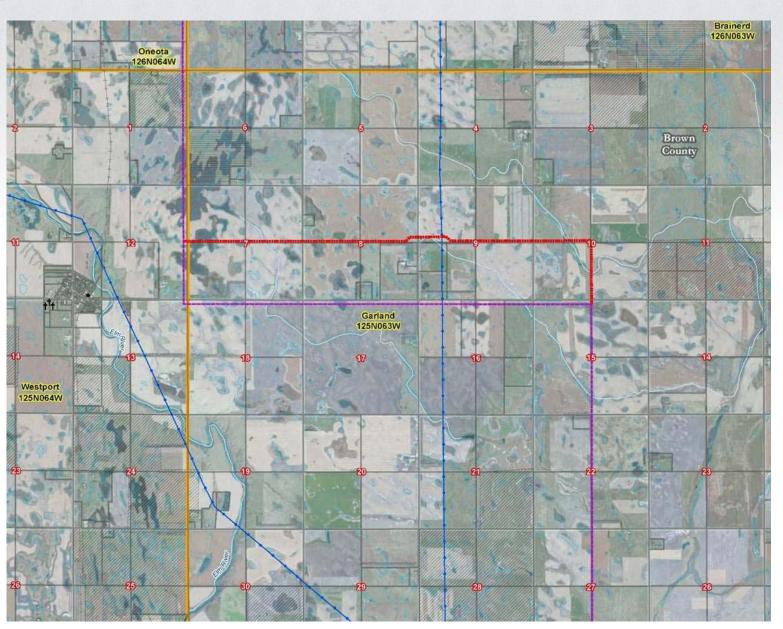


- Route Change Requests are reviewed by the project team using the same routing criteria as was used to select the original route.
- Of the 32 RCRs proposed, 14 have been approved, 5 were not approved and the rest are still under investigation.

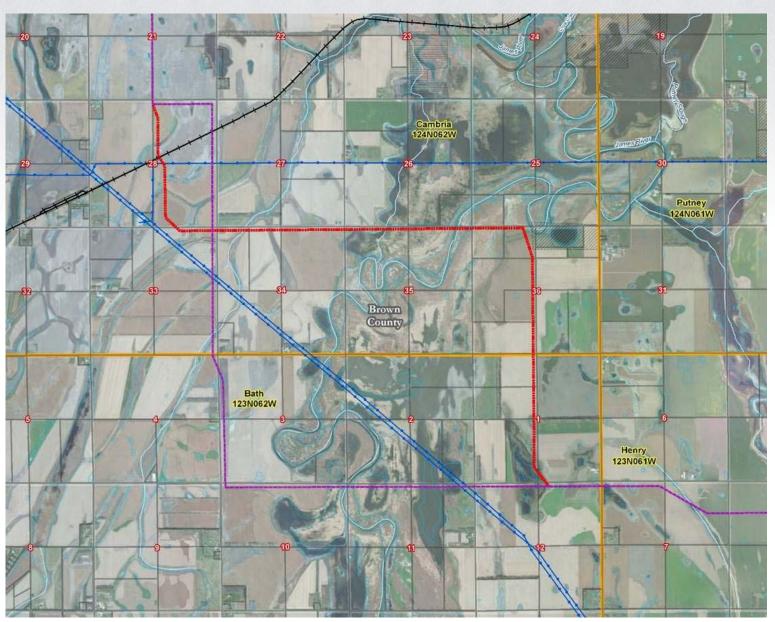




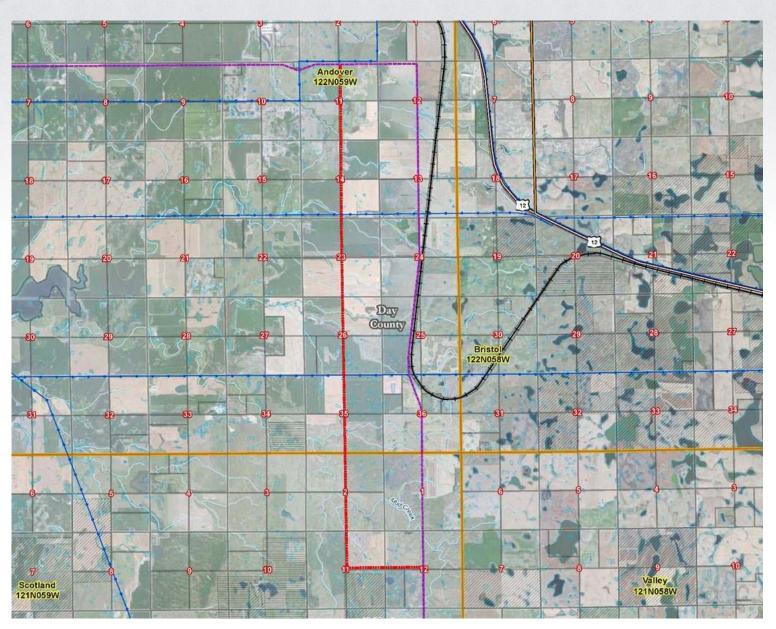


















## Engineering design considerations



Average	
measurements	
Above-grade height	125 - 155 ft
Foundation diameter	6 - 11 ft
Span	700 - 1200 ft
Structures per mile	5 - 6
Minimum ground clearance	30 ft



#### Construction overview

- Survey structure locations and identify ingress and egress locations.
- Auger the holes where the structure poles will be set and pour foundation (if required).
- Assemble the structure on the ground adjacent to the holes/foundation.
- Lift structure and place in hole or on foundation.
- 5 String wires.
- Restore right-of-way and energize line.













#### Project outreach summary

- Letters or postcards mailed (September 2012, October 2012, February 2013, April 2013, May 2013, June 2013, August 2013)
- Open house meetings (October 2012 & February 2013)
- Newsletters mailed (November 2012, June 2013, October 2013, January 2014)
- County meetings (August 2012 & January 2013)
- Interagency meetings (August 2012 & January 2013)
- Tribal Agency meetings (October 2012, March 2013, May 2013, July 2013)
- SD PUC Public Input hearings (October 2013)



#### Easement progress as of May 20th

- Started contacting landowners on August 5, 2013
- 100% of the SD parcel owners have been contacted to date

 Nearly 60% of the SD project miles have options signed



## Next steps

2008-2012 Planning 2012-2014
Environmental review and permitting

2012-2016 Engineering design and right-of-way 2016-2019 Construction

2019 In service

We are here

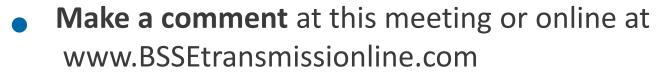


## Thank you!



# **HOW TO STAY INFORMED and PROVIDE FEEDBACK:**

- Visit our website at www.BSSEtransmissionline.com
- Call our toll-free information line: 1-888-283-4678
- Join our mailing list (online or at this meeting)
- Email us at: info@BSSEtransmissionline.com





#### SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

As a result of the joint meeting on October 17, 2013 we were informed verbally by BSSE that the PUC requested that they give consideration to those having residences within a half mile of the proposed line, but may not have actual property on the line. We thank you for that. The results have been mixed. I was verbally informed last fall that BSSE was proposing moving the 3½ mile line on 120<sup>th</sup> St, east of Westport SD, a half mile north of 120<sup>th</sup> St to the quarter line which would place the line on some of our property. This resulted in moving the project farther from some homes and closer to others, but still leaves the line within a half mile of seven residences. Being partially compensated does not change the issue for the following reasons.

With no written information being offered, my wife and I requested a meeting in an attempt to learn more about what they were proposing. We met on April 17, 2014 at which time an option form and information was presented. We had a great deal of discussion on the issue, but what it boiled down to was that I did not have a problem with the power poles on the ag land, we already work around that, but I did have a problem with the line being close to our home, approximately within 800' of our new house we built in 2010. It would also run within 600' of my sons home across the road. They plan to run the line 120' north of the quarter line because of trees so we would not be compensated for this property with the house on it. We would be compensated for the bare quarter section to the east. This discussion ended with the fact that we would continue to visit with them about the proposal if they would further discuss the impact of devaluation on our home. I was assured that they would discuss it at one their regular meetings. In a telephone conversation on May 7, 2014 on another issue I asked if the devaluation was discussed. The response was, "we asked ourselves is there a loss of value to a residence because of UNSIGHTLY poles nearby?" "The answer would be a DEFINITE yes!" "We just don't know how much value to place on it." We own 440 acres and we now have two transmissions lines on those 440 acres, not distribution lines, these are transmission lines. Now the proposal is to add a third line. Add to that their comment that the "unsightly" poles will "definitely" devalue our new home is of grave concern to us. What direct financial cost should we bear to further this proposal? How much would you as individuals be willing to sacrifice for this project if you wanted to sell your home?

We were also told that if we did not go along with the above proposal, BSSE would go back to the original proposal. With that in mind, Arnold and Darlene Dennert and Carol Rydberg and I requested another meeting to discuss their original proposal. We met with representatives on May 13, 2014. Our discussions centered on some of the reroutes we proposed in our packet of October 17, 2013. All three of us feel that the proposals in that packet still have a great deal of merit. As of this date we have not received any response on those proposals other than under consideration. Arnold & Darlene would allow a diagonal across two quarters of land to keep it further from their residence and Carol would allow it to border 10' from the quarter line going south for one mile instead of having it out onto her

land in the original proposal. The landowner to the south of Carol for a half mile indicated just recently he would allow it along one quarter of his land, but he is also the lessee on the next quarter. It is his intention to purchase that quarter and would like to have some input as to the routing of the poles on that quarter if this route were selected. As this just came up recently, details on the remaining quarter have not been discussed. With that it brings the line to the 2 ½ miles of unimproved township road going east to once again meet up with the original line. With this proposal there are only two residences within a half mile of the line, one that has requested the line come through his land and the last residence has no change in distance with either proposal. This also has merit from the standpoint that six residences would not have to deal with the devaluation of their homes as was indicated to me. As you can see we are so close to making this work for everyone. The representative we met with said they would discuss it, but indicated that their meeting with the PUC was in June and time was a factor. Arnold said if they went back to the original proposal there would probably be 3 large land owners in the immediate vicinity that would go through condemnation and that would take a great deal of time also, probably more time than looking at this proposal. Their representative also stated that they should have moved the original line coming from North Dakota many miles west of here and turned east somewhere near Aberdeen to meet up with the line going east. That indicated to us at the meeting that their selection of the route in this area was by their own admission not a good decision.

It would be our request at this time for the PUC to delay any approval until such time as more discussions and agreements can be worked out between BSSE and the landowners. If BSSE indicates to you, the PUC, that any delays in approval would be a cost to the project, it should not be a factor in your decision. By their own admission the preferred line should have been many miles west of here and a great deal of savings would have been obtained from land values alone. At the October meeting last fall I asked why they did not consider the diagonal line through the Coteau Hills, possibly along an existing rail line and probably save 80 million dollars. I have since been in touch with that rail line and they indicated three times they would be very interested in discussing it with BSSE and would look forward to a meeting with them, but may have not been contacted. That indicates to us that money is not a factor. It is acceptable to proceed with a bad decision as long as the PUC allows it. It would also be acceptable to BSSE, by their own admission, to incur devaluation to our homes if the PUC allows it. It would be regrettable if the PUC did not consider the needs of the landowners and homeowners over two public utilities from other states when possible solutions for the benefit of everyone can still be achieved.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. I know that the landowners in this area would be willing to meet any time to obtain a workable solution beneficial to everyone.

(605-290-0735)

11957 390<sup>th</sup> Ave

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Westport SD 57481

1	BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION	
2	OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA	
3	EL 13-028	
4	IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION )	
5	OF MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. ) AND OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR )	
6	A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THE BIG ) STONE SOUTH TO ELLENDALE 345 KV )	
7	TRANSMISSION LINE )	
8		
9	TRANSCRIPT OF PUBLIC INPUT HEARING	
10		
11	BEFORE: SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION Gary Hanson, Chairman	
12	Chris Nelson, Commissioner Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner	
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14	RAMADA	
15	Rooms D & H 2727 6th Avenue Southeast	
16	Aberdeen, South Dakota	
17	May 20, 2014	
18	6:30 P.M.	
19		
20	Nancy McClanahan Reporter/RPR,RMR	
21	McCLANAHAN REPORTING	
22	ORIGINAL 1-800-813-0936	
23	P.O. Box 342	
24	Watertown, SD 57201	
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#### PROCEEDINGS

CHAIRMAN HANSON: We will call the meeting

(EXHIBITS 50 AND 50A MARKED.)

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of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission to order. My name is Gary Hanson. I serve as the Chairman of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. With me here to today are my fellow two commissioners, Vice-Chairman Chris Nelson, and Commissioner Kristie Fiegen. The three of us --There is something that I have to read first, because this is an official meeting of the PUC for the hearing purposes. I need to set out a few pieces of information.

Something that I would really wish to stress upon, folks, is that we want to give everyone an opportunity to speak here tonight, and we want to hear everything that you have to say. When you do address us or address the Petitioner, I would like you to step over to the microphone, because this -- we have a court reporter, and we are recording this, because, well, we don't remember absolutely everything that's said. would like you to state your name and your address. If you have an interesting spelling to your name, would you please spell it for the court reporter.

We would appreciate that very much.

If you have any cellphones, we'd appreciate if you would turn those off. And please be certain to be courteous to one another as we progress through the meeting.

Our purpose today is to hold another public hearing, excuse me, in Docket EL 13-028 titled In the Matter of the Application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Company and Otter Tail Power Company for a Permit to Construct the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line. The need for this meeting is to provide an opportunity for hearing for landowners who will now come within the half-mile transmission line corridor due to some reroutes of the line by the Applicants.

The Application submitted by MDU and
Otter Tail is for approval of a permit to construct
a 345-kilovolt transmission line of approximately
150 to 160 miles in South Dakota. The proposed
line will cross the South Dakota-North Dakota
border in Brown County and extend south and east
through Brown, Day, and Grant counties to the
Big Stone South Substation in Grant County near
Big Stone City. Modifications to the project may

occur, depending on the final route permitted, land rights, and the final engineering design.

This hearing presents an opportunity to provide information to the public about the proposed project and to receive public comments about the project. Interested persons have the right to present their views and comments regarding the Application, and we encourage you to do so.

No decisions are being made today. A copy of the Application is on file with each of the Brown County, Day, and Grant County auditors. You may also access the Application and all other nonconfidential documents in the official file on the Commission's website, at <a href="www.puc.sd.gov">www.puc.sd.gov</a>. You will need to look under "Commission Actions,"

"Commission Dockets," then "2013 <a href="Electric">Electric</a> Dockets" and scroll down to this docket, which is known as EL 13-028, or simply call or write or phone the PUC offices and we will help you with that.

The parties to this proceeding are MDU, Otter Tail, the Commission, Gerald Pesall, James McKane, III, Clark Olson, Schuring Farms, Incorporated, Bradley R. Morehouse, and Kevin Anderson.

I would like to emphasize to everyone,

however, that you do not need to be a party in the case to make your voice heard by the Commission. The reason we are here today is to hear your comments and your concerns about the project. We will also be accepting comments in writing from anyone -- either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail -- right up until the time of the decision.

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For its permit to be approved, our law states that MDU and Otter Tail must show that the proposed transmission facility will comply with all applicable laws and rules; will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment or to the social and economic conditions of the inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area; that it will not substantially impair the health, safety, or welfare of the inhabitants; and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region, with due consideration to the views of governing bodies of the affected local units of government. Based on these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit for the project should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, and modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance of the facilities, as the Commission finds appropriate.

I would like to point out to everyone that we have Nancy McClanahan, our court reporter, here today so I ask you to please use the microphone and introduce yourself, spell your name when you speak, so we get it on the record. Also, as you can tell, I speak rather slowly. I have empathy with court reporters, especially when I start reading, a person can get carried away and start reading rapidly. We'd like you to, if you're going to be reading, to pause and make certain that the court reporter has an opportunity to get that information.

I will also point out that Karen Cremer, Brian Rounds, and Darren Kearney of the Commission Staff are here today, and we want you to feel free to seek them out if you have questions or need help with anything either here today or in the future. Brian, Karen, Darren, would you -- Brian is on the end here. Karen is in the brown with her hand up. And Darren is standing in the middle of the aisle in the back.

We will begin the hearing by having the MDU and Otter Tail folks make a presentation to explain their proposed project. Following that presentation, we will take comments from any

interested persons or organizations, and we strongly encourage members of the public to present your views.

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Before we get started, I ask that each of you make sure to put your information on the sign-in sheet so that we have a record of who attended the hearing in case we need to provide you with additional information. Tom Welk will be the spokesman here today for -- I believe. There is Tom. I hadn't seen you earlier -- will be the spokesman here today for Otter Tail and MDU. Tom, please introduce your folks and the floor is yours.

THOMAS WELK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and Commissioners. My name is Tom Welk, along with me to my right is Jason Sutton, one of my partners, and to my left is Henry Ford, who is the Lead Project Representative for MDU and for Otter Tail.

Also, with me today, Commissioners, and members of the public, we have members of our consulting team, the consulting team of KLJ from Fargo are the people that are involved with the discussions with the landowners and the surveying.

We also have two engineers here from

Power Engineering, one is an electrical engineer to

assist Mr. Ford and the Commission if there is any

questions related to the electrical engineering issues in the line. We also have Angela Piner from HDR in the event there is any questions regarding the environmental.

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So Mr. Ford is going to go ahead and present a PowerPoint presentation of the project. Some of you that were at the last hearing, it is duplicative of what he already has talked about, but what is new in this is his discussion of their proposed route changes that have resulted from discussions with landowners, and he is going to go through those. We want to respect the privacy of the landowners and their names, but he'll try to talk about generally what the route changes have been, what precipitated the changes, and the shifts that have occurred. He may want to ask, if he is not aware of the answers to some of the questions, some of the consultants. And I'm sure he'll feel free to lateral those questions to those he feels appropriate.

So with that introduction, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, I'll turn it over to Mr. Ford.

We have marked for purposes of the record,

Exhibit 50, which is his PowerPoint presentation.

I selected that number because there are some

anticipated exhibit numbers for the evidentiary hearing, and then that was filed on the Commission's website yesterday and available to the public. There have been some revisions based upon continued discussions with landowners.

I have marked as Exhibit 50A, revised potential route changes that involve Changes 3 and 4. I've given copies to the members of the Commission, the Commission Staff, and there are available some copies up here of 50A; otherwise, Exhibit 50 is available on the website. That's what I would offer into evidence for purposes of the hearing, Exhibits 50 and 50A, or I can do that, Mr. Smith, at the end of the presentation.

JOHN SMITH: Well, we won't accept them into the record here. We're not dealing formally with evidence here at this point, Mr. Welk, so. Admitting them into evidence is going to occur at the hearing beginning on June 10.

THOMAS WELK: I'll have them marked and placed in the record as Exhibits 50 and 50A. With that, I'll turn this over to Mr. Ford.

HENRY FORD: Thank you, Tom. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. A lot of you, familiar faces out there so I'm glad to see you

again. Can you make this work for me.

#### (INAUDIBLE DISCUSSION REGARDING THE

#### 3 OVERHEAD.)

HENRY FORD: Oh. It just worked. Okay. Sorry. Started off with a technical problem.

All right. As Tom said, a lot of you were here at earlier meetings, and we've discussed a lot about the project in the past. So a lot of this is going to be repeat for a number of you. Those of you who are here at the hearing now because of the route shifts that we've made, this will be new information for you so I'm going to still take the time to go through the information: just give you very briefly a review of the Applicants, MDU and Otter Tail; tell you just very, very briefly how the project came to be; then just kind of give you a little overview of the project, what it looks like and so forth.

I can talk a little bit about our routing process, how we kind of went through the steps or what were the criteria that we used to help select the route. And then I'm going to get into the specific route changes that really triggered the need for this meeting tonight. And then just back to the general items, engineering design, public

outreach, what our right-of-way process, how it's going so far, and then next steps, so.

Those are the things that I'll be talking about here, and I'm going to try to be a little bit brief on some of these so that we can spend, I guess, maybe more of our time talking about the route changes themselves.

So I work for Montana-Dakota Utilities.
We're a utility that's headquartered out of
Bismarck, North Dakota. We do serve both
electricity and natural gas. Pretty much as you
see on the map there, North Dakota, South Dakota,
Wyoming, and Montana. We have about 312,000
customers in that area. So we're one of the two
partners on the project.

The other partner is Otter Tail Power

Company, who is headquartered out of Fergus Falls.

They serve parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, and

South Dakota, and they have about 129,000 customers
in 422 communities.

So those are the two owners of this project. And I think you can see by looking at the maps that geographically we're right here in this area where this project is occurring.

All right. But to understand how this

project really came about, I want to give you just a little, very, very brief introduction to MISO.

And MISO, which stands for Midcontinent Independent System Operator, is an organization that consists of 48 transmission-owning utilities, and those include MDU and Otter Tail. So we're members of MISO. So this term will come up.

that created this project. MISO is the company that did the study work. MISO is the organization that determined that this was a project that needed to be built. And a lot of the reason for that is that MISO has this role in the electric industry that goes over and above what individual utilities themselves have. And the main thing here is that they assure consumers of unbiased regional grid management and open access to the transmission facilities.

So they're the ones that are really making sure that this transmission system is operating correctly, that everybody that wants to have access to the transmission system can have it. And they're the ones that make sure that everyone's needs that are members of MISO, as far as their demand needs, their energy needs, are being met.

So that's why MISO created this project.

And they went a step further and called this a multi-value project. The reason for that being, is that this project is one that does benefit the entire MISO footprint. So its purpose goes over and above what we would normally be thinking about in terms of transmission projects in North and South Dakota, being a transmission line built maybe from some new generation to some new load or something like that. This project has kind of a larger social need.

And just a little background, this project was approved by MISO, their board of directors, in December of 2011. So that's really when this project was created. And you can see that it was created along with 17 other projects, or 16 other projects in this whole MVP portfolio. Like I say, we're one of 17 projects in this portfolio that were all approved at the same time.

So the project that we're here to talk about today is this joint project between MDU and Otter Tail, which is a 345 kV transmission line, so 345,000-volt transmission line. And it's running from Ellendale, North Dakota, there will be a new substation built here, and then it's going to dip

into South Dakota and make its way over to a new substation that's going to be built by Otter Tail over south of the Big Stone Power Plant. So those are the two endpoints that we're trying to get this line in between. And what you see here in blue is the route that we have developed over the last, oh, rough three years of effort here in talking to organizations and landowners and so forth.

The project right now is anticipated to cost roughly \$290 to \$370 million in total. That includes the entire line, both states, as well as the Ellendale substation, which is part of this project. The Big Stone South substation is not technically part of this particular MVP project.

And I guess going back here, 160 to 170 miles in total, and it's about 10 miles in

North Dakota. So we're talking 150 to 160 miles of this line are all in South Dakota.

Now, this project, you know, it's a big project, it's going to take two years or better to build, and it's going to generate some economic benefits while it's being built. So we thought it's worth-while to point out that we're going to have construction expenditures in this \$3 to \$7 million range during construction. These are

local dollars being spent as a result of construction crews, you know, fuel, lodging, meals, local materials, things like that.

There is, obviously, other tax benefits on a project like this, which we're estimating at 5.5 to 9 million. And these are short-term tax benefits, mainly sales and use taxes and contractor taxes. So these are immediate benefits to the project, which are going to occur during construction.

Long term, once the project is in service, you know, we're going to have an investment in these three counties, Brown, Day, and Grant County. So that investment is subject to taxation, and we're estimating that this, these ranges of dollars are what we would expect to pay in real estate tax or property tax in these three counties. We can see that's a pretty significant amount of money as well.

So those are kind of the local benefits.

Now, when, you know, when we decided we needed to build this project, we had to figure out how to route it. You know, earlier I showed you the drawing and the two points, Ellendale and Big Stone, and obviously the shortest distance would be a nice

straight diagonal line between those two points. But any time you're going to route a transmission line you have to consider a lot of factors. And when you start to consider all these factors, that's what affects the routing of the line; that's what changes it from this nice straight line to something that is far from straight in this case.

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So, obviously, believe it or not, we were concerned about the overall length of this line and what that line is going to cost. So our goal is to the best of our ability, to minimize these items. We looked at existing transmission lines and highway infrastructure as opportunities to potentially parallel some of these, if we could. High-voltage transmission lines, of course -- we talked about this issue before -- there is a reliability issue with double-circuiting or parallelling too closely with another high-voltage transmission line. So there aren't a lot of opportunities there, but more so, with highways, section lines, in particular, trying to parallel those things. And populated areas and residences, are, in our view, avoidance areas. we're trying not to run this transmission line, you know, directly by any occupied residence. And that includes, you know, going through any towns,

communities along the way.

There is a number of environmental concerns. We, obviously, have to deal with archaeological resources, cultural resources, wetlands, and waterfowl and whooping cranes and -- you know, so there is a lot of those factors. You know, we're in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We're in consultation with the Corps of Engineers. So we have to satisfy all those considerations as well. There are obviously engineering considerations when you build a line like this. You are looking for areas where the terrain, you might say, is most friendly to building a line like this. Maybe the soils are a little better than another possible location so that the structures can be built more economic and more stable.

In this particular project, we have to cross the James River, and so looking for, I guess, what might be the ideal river crossing was a factor here. And you'll see as I go through the route changes that there is actually a new river crossing from what we had originally proposed, and I think based on our analysis that we think this river crossing is probably better, although maybe marginally so, than our original river crossing.

Then, of course, I had mentioned earlier, we have been talking a lot to the agencies, state/federal agencies, and we've been talking a lot to the public. You know, that's going to continue really on until the end of the project, because we started out with, very early in the project, we started out with open houses where we asked the public to come in and give us their opinion of what we're looking at doing, where the route might be. And we had -- I don't remember how many. I got a slide on that in a little bit here. But so we've had a lot of input from the public, a lot of input from agencies. And all of that input is continuing, and that's why you're still seeing the route of this line change ever so slightly over time, is we're listening to the feedback that we're getting from the public; we're listening to the feedback we're getting from the agencies, the tribes, whoever that we're dealing with, so.

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And along that line, then, to date, on the project, we have 36 total Route Change Requests, we call them, that have been made of the project. So we've had 36 different suggestions for how we might change the route. Some of these may include more than one possible route. But if a landowner came to us and said, Could we look at moving the route to this

location, that's a route change request, and we take that under advisement and we go through our process of evaluating whether that route change is possible or doable.

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So we've had 36 of those so far in the process. And of this total 36, there are five route changes that we're currently working on that if they're approved, they bring in new landowners who are not part of the original notification process. some of you landowners out there have gotten, you know, numerous letters, numerous notifications. And some of you landowners have maybe only gotten one notification so far, and that's because of this route change. So there are these five route changes that actually trigger -- Oops, that actually triggered -actually triggered the additional notification to 32 landowners on the project. So there was 32 landowners that had not previously been notified about this project, you know, directly by us. therefore, they did not have an opportunity to come and comment.

And really that's, I think, the driver for the meeting tonight, among any other comments that people care to make. But we wanted to make sure that we reached out specifically to these 32 people and

make sure they understood the project itself, and maybe why the route is now impacting them.

that looks exactly like this. This is just the overall route again that you saw earlier. Shown on that map is the location of these five route changes that I'm going to talk about just in a little bit more detail. And remember, there was 36 route changes that have been suggested. These five are being picked out because these are the ones that the route change is significant enough that it does bring in additional landowners into the discussion. A lot of the route changes were very minimal and really did not affect additional landowners over and above those that had already been contacted or those that we'd been working with to date.

So you can see these five route changes are pretty well spread out between Brown and Day County.

And we -- I mentioned this earlier, but when we get these Route Change Requests from landowners, we review those Route Change Requests by the same project team, using the same routing criteria that we would have used when we selected the original route. So we have the same rules, I guess you could say, for why a route works or doesn't work, based on all the various

feedback. So we've got to do our homework on a route change as well and make sure that there aren't issues with wetlands or archaeological sources or, you know, residences nearby or any of those same kind of factors that we had before.

But even so -- And there is a typo here. This should be 36. So of the 36 RCRs or Route Change Requests that have been proposed, 14 of those have already been approved and been enacted, I guess you could say; five were not approved; and the rest are still being worked on. The group that I'm going to talk about today, well, I guess, two of those have been accepted, and three are essentially still under consideration.

So Route Change No. 1 is the same No. 1 as on the map. So it's the one up in the furthest upper left-hand corner of the map. This one, you can see right here is the border between North and South Dakota. When you cross the border between North and South Dakota, there is a section line offset. And originally, this purple route is the route that we had chosen — somewhat arbitrarily, I think — but we knew we had to do an offset one way or the other, and we chose to offset to the west. And we also, of course, because of the hearing that we had in North Dakota on

April 1 and the ongoing work that we're doing with the South Dakota Commission, we wanted to really try to make sure that we could get the border crossing itself tied down as soon as possible.

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on this side of this section line, and that's really the reason that drove us to look at the other side of the road or the other side of the section line. And we found that we had support over here. So we made the choice to simply move the line across the section line into this new location. And this route change has been accepted. We have secured most of the options along this new route.

But there again, because of the change, just because of this shift across the section line, it brought in, I believe it was, one new landowner that had not been notified previously. So that's why this one is in the list.

Route Change No. 2, a little bit further south and east, then, into South Dakota. You can see we're still in Brown County. We're in Garland Township here. And this route change -- The purple route again is still the original route. This red route is the route that we're considering as the route change. We have not locked this down yet, but

we have what we believe, anyway, is pretty good support along most of this. We don't have it all sewn up yet, but because this is one that we're working on that looked favorable, looked like it was potentially going to be approved, we wanted to make sure that we included those additional landowners that had not been contacted before into this discussion. So I think this route change brought in seven additional landowners that had not previously been notified about the project.

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Route Change No. 3 is also still in
Brown County. Now we're in Cambria and a little bit
in Bath Township. And, here again, is the purple
route, the original route. We did not, of course,
have quite as much support on that route and so we
started looking for alternatives. We found that we
were able to get pretty good support from landowners
on this alternate red route. In fact, I believe we
are signing some of those options now. So we are
getting landowner support for this red route. This
does kind of have a side benefit to us in the project
as well, in that this line, this nice straight
diagonal, when they could do that, you know, good ol'
days, is a Basin 345 line that I believe is built for
500, and there is a WAPA line in here I believe.

Anyway, our original route you could see was crossing that line twice, and this totally avoids crossing that line. So that's obviously a side benefit, and this is the location where we originally were going to cross the James River down here. Now we're going to cross the James River up here. And in looking at this aerial photo, it looks like it's maybe a little bit dryer. But I was out there a week ago and it didn't look too much dryer. Looked pretty wet yet everywhere.

The fourth one, then, now we're in

Day County. And this is in Andover, primarily, at

least, in Andover Township. There again, the purple

line came down and actually parallelled the railroad

here for a little ways. And we had some landowner

requests to look at shifting this line, and so we have

been looking at different options. The route that

appears to be gaining the most traction, I guess, is

this red route right now. We have a short piece of

diagonal in here that has -- We don't normally like to

run diagonal, but these landowners have agreed to this

diagonal route, and so this is as near as we can tell,

it's meeting the requirements of the original route

concerns. This route is on the east side of this

quarter line. I know some of these are very tough to

see, but it's actually on the east side of the quarter line, and then runs a diagonal and then comes down on the east side of this quarter line.

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So this one I know, I believe, is the one that brought in the most -- No, I guess it was the one before. Excuse me. The one before actually brought in 14 new landowners that had not been previously contacted. This route only brought in three landowners that had not been previously contacted.

The final route change that I wanted to mention in detail here is over in, still in Day County, but it's over more towards the eastern edge of Day County now. And in Wheatland Township. This was strictly a request by landowners who wanted the line, instead of offset of the quarter line, they wanted it to run directly down the quarter line. this wasn't something that we were normally doing, but we were able to get landowner acceptance on both sides of the quarter line all through here. So this is one of the route changes that has really been fully accepted and is really a definite. And I don't remember if this one -- I guess it had six additional landowners, and that's strictly because of this amount of move with the half a mile, it brought in some landowners that previously were not within the

half-a-mile buffer.

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But this is more typical of most of the reroutes that you're seeing, that if you would see on our list, they're generally fairly small tweaks. This one, of course, travels over a couple-mile span. A lot of them were only a matter of a couple structures, so less than a half a mile. But we've been doing our best to try to accommodate these kind of landowner requests and they have come up, provided that we can still in good conscience feel we're meeting our original routing criteria and, you know, serving the costs of the project the best way we can.

So those are the route changes that really drove the need for this meeting. Now, for those of you who weren't in any of the other public input hearings, I showed these slides before so those of you who have been here can nod off if you need to. But what we're intending to build here is a steel monopole, it's called, a single-pole structure. These are steel structures so they're a pole, round diameter. Each one is set on a concrete foundation, and this pole from essentially the top of the foundation to the tip of the pole is going to average 125 to 155 feet tall. So these are pretty tall structures. These are typical high-voltage

transmission structures.

So these concrete foundations, most of them will be in this six-foot range. That's your typical, what we call a tangent or typical straight line or on line kind of structure. When you start turning angles on these type of structures, you need more concrete, and that's when you get up into the 11-foot kinds of diameters.

The span length of this line -- and span is the distance from one structure to the next structure down the line -- typically, we're seeing spans of anywhere from 700 to 1200 feet. So on average, we're talking about five to six structures per mile on a line like this. You know, when you look at the smaller, lower-voltage transmission lines, a lot of those have like 30 structures per mile or 20 structures per mile. So these spans are very long, which is why these structures are very tall.

And because of the voltage that we're dealing with here, this line is designed for a minimum ground clearance of 30 feet. And the 30 feet is only going to occur during really the worst conditions of the line. In other words, it's going to have ice loading on it; it's going to be just those worst conditions where that conductor is going to sag as far as

possible. So typically what you're going to see for clearance above ground is going to be more in that, probably, 40-to-50-feet range, of course depending on how close you are to a structure or how close you are to mid-span. So there is a lot of room underneath this line to be able to operate farm machinery or whatever you need to do as well.

2.2

For those of you who haven't seen this before, this is just a brief series of pictures that show you kind of what construction of a line like this entails. So the steps, just in general terms, we go out and we get our structure locations surveyed and staked in the field. And then the first step is going to be a crew that comes out there with the purpose of setting these concrete foundations. So they're the ones that come out and they dig the big hole that this foundation is going to get poured into. And this gets all, of course, reinforced with rebar and everything so there is a crew there that does all that work.

Once the foundation is in place, the pole materials do get ultimately delivered out to the field, out to the structure location, and laid down.

And then there is a framing crew that takes these different sections and crossarms and actually puts that pole together. These pieces you can see were put

together on the ground, and then ultimately you bolt this bottom section to the foundation and then you erect the top section and assemble it into a complete structure. So there is, you know, cranes involved in that purpose, digger trucks here, sometimes backhoes or some of the heavier equipment.

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Once all the structures are set, then the next step is to string the conductor. That can be done a lot of different ways, and we haven't really decided on this project how we're going to do it. Any of you who have driven by the transmission line on the Interstate between Fargo and Minneapolis, maybe has had an opportunity to see the helicopters flying through there doing the stringing of the conductor, you know, where they are having a guy sitting on one of the landing rungs and reaching over and attaching. You know, so there is ways to do this different than necessarily -- different than necessarily on the ground. But this picture is more showing loading up some reels of conductor, so. And once the conductor is all strung and once it's, what we call, clipping or clipped in -- That's where the conductor is actually tied in then to each structure -- once that's done, the line is technically considered done.

But the final step, obviously, is to go out

along the right-of-way, there is a special crew that their whole purpose is to drive that right-of-way looking for any materials that got left behind, any other garbage, and at the same time, if there is any temporary gates that had to be installed or any other damages, fences, things like that, they're going to do all of those repairs and the effort here to restore the right-of-way to preconstruction condition.

So that's kind of what it takes to build a line like this. And we expect this line to take, like I say, roughly two years, maybe a little bit more than two years to construct. So there will be winter construction, as well as summer construction on this project.

I talked about this a little bit earlier.

And I'm not going to go through this in any kind of detail, but, you know, we have done a lot of outreach, both with the public and with agencies, whether they're county or state or federal, and this is just a list of all the different dates when we have made contacts with various agencies or landowners. So we feel we've made pretty good effort to reach out to the agencies and the public looking for their feedback.

And, of course, all of you in the room here know that we have land agents on the ground today, and

those land agents are the ones -- there our boots on the ground that when you have concerns about the route or anything, they're the ones you need to try to feed that information to and then ultimately comes right back up to the rest of the group here, including myself. So those kind of concerns that you have or any kind of concerns that you have, those land agents are really there to work with you so it's pretty important if you are able to spend some time, to visit with them and get your concerns heard.

So this is now pretty well current as of today. So roughly as of today, and then I mentioned here that we started contacting landowners back in August of 2013. So that's, what? Seven months ago, eight months ago. And we have, one way or another, we have made some type of contact with every South Dakota owner. Some of those maybe not verbal contact or face-to-face contact; it may have been a mailing that they received.

But as of today, we've got just about 60 percent of the South Dakota project miles under option. So we're making progress. You know, it's kind of fits and starts, and it's, you know, it's slow at certain times of the year, depending on what's going on. But we're still making, we feel, steady

progress and 60 percent we think is a pretty reasonable number for the amount of time that we've been out working on this.

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Just to remind everybody on the project itself, then, we're still here working on getting the permitting in place. We're still working on right-of-way. We're still working on engineering design. What we're expecting is the physical construction of this line will not begin until probably the summer of 2016. And with the kind of construction schedule that we've laid out here, what we think is going to be necessary to get this line built, we're looking really at an in-service date of no later than the end of 2019. So there is quite a few years yet before this project will be behind all of us. And like I said, with a two-year plus construction cycle, you know, some of you may see progress in 2016; some of you may not see any physical construction until 2017 or potentially even 2018. So it's going to be a lengthy process to get to that point.

Just to remind everyone, we do have a lot of ways that you can still comment on the project to us as owners, give us your feedback, give us your questions or comments. We still operate our toll free

line. We have our website, and we do continue to update that website continuously. That website will become even more important as we start moving into the construction phase of the project. There you'll be able to get information, pretty well up-to-date information, on the status of the construction, where certain phases of construction are at.

We do have our e-mail address so you can send e-mail to that address with any of your comments and questions. If you want somebody to give you a call, you can just e-mail this address and somebody will call you back. And you can still make comments online as well.

So there is a lot of different ways that you've got to keep in touch with us. And to us I guess that's what's most important here is as we're trying to work through this, we just need to keep communicating and we need to keep talking about what the issues are, what the concerns are, what the options are so that that we can ultimately get to a final route that hopefully satisfies at least the largest number of landowners out there. We know we have no chance, probably, of finding every single landowner that's going to be overjoyed to have this project on their property, but if we can get it to the

minimum number of landowners that maybe are unhappy but are still going to accept it, I guess we feel we've probably succeeded, so.

So that, I believe, is the end. Yeah. So those are my opening comments.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: My apologies to anybody over on this side of the room. It occurred to me I might be blocking your view so I moved, perhaps, not timely enough. But I hope I gave you an opportunity to see.

Dadies and gentlemen, this is your opportunity to address us. We've heard from the Applicant. We would very much like to hear from you. Again, please step up to the microphone and state your name. Please spell it if it has an interesting spelling. You don't need to tell us your address. I assume you've signed up as you came in so we have that in case the -- in case the Applicant needs to get in contact with you.

But we, as Commissioners, serve the citizens of South Dakota, and this is a docket before us. And we want to engage you. We want to hear from you. We want to make our decisions based upon all the information that's available, and you folks have usually very specific and unique

1 information for us. So please step up to the 2 microphone and address the Commission, if you 3 I'm sure that there is some comments, additionally. This is a great time to ask 4 questions of the Applicant. 5 6 Good evening, sir. 7 PAUL DULITZ: Yes. My name is Paul Dulitz. D-U-L-I-T-Z. A couple of concerns 8 9 that I had. I did want to make sure that -- My 10 understanding of this project is there is really no 11 economic benefit for the agricultural community in 12 South Dakota, except possibly for the option 13 payments that you're doing. Is that correct? 14 Mr. Ford? 15 **HENRY FORD:** Well, there is option 16 payments and easement payments, I guess. 17 PAUL DULITZ: Right. 18 **HENRY FORD:** Those are the initial 19 benefits that you as the farmer would see, yes. 20 PAUL DULITZ: Right. I asked the local 21 rural electric cooperative if this will have any 22 benefit to them. Before I even got done asking the 23 question, my response was -- or the response I got

wonder why the project is going.

from him was, "No." So we do -- That makes me

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If -- You

mentioned Western Area Power, WAPA, and they have a line through there. I guess I would expect that if the project was that necessary, that the federal government under the Department of Energy, Western Area Power, would be looking at constructing the line. That's my comment on that side of it.

You mentioned safety. Now, I live on a dead-end road, essentially. The power line will cross the road. So I'm concerned about safety. If that line comes down, how am I going to get out?

Am I going to be able to get fire or rescue to come through the area where that line is? What's your plan? Do you have an immediate plan? How soon of a response will it be from -- perchance one of those lines hit the road until that line is de-energized and removed from the road? Any plans?

HENRY FORD: You know, the lines of this kind of voltage, they won't stay energized, No. 1. If a conductor does come down, it trips out in fractions of a second. And that line will then be de-energized. Now, we always say not to assume that on your own and, you know, put yourself in jeopardy. But once, if that line goes down at all, our operating centers, they know immediately that the line has -- something has gone wrong.

PAUL DULITZ: A fault.

HENRY FORD: Yes. Yeah, the line has switched itself off. So now it's a matter of dispatching out the crews to find the location.

And, honestly, we rely very heavily on the public that if this line fell down in front of your house, the greatest benefit we could have would be for you to call the dispatch center and say, "Hey, this line is down in front of my yard." Then we know immediately where it's at.

Otherwise, we would patrol the line, typically with aircraft, looking for what the problem is. The relaying equipment will predict where it thinks the problem is at. So we have generally some kind of a range of distance that we'll go out and look for it. But, you know, the first thing is that they make the -- they make the line safe, and by doing that, the line is locked out of service, which means that the line cannot be turned on under any circumstances until that line is repaired.

So from a safety standpoint, as soon as the line breaks or whatever happens that it comes down, that line goes out of service, and technically, it's safe at that point. And then

it's just a matter of, yeah, how long does it take to get a crew out there, how long does it take to do the repairs before the line is back up and out of your way. And I couldn't really predict that. It all varies with weather conditions and causes and, you know, what else is going on.

PAUL DULITZ: Thank you. Is there a -How do I want to phrase that? Is there a goal, you
know, that you have like 24 hours? Would that be
your goal to get that line back in, you know, out
of the way of the public in 24 hours?

henry ford: Yeah, the goal -- The goal, obviously, is to get that line back in service as quickly as possible. Within that 24-hour period, barring some kind of extreme weather conditions that prevented us from getting out and looking at the line, we would know just in a matter of, you know, maybe one or two hours where the problem is. And what would need to be done to make it safe, I guess, would be a matter of, you know, if the conductor is laying across your road and your concern is driving over it, you know, we'd maybe either pull it off the road; or if the conductor is still intact, you know, if the line is out-of-service, you technically could drive over

the conductor. But, so, there would be a period of time there where we have to find where the problem is first, what caused the problem, and then we can figure out, you know, what our steps are to make it safe or make it back in service, make the repairs.

paul Dulitz: On the safety, then, let me cover one more thing, then we'll move on. Do you have -- What kind of locations have you planned so far for the trucks to dispatch from? If they're going to dispatch from Bismarck, it would take a long time. If they were to dispatch from Aberdeen, it would take less time. Do you have those plans in place?

HENRY FORD: The -- Not really. Short answer is no. And that is because we have two utility companies that are going to be maintaining this line, and we have not yet decided who is going to maintain what portion of the line. But like I said, this type of line is typically controlled aerially by helicopter, and that helicopter could very likely come out of Bismarck. But that's, that's not a problem. I mean, the distance by helicopter is not very far. That's where a lot of the expertise is on this line as well, as in Fergus Falls. Otter Tail is in a little bit better

position than we are in that they actually have 2 maintenance staff. You know, they have offices and so forth in eastern South Dakota where we do not. 3 Uh-huh (Yes). 4 PAUL DULITZ: **HENRY FORD:** So there is a strong 5 6 possibility that in a situation like that, 7 Otter Tail would be taking the lead and dispatching 8 out their local folks to respond. 9 **PAUL DULITZ:** And this is the only 345 kV line you have; correct? 10 11 **HENRY FORD:** Well, MDU has another 345 kV 12 line. 13 **PAUL DULITZ:** But Otter Tail does not. 14 that would require a terrific amount of training to 15 handle a conductor of that -- or a voltage of 16 that -- The requirements for training is something 17 new to Otter Tail, because they haven't done it 18 before. 19 **HENRY FORD:** Well, we don't typically work 20 on these lines energized, anyway. 21 PAUL DULITZ: Uh-huh (Yes). 22 **HENRY FORD:** So the type of training 23 you're talking about is really more related to the physical handling of the weight and the tension of 24 these conductors, which isn't really that different 25

from a 230 line to a 345 line, for example. 1 **PAUL DULITZ:** Okay. 3 **HENRY FORD:** We both got a number of 230 lines in our system. Just doing the physical 4 5 maintenance on the line is not an issue for either of our companies. We have experience in that area, 6 7 ves. PAUL DULITZ: Okay. Sorry I got 8 9 sidetracked on that. Under the safety, yet, one more thing. Is there anything that aviation is 10 going to need to know about this? 11 12 **HENRY FORD:** All of the airports I quess that are anywhere near this transmission line we 13 14 have already applied to FAA for review of our transmission line. They do a review to make sure 15 that the line does not interfere with the glide 16 paths in or out of any of the airports that may be 17 18 operating in the area. 19 **PAUL DULITZ:** Yeah, the approach and 20 departure paths. **HENRY FORD:** Yes. 21 PAUL DULITZ: Yes. What about township 22 23 road damage? Am I going to have, you know, really, be inconvenienced by the damage to the roads? 24 guys are going to repair them, the contractor for 25

you guys, can we have guarantees of that?

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**HENRY FORD:** Yeah, the owners themselves ultimately have that responsibility to make sure that the roads are repaired. But what we would intend to do is we will have a construction manager out on the project. We will have a project manager out on the project. These are the people that will be boots on the ground that will be reviewing things like the road damage, you know, on a daily basis. They'll be the ones that will be directing the crews, whether they shouldn't use a particular road or, you know, they'll be making those decisions. And if something is repaired or -excuse me, is damaged, it's going to be their immediate responsibility to -- if it's a township road, you know, we need to work out these protocols with the various townships and counties. Do they want us to try to do the repairs? When I say "us," I'm talking about the project. Or do they want us to fund the repairs, you know, reimburse the costs of doing those repairs, which is what we would expect on, probably on the county road level at least.

But we are committed to making sure that any road damage on this project is restored to

pre-project condition when we're done there. And what that means during the project, we're concerned about, obviously, the wet soils and the amount of moisture down in this part of the country. It's going to be a challenge. We know that we're going to be probably scheduling a fair amount of our construction to occur during the winter months for that very reason. And we would fully expect that if a certain area is too wet and the roads are in too poor of a condition, we're going to skip that, and we're going to go to another part of the line where we can work and hopefully not cause any of those kind of damages, so.

PAUL DULITZ: That's a reasonable answer.

**HENRY FORD:** Yeah.

**PAUL DULITZ:** But as long as, you know, I really want that assurance, you know, and your name on it that we're not going on to be stuck with a bunch of bad roads.

HENRY FORD: Yeah. And in the worse-case scenario, I mean, we do file a bond with the Public Utilities Commission, and that bond is available for those kind of things if for some reason we would say, you know, we don't think we should have to pay for that. But that I wouldn't expect should

be our approach here at all.

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PAUL DULITZ: Okay. You're going to take a reasonable or -- Well, how do I want to say? Reasonable, or do we want to say extraordinary precautions to make sure that we don't wind-up with excess soil compaction and troubles years and years and years -- well, not years and years, but at least three to five years down the road? Is that reasonable?

**HENRY FORD:** And you're talking about now compaction out in the cropland?

PAUL DULITZ: In the croplands, yes.

HENRY FORD: Yes. We do have that addressed and we expect to address that through our damage mitigation at the end of the project. So if we have soil compaction that has occurred because of the construction, we're going to work with the landowners. We will either go through there and, you know, de-compact it by turning over the soil and loosening it up again, or working with you as a landowner to say, "Well, what would you like us to do about that? Is that something you want to do and have us pay you for it?"

Our damage payments themselves on like crop damage, if you lost, you know, X-number of

acres of production during construction, we take 1 2 that ultimate cost, you know, and figure out how 3 many bushels were lost, what the cost per bushel was, all of that. We'll take that number and we 4 5 will double it in the hopes that that's saying, okay, we know that you lost full production this 7 year. Next year, maybe it's, you know, 50 percent. 8 Next year, after that, maybe it's 25. 9 ultimately, you know, you get back to full 10 production in those areas one way or the other. 11 But that's simply the formula that we're going to 12 use to pay for crop damages.

**PAUL DULITZ:** Uh-huh (Yes).

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**HENRY FORD:** If that makes sense.

end of my questions, but I did have one other question that was proposed to me to ask. And that is kind of partway between you and partway between the Commission. Once this line is going through, is that going to mean, you know, that, all right, now we've got a situation here, we've got a lot of landowners inconvenienced here so now let's put another line over a quarter mile away and come through the farms, you know, with another line, because, well, we already got this one, people are

already inconvenienced, let's just throw another
line on it? I'm not aware that you have any plans
for that. I'm not aware that the Commission, that
this item is on the agenda of the Commission, but
if you want the Commission to understand that just
because this line comes through, whether we want it
or not, you know, that doesn't leave us open to
other lines. At some point, we're going to get too
many. But thank you very much.

**HENRY FORD:** Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: Are there further comments or questions? And if another line were to go through, we would go through another siting process, so. Just for your information.

HENRY FORD: Yeah, it's important to note that the easements that we get for this line, those easements only allow for this particular line to be built. So those easements could not be used to build any additional facilities.

BOB PESALL: Good evening. Bob Pesall, attorney from Flandreau. I'm actually here representing Gerald Pesall, who is sitting in the back row beside me. We've already intervened in the proceedings so the Commission is going to see a lot of what we have to say. For purposes of making

an appearance for the record here, we intend to 1 oppose the issuance of the permit. We don't see 2 3 the necessity. We see a lot more damage than any benefit that this thing is likely to produce. 5 ugly. We think it will hurt the local economy. 6 It's going to interfere with farming and local 7 economic development. It's going to spread pests from field to field, and it's going to put the 8 public at risk for injury because -- The Applicants 10 say that this project could stay for 100, 200 years. People are going to have accidents with 11 this thing. People are going to get hurt. And if 12 there is no benefit, it's just really difficult to 13 14 justify. 15

But we do have two questions outside of the scope of what we've done so far to propose to the Applicants, or at least for the information of the Commission and the people here this evening.

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No. 1, if the permit is denied, will you be considering the other routes that you had examined earlier in your research process? Like I said, that's my first question.

**HENRY FORD:** I would have to say yes. We would have to go back to the drawing board, as it were, and figure out if there is another route that

would make more sense for whatever reason. I mean, I guess it kind of comes down to what would have been the reasons that the route was denied in the first place. Maybe -- Maybe it would only require a tweak in certain areas of the route or something like that.

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BOB PESALL: And then the other question.

And I guess this is -- A couple other landowners that I don't represent have asked about it, and I'm kind of curious myself, if you might elaborate on what the standard easement offer that the Applicants are making for property is and how much you negotiate, typically one way or the other, when you're dealing with a landowner.

HENRY FORD: Um, we -- Before we started calculating any easement payments, what we did was a property evaluation study and that was a combination of looking at recent sales in each of the counties. There were some other resources. I might have to defer this to Terry to give you a little more detail, but we did an evaluation of land values, essentially, on a county-by-county basis. And what the project feels is a fair offer is 80 percent of that value of the land for the easement. So it's the 150-foot wide right-of-way

times the length of the line, which, you know, a half a mile of line would be about nine acres of right-of-way times -- the land value times 80 percent, and that's what we're looking at as our offer.

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And as far as negotiating on that price, the negotiation would mainly be in the area of the land value itself. If there is some error or some problem with the land valuation method, that's what we want to figure out so that we can adjust the process, in general. We're not -- Our goal here is to treat everyone fairly and the same. So we don't want to pay, you know, landowner A, you know, let's just say, 50,000 for their easement, and they're willing to take that, and landowner B, their neighbor who just simply wants more money, you know, we're not going to give them a hundred thousand just because they complain. I mean, there has to be a reason; there has to be a basis for why, why that dollar value should be different.

BOB PESALL: Thank you.

**HENRY FORD:** Yes.

**JERALD ZUBKE:** Jerry Zubke, Z-U-B-K-E, from Milbank, South Dakota. And this last issue is my concern. They're going to go over my piece of

1 property, and I adjoin my local golf course. 2 want to develop that property someday, and once 3 this line goes over there, I know my development potential is gone. And they're telling me it's only ag property, but I have a problem with that. 5 And what process do I do to protect myself as you 7 go down the road? Do I need an attorney for eminent domain and what do I do? I have a -- My property is worth development property value 10 because of the golf course and the people that are wanting to build on it. 11

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property and your location. Terry and I were just talking about it earlier today. And I know we've been trying to determine -- There was a plat that was done on your property I guess some years ago. And, you know, we need to figure out exactly what you're platting there, and, you know, I guess we're still -- we're not by any means done talking to you. I mean, we're going to keep trying to work with you on what -- I guess what I'm hearing is, is your biggest concern the value that we offer you or the location of the line?

JERALD ZUBKE: Well, I can sell this property as a development property, but once you

put that line over it, I can't. So I would like to have what it's worth for development property, just put your line someplace else and let me sell it for what it's worth. Don't put your line there and say this is what you've got to pay.

**HENRY FORD:** Yeah, because I know there was some discussion about us moving the line onto the section line.

from my property under that line into the golf course. And people aren't going to build a house right by that line. I wouldn't and I wouldn't expect anybody else to either. So to me, once that line is built, that property becomes undevelopable.

HENRY FORD: So moving the line to the section line isn't really the solution you're looking for?

JERALD ZUBKE: I mean, I wouldn't build a new house -- I want coverage for a \$500,000 house, and I wouldn't build it anywheres close to a power line, and I wouldn't expect anybody else to either.

**HENRY FORD:** Uh-huh (Yes). Yeah.

JERALD ZUBKE: All I want to know is what I need to do to protect my legal rights so I don't get backed into a corner. Do I need an attorney

mcrsteno@awestoffice.net

right away, or how do I protect my rights?

**HENRY FORD:** Well, that's not --

or the other, sir. If you would want to consult with counsel, you should do that. I think what the project is saying, is they want to continue to talk with you. If you feel you have a need for an attorney, you should get one, and if you feel more comfortable. The project doesn't want to make a bad deal for you either. They want to make a fair deal.

So what Mr. Ford is saying is, we just have found out about your plat. Your issue is different and unique than other landowners, because of what you had previously done. And so the project wants to continue to discuss with you, but if you feel you need to have counsel, you should go get counsel and then we'll talk with your lawyer or you can continue to talk with the project. But they just want to continue visiting.

Whatever you feel comfortable doing, whatever you want to do to know what your rights are, you should feel free to do so. And you have a right to counsel and to talk to them and do whatever you'd like to feel. We can't tell you one

way or the other.

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JERALD ZUBKE: Well, that's comforting to hear, because the agent that talked to me said it's ag value and that's it. So I'm glad to hear what you're telling me.

THOMAS WELK: Yeah, the project always is -- because you have a unique setting. Not everybody has the same setting as you. So you need to continue to talk to -- I know they were talking today about they want to visit with you. They want to see what your plans were, how it was, and so we want to keep the lines of communication open. And if you want to have a lawyer to help you assist with that, feel free to do so.

**JERALD ZUBKE:** Yeah, that answers my question. Thank you.

THOMAS WELK: Okay. Thank you.

**REUBEN PARKS:** My name is Reuben Parks from Webster, is my address. I'm hear to make a formal statement after multiple conversations with Brian Rounds. He suggested that I do it before the PUC.

It's disturbing to me that the PUC did not review the easement contracts and the implications of terms before the BSSE was allowed to present

them to us as property owners. Some of the terms within these easements: The easements to survey, if signed, would take away my right to object to litigate after the signature. The easements have three blank pages in them. I've never signed a contract with three blank pages. The easements can be taken anywhere on the property. The easements are also permanent and can be assigned to anyone the BSSE proposes to assign them.

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After understanding these terms and consequences, I don't see why I would sign such an easement. And upon my resistance to sign, it was suggested that eminent domain would be imposed upon me. My yearly losses from these easements could exceed \$25,000. My farming practices will be compromised by requiring me for more time, money invested, to deal with the obstructions and the use of electronics and applications of my farming practices of seeding, fertilizing, and spraying.

This project does not serve me. It will take land and productivity from landowners to pay income tax and taxes to the state for the productivity of the property. It will devalue my property and further generations. I see no good reason to give my land to the BSSE. And I would

hope that the PUC does not give BSSE the use of eminent domain to possess my property and that they deny the request of construction. Thank you.

## (Applause.)

appreciate those comments, and, obviously, there is a number of other people in the audience that appreciated them too. I'm compelled to -- This is your opportunity to chat with the Applicant, and certainly, that's the type of thing that the PUC needs to address here. And I appreciate Mr. Rounds instructing you to -- or advising you to ask the question. It may be helpful to understand what our role is in the Public Utilities Commission here.

This is a docket that's been filed before us. We're acting as judges in this docket. And it would be improper for us to review easements, and it would be a conflict of interest for us to advise you. It's similar to going into a court. If you went into a court, and there is a judge that's handling that court case, and there is two parties, the judge wouldn't step down from his or her role and begin to advise you as to what you should be doing or review your -- the legal instruments from either party. That's the role of attorneys.

We receive our authority through the 1 2 legislature. And we cannot go beyond that 3 authority, for one thing -- besides it being a conflict of interest. We don't give legal advice 5 from -- as Commissioners. There are -- We have attorneys who give us advice who we discuss law 7 with, but in a situation where you have a party who 8 wants you to sign an instrument just as the previous speaker -- I believe it was Jerry who was 10 asking that question -- you need to, you need to seek legal counsel. 11 12 I have found in my life in all of the 13

I have found in my life in all of the businesses and all of the situations that I have been in, that whenever I've been in a situation where I wonder whether or not I should speak with counsel, it's best that I actually do speak with counsel. And that's what we'd advise you to do here.

There is a couple other things that I had thought of that were pertinent and escaped --

**COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:** Eminent domain.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Oh, yes. Eminent domain. Thank you.

Eminent domain is a law that is passed by the legislature. We have absolutely nothing to do

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with eminent domain. We cannot grant eminent domain. We cannot prohibit eminent domain. It is a law. We get our authority from the legislature, and I'm not meaning to pass it off on the legislature, but eminent domain is a common practice throughout the United States from a standpoint of being able to allow business to grow, utilities to grow. Without it -- And I don't mean to be selling eminent domain, but the purpose of it is so that one party in a \$400 million project cannot stop that project. If it's to the benefit of everyone else, then it should go through, and that party should receive fair compensation for it.

Every one of you has an opportunity to go to court on it, and I know that can be an expensive situation. You can have your peers, I believe, sit on a jury and decide whether or not there is a fair value. And I've been on both sides of eminent domain, and I recognize the challenges from it. But as a Public Utilities Commissioner, we have absolutely nothing to do with eminent domain. So we won't be granting it or prohibiting it; we can't. But thank you very much for your comment.

Other comments, please. I'm sure there is some thoughts. This is a great opportunity; we

have the Applicant here. Thank you, sir.

RANDY SCHURING: Yes. Randy Schuring.

Andover, South Dakota. S-C-H-U-R-I-N-G. I made a couple comments here, a couple notes myself, as there was a question as far as the roads earlier and what condition they would be left in. A few years ago, we had an experience with TransCanada on the oil line, and they went through the permitting process and everything else. There was a few of us landowners ended up taking it to court because we weren't satisfied with the value that they had determine for our easements.

In our particular situation, arriving at that value, we had three land sales within two years within two miles of our property. They hired an independent appraiser. They used land at Wilmot, South Dakota, south of Waubay, and up in Roslyn, when they had the other land sales that were right in, you know, in the neighborhood. And so that was one of the reasons that we challenged their payment on the easement value. Well, in the meantime, even when we went to court, and they ended up settling before the judge ruled on it, it was quite apparent they had probably a dozen lawyers. It probably cost them more for their

lawyer fees that they had for a week of court than it cost them to settle it with the ten landowners.

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But anyway, they assured us that they would, if the conditions weren't fit, that they would not be operating on our roads, nor would they be on our property. Well, it so happens in the fall of that year -- And we've had some wet conditions in the area. There was an article in the Aberdeen American News how TransCanada, how they fixed all these roads up and how much time they'd spent on them. Well, the only thing is, the reporter should have went out and visited the roads, because they were unfit. They were using Caterpillars to pull semis down township roads. They were out in the feeds bulldozing the topsoil away so that they could continue to work. And then there was an article in the Aberdeen American News for PR purposes how they were, you know, taking care of it and putting our property back in condition.

But -- So I don't always trust it when somebody says, "Yeah, if it's not fit, we're not going to be working," because we've seen otherwise. But my main concern is, is -- And I have some feelings for the gentleman from Milbank with his

property on his proposed plans on the golf course.

Last winter we were contacted and we indicated that
we were not interested in any easements or have any
poles on our property. And that was the last
discussion that I had with anybody concerning the
project until after we were granted party status in
the teleconference.

Last Friday I had a contact from a person, and I'm sure that they wanted to have that contact before the meeting tonight because they didn't want me to come here tonight and say, "Nobody's contacted me yet." Anyway, I think they thought they were going to probably not have to deal with us. It actually is within -- well, across the section line of three quarters of our land. Actually more than that. It's five.

But anyway, the bottom line is, is as long as they put it on a neighbor's, they didn't have to deal with us because they knew we weren't a willing party to it. But the fact of the matter is, they're less than a half mile from a state permitted 1350 head dairy facility.

The gentleman from Milbank is worried about what that would do to the value of his property if his power line came over it. I'm

concerned that if someday, if I'm not here, family members would decide to try and sell this dairy, we've been there for 18 years with this facility. It's not something that's proposed, may happen, can happen; it's there. And we're a little over a quarter of a mile from this, where the proposed route is to be. And I can assure you, whether it's fact or fiction or rumor or whatever, you try and sell a multimillion-dollar dairy facility to somebody for the value that it's worth, you won't come close. Nope. In fact, you won't -- you probably will not get anybody that is interested because of all of the articles and different things.

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And it depends on -- It's like a lawyer. He can argue both sides of it, whether I hire him or the other side hired him. You can get engineers that -- You know, you're going to hire an engineer that's going to tell you what you want to hear. I can hire an engineer that's going to tell me what I want to hear. Nobody knows for sure. But I can assure you that you're going to devalue the value of that dairy. You know, I cannot, you know, not be in opposition to it when it's that close to our facility, you know. So I think South Dakota, and

the party that attended last Friday with me, too, she admitted, she said, North Dakota's got a lot tougher laws and more restrictions on building power lines than South Dakota has. Maybe that's the reason that they're coming through South Dakota instead of going straight north from Big Stone Power Plant and going across into North Dakota. I know that they claim Game and Fish and the Indian reservations and everything, but if we have to deal with it, they can deal with it also.

Now, the other thing that I would -- that I think South Dakota maybe needs -- Minnesota, in fact, there is a case going on in Minnesota right now. They passed legislation, "Buy the Farm." If you adversely affect the value of a farm with any utility, you have to buy the farm for its value. And you're probably familiar with the cases now that the utility companies are challenging it. But that's the law in Minnesota; "Buy the Farm" is what they call it.

So I think that South Dakota maybe needs to look at something like that, because some of us are definitely going to be adversely affected by this. And, you know, and I cannot, even though they're not going to have to deal with me on the

easement, I can't say that this project is good for our area.

We suggested an alternative route earlier. It would have no feedlot like my neighbor has. It would not affect our dairy. It would go -- And it would go across our pasture land. Much simpler. You would have less jogs in the line. But they said they don't have time because the PUC has not given them enough time.

So, and what I'm concerned about, also, is they don't seem to be in any big hurry to discuss this with us. And basically, what it's doing is -- You know, we know June 10th, 11th, and 12th is coming up awful fast. And they said, "Well, please don't hire a lawyer. Work with us." Well, we can't stall until the hearing is here. We need to know where we're at and if they're going to consider an alternative route in our area. Thank you.

## (Applause.)

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** Mr. Schuring, one question. Is your property affected by any of these five reroutes, or are you affected by the original route?

RANDY SCHURING: I can't tell you for

sure. The reason that is, when I told them last 1 winter we were not interested, nobody contacted me 3 and nobody showed me the route. I got a map of the 4 routes, of the reroute last Friday. 5 COMMISSIONER NELSON: So are you in one of those five areas? 6 7 RANDY SCHURING: Yes. **HENRY FORD:** Route Change No. 4. 8 9 RANDY SCHURING: We're in the reroute that showed it that they moved it to the railroad. 10 But were we in the original one? I don't know for sure 11 because nobody showed us the original map until 12 13 last Friday and that was the reroute map. 14 **COMMISSIONER NELSON:** Okay. What I would 15 love to see is -- Can you pull that one up on the 16 overhead? (Pause.) 17 HENRY FORD: No. (Chuckles.) 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: I'm going to have 19 him pull that on the overhead, and then I would like for you just to point out where you're at so 2.0 21 that I can visualize that. 22 (Pause.) 23 There we go. Right there. HENRY FORD: 24 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Go ahead and just point it out on there where you're at. 25

**HENRY FORD:** You're up in this area; 1 2 right? RANDY SCHURING: Okay. Excuse me, here. 3 4 (LAUGHTER.) 5 **JOHN SMITH:** Do you have a pointer? RANDY SCHURING: This right here is the 6 substation south of Andover. 7 COMMISSIONER NELSON: 8 Okay. 9 RANDY SCHURING: The REA has a substation. 10 They have to make a jog around it. We are right up 11 here -- Actually, we're right here. This road is 12 not on the half mile line. We got four right here 13 with the dairy. And here is the proposed line. 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: And what was your 15 suggestion? RANDY SCHURING: Well, we made -- We made 16 17 the suggestion to, where they're coming out, where 18 they're coming out of the hills here -- Do you have 19 a -- Could you go back a couple maps? You had a 20 better one there. It showed the jogs. Okav. 21 BRIAN ROUNDS: Henry, give him the mike. 22 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Can you give him a mike? 23 24 Sorry. Yeah, borrow it. HENRY FORD: Oh. 25 RANDY SCHURING: Okay. If you -- Right

here, right here is Andover. But where they're 2 coming across here, where the railroad, they made 3 this change here, why not continue straight west through Scotland Township, through the pasture 4 5 land, and then where they come up here, they would 6 eliminate a feedlot that they've had some concerns They would eliminate, you know, just a 8 little over a quarter mile from our dairy, and they would probably be what, Brad? There would be two 10 or three families along that route, but they would 11 be -- they would be a half a mile away from the --12 **BRAD MOREHOUSE:** Probably five families. Five residences. 13

wouldn't have anything to contend with as far as the feedlot or the dairies, and it's a route that would be simpler. They would have less jogs. They wouldn't have to go around the station. They could go straight west, make a 90, and come straight north.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Thank you.

JOHN SMITH: Mr. Schuring, could you

please identify who it was that was talking for the

court reporter, please, who you asked the question

of?

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: The party who answered Mr. Schuring's question.

BRAD MOREHOUSE: Brad Morehouse.

JOHN SMITH: Thank you.

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, sir.

BRAD MOREHOSUE: And I would like to say a little something about that. I'm Brad Morehouse from Andover. M-O-R-E-H-O-U-S-E. I've got the feedlot and they have talked to me. They have moved the line. It was coming right down the fence line and -- on the quarter line. And which they stayed on the east side on the neighbor's side with all of the poles and with all the air space, and everything, which, which is good, but better is to move it away. We had discussion; we had a meeting at my place. They did move it. I wanted them to move it half a mile, because I was notified that everybody within a half a mile got notified. what's the reason this half a mile? So I thought, and I'd feel a whole lot more comfortable than a half a mile, then they came up with 1200 feet.

There is an existing farm site not occupied. There is buildings. There is quonsets, barns, and things. And one of the neighbors accommodated me, he says, "Go right over the top of

that. That's a half mile away." Well, the guy says, "We can't go over the top of that because we got to ground it. And with the grounding issues, we can't go over the top of that." And I said, Well, you were telling me earlier that this line is not farmable, that a microwave in your house has more of this electromagnetic field. That's what I'm scared to death of is electromagnetic field coming up. I don't care about the poles. I don't care about anything else. It's -- The electromagnetic field to me is a very serious thing. And I've had -- Years ago, when we used to dairy and we had stray voltage in our dairy herd, and this is a different type of voltage. It's not to do -- But it has as bad or worse consequences with livestock.

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So they moved, so they moved this -- They said this is not any more electromagnetic field charge coming off of that as a microwave. Well, everybody here bring your microwave to my place, plug them in, and use them all at the same time, I'm good with that, because I don't have to ground anything in the instruction, anything with my microwave. This thing he said they needed to ground, and I believe that, and that would be

good -- good management when they're putting a line that close to a facility like that. And, also, earlier they said, "Just go ahead and ground your fencing." Why ground? Why do all of this? have the line that close and do all of this, all these things you've got to do to keep yourself safe when just move the line and we don't have to do that? So they moved it 1200 feet. They said I was They thought I was happy, the gal that -happy. The gal that visited with us, and she called me on the phone and she says, "Oh, goody, goody. We got it all done. We got it moved away from your feedlot." Well, it gave me about -- I was happy, but, yeah, it didn't come in where I kind of planned on or thought maybe a half a mile from me. And you can sure do that, because they did do some changes there right on that screen, where they --They could go another one mile up that, where it starts to jog. From the bottom of the picture, they can go one more mile right along that line and that would be half a mile from me. That would cure That would -- That would be a great thing for me. me, because this 1200 feet, I'm looking up there, you could spit from the top of that and hit my feedlot on the right day. And that, I don't feel

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safe. I don't know. I don't want to -- I don't want to have those things happen to me.

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So the other thing, they could sure easily enough move that. But what Randy and I are talking about, well, why even have it come -- they're going past center pivots. We've got a center pivot.

Bob Zimmerman actually stopped it, the original line with his center pivot, because he's pulling it north farther there where those railroad tracks are. He's actually stopped the line. That's what caused the reroute.

They told us at one time they couldn't go close to the railroad track because of parallelling a big metal, whatever, line. This electromagnetic field can charge that thing up and have problems with the rail. Well, then I was told that, no, they could go right alongside that line and ground the rail for that distance and they would be fine too. So I'm just being told a lot of things. I'm still scared to death to having that thing within a half a mile of my feedlot, because I like feeding cattle.

And I was also informed that if they're right where they were going to put it, probably discontinue your last two pens there. So how would

everybody like to have something that they can only use part of? The last few years in the cattle business have just been just swell, you know, with the high cost of feed and everything, but anyway, we would have to deal with that.

So they could surely -- Randy and I looked that over, and they could surely go down right south of me, it would be two miles, I believe, a mile and a half to two miles. They could come down the township plat there. Nobody's there. They'd hit the Basin line diagonally a little bit, head back north, hit their same line, go all the way around all this confusion, and that would be the simplest thing in the world. But they said they can't do that because the PUC doesn't allow them enough time, because there is a starting point and time to do things. And I'm sure there has got to be deadlines or things would get drug out forever.

But on the other side of that, why did it take them -- We had this meeting to just get this little jog done the first part of April. Friday she called me and said, It's done. The contractor, the engineer, got busy on another job. I don't know what --

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Mr. Morehouse, you're

the second individual to bring up the not enough 2 time that apparently someone said to someone. 3 Anyone who is a party to a docket can request additional time. The constraint is on us, as the 4 PUC, to make a decision within a certain period of 5 time. Again, it's within the law. However, 6 Intervenors and the Applicant themselves has the 8 ability, have the ability to simply request additional time, if additional time is necessary. These additional questions that have been 10 11 brought up here pertaining to the moving it, moving 12 the line -- several different questions. One is 13 moving the line a half mile. Would you comment on 14 that? Have you been in any discussions on that, 15 moving the line a half mile over? 16 HENRY FORD: This specific location? 17 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Right. THOMAS WELK: Use the mike. 18 19 HENRY FORD: That one I'm not aware of, as 20 far as the -- this particular -- We're talking this one a half mile? 21 2.2 **BRAD MOREHOUSE:** Yep. Yep. Just go north 23 one more mile. See, where they jog it back to the left side of the screen, the left where they come 24

up from the bottom? They go one more mile straight

along that township road, and I would be great with that. And I don't know why they -- Because in the relocation, it was actually where they started the relocation, or the reroute, whatever you want to call it, was actually even a quarter -- or a half a mile farther to the left, then that line would be straight all the way, where it goes diagonally right in there. And so they did move it back to the right that one-half a mile, and then they just didn't go far enough. They came back right -- Let's get to the feedlot. We've got to be there, for some reason. Why can't they go just north for one more mile? We're good.

could you show me where the feedlot is? That would help me. Thanks.

BRAD MOREHOUSE: Right there. Yep

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** Okay.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. You and Mr. Schuring have presented some interesting criteria, reasons for moving the line and I know that they, the Applicant, will be in touch with you to discuss that. It's not something that we will necessarily resolve here tonight, by any means, but thank you very much for bringing that up.

1	BRAD MOREHOUSE: Thank you.
2	CHAIRMAN HANSON: You brought up some
3	good points, and you folks will chat with them on
4	that.
5	HENRY FORD: Absolutely, yeah.
6	CHAIRMAN HANSON: Other questions?
7	Concerns? The is mike open. Good evening, sir.
8	RON RINGGENBERG: Ron Ringgenberg from
9	Columbia. Cambria Township. Ringgenberg is
10	spelled just like it sounds, R-I-N-G-G-E-N-B-E-R-G.
11	And I would like to have you pull up project
12	that third change there.
13	HENRY FORD: This one?
14	RON RINGGENBERG: The map I got it's hard
15	to see where the
16	CHAIRMAN HANSON: Please use the
17	microphone, if you're going to come up here and
18	speak.
19	RON RINGGENBERG: I can't really tell
20	where.
21	CHAIRMAN HANSON: If you're going to
22	speak, just use this mike. Thank you.
23	JASON SUTTON: Sir? Here. Here you go.
24	RON RINGGENBERG: The East River has got a
25	line that runs in there, and then it goes north,

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and but I am not sure what section. It's kind of
 1
    hard to tell on the sections here. You're going to
 2
    be awful close to -- Yeah, okay. This -- There is
 3
    a substation right there. I'm sure you're aware of
 4
 5
    that.
 6
             HENRY FORD: Uh-huh (Yes).
 7
             RON RINGGENBERG: And then you're going to
 8
    go down, there is a power line that runs this way.
    Are you going to be going along that route?
10
             SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: Power line is
11
    on the other end; right, Dave?
12
             RON RINGGENBERG: It's a smaller one.
                                                     Ι
13
    don't know where it goes.
                               It runs east and west.
14
    And there is one that comes out of the substation
15
    and goes to the 3M plant here in Aberdeen.
             HENRY FORD:
16
                          Yeah.
17
             RON RINGGENBERG: Goes to Aberdeen.
18
             HENRY FORD: We don't have any problems
19
    with --
20
             CHAIRMAN HANSON: Please use the mike so
21
    we can record it.
                       Thank you.
22
             HENRY FORD: We don't have any -- There is
23
    no issues, really, related to parallelling a
24
    distribution line with a transmission line.
25
    mean, I'm not sure what lines we're talking about
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here. This is a transmission line up here that I 1 think is East River's. We cross that. 3 parallelled this one for a short distance. 4 RON RINGGENBERG: That's a bigger line. This one here is a bigger line here than this one 5 6 here. CHAIRMAN HANSON: You'll need to share that microphone. Mr. Ford, would you please. 9 Thank you. 10 RON RINGGENBERG: This line here goes up, 11 and then it catches one that goes to 3M out of the 12 substation. 13 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thanks, Brian. HENRY FORD: 1.4 Okay. 15 RON RINGGENBERG: And where you're going along, there is actually another line there. 16 17 we're trying to farm with that line, you're going 18 to be about, what, a hundred fifty feet away from 19 that other line, or where are you --20 **HENRY FORD:** It's going to depend on what 21 line you're talking about and where it is in 2.2 relation to, you know, if they're on opposite sides 23 of the road like this appears to be --24 RON RINGGENBERG: No, you're coming up the

section line there. That's not a road.

1 **HENRY FORD:** Yeah, this quarter line, you 2 mean? 3 RON RINGGENBERG: Yep. HENRY FORD: Yeah. I'm not sure where 4 you're at. What location are you at? 5 6 RON RINGGENBERG: And there is a power 7 line that goes up that. 8 **HENRY FORD:** Is this the location you're 9 concerned about right here? RON RINGGENBERG: Well, yeah. It's hard 10 11 to farm around. There is four power lines in that 12 area now. And you're going to be five. And then I 13 understand that East River is talking about 14 bringing a line out over to the Groton ethanol 15 plant, out of that substation. So we're going to 16 have another line. We're going to have about six 17 lines there right in that area. I'm dropping my --It's hard to farm. 18 19 And another thing, every farm magazine I 20 think I've read this winter is -- I think I 21 mentioned that last fall when we had the meeting. 22 We're going to lose acres, you know, with these lines. And this, the one magazine that I read, I 23 24 think every four days this world gets 800,000 more

mouths to feed. That's the same as the population

of South Dakota. And think of that. In 50 years 1 2 or in 30 years from now, the amount of food that 3 we're going to need to produce. And we're going to lose acres on this thing. And we're coming through some of the best land in the state of South Dakota. 5 Why not stay further east someplace where we have 6 7 more grassland and not so much high-density farming? 9 (Applause.) 10 Thank you, sir. CHAIRMAN HANSON: 11 RON RINGGENBERG: There is one other 12 comment. 13 CHAIRMAN HANSON: All right. Go ahead. 14 I'll let you go ahead. 15 RON RINGGENBERG: I lost my notes here. One thing is you said you were going to build 16 17 another substation up there in Ellendale. Why not put it back further east and shorten this line up? 18 19 **HENRY FORD:** The substation locations are determined -- Well, first off, they were determined 20 21 by MISO, but they relate to the specific location 22 in the electric grid where this 345 line needs to 2.3 terminate. So, you know, us as owners of the 24 project and builders of the project, we don't have 25 that flexibility to say we want to build a

substation somewhere different. 1 2 **RON RINGGENBERG:** Okay. Thank you. 3 LLOYD BUNTROCK: Lloyd Buntrock. Columbia. I just was wondering who's going to get 4 5 to utilize this electricity through this power I have not got a clear explanation of who 7 this is going to benefit. I haven't heard that Columbia is going to get anything, Aberdeen is 8 going to get anything. I haven't heard that 10 anybody is going to benefit in South Dakota. 11 **HENRY FORD:** The project, and I'm probably 12 not the best expert to talk about the actual MISO 13 studies and how this line, project, was determined. 14 But as I said during my presentation, you're 15 correct in the sense that the transmission line is 16 not being built in the traditional sense of, here 17 is the location of generation and we need to get 18 power to Andover or Cambria or whatever these communities are that, you know, might have this 19 20 need. 21 When you start talking about bulk 22 transmission or this very high-voltage 23 transmission, the purpose of this type of 24 transmission is like an interstate highway system.

It's a large capacity method of carrying lots of

energy through a particular area. Now, you know, we're only tying it in to the local grid at Big Stone and at Ellendale.

2.2

2.3

A lot of the reason why MISO determined the need for this project has to do with generation needs for MISO and where they predict potential generation resources to be built. You know, I can't really defend this in the sense that this has this strong local benefit, because MISO by virtue of its makeup is a -- kind of a socialized organization in that they're taking care of this entire Upper Midwest part of the country.

So the -- When I mentioned, you know, they're looking at generation. Obviously, what generation they're looking at to a great extent is the wind projects that would like to be built in North Dakota and South Dakota. So if anything, these wind projects are probably, you know, the potential economic benefit for South Dakota and North Dakota in terms of economic development, you know, having these projects be built. And these projects, yes, maybe the electricity is not serving the local community. But what you may not realize is that even the electric co-ops, a lot of these electric co-ops are members of companies like Basin

Electric, Heartland Electric, these are the generation and transmission co-ops. A lot of those same co-ops want to build wind generation as well.

2.4

And when you build generation, the complicated thing about transmission is, electricity, you can't put electricity into a piece of conductor here and say, I'm delivering this to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and have it go there. Electricity follows wherever the load is requesting it. So the grid itself is this very complicated network that engineers that do things that I don't understand are the ones that analyze these networks and figure out where the flows are. And those are the reasons why this particular line between these particular endpoints makes the most sense. It's from an overall grid support standpoint.

was stated at one of the meetings, and I'm going to -- You can say that I'm wrong or right. But this electricity basically wants to go back to Minnesota. They're the ones that want it. But they do not want it made from Big Stone because of the coal. Environmentalists got that strong a hold on Minnesota. That really disturbs me and I hope the PUC would look at it as being South Dakota

representatives, why should the people in South Dakota suffer and lose land value and everything else.

I'm not a big farmer. I have my name on four quarters. Every one of them except one is going to have poles. So I hope you look at that line. We're not benefiting South Dakota. Yeah, you can say the tax dollars and some of that is going to come back to maybe roads, schools, or whatever, but here you're coming through and you're suffering the whole 160 miles of people and individuals, that some might want it and some might not. It's tougher for us to farm. And you can't say them poles on that land -- There is two quarters of land side by side. I know which one I'm going to pick if I'm going to buy it. Not the one with poles on.

And you say that it don't affect cattle or don't have that. I can give you a couple names of people that have fought with their cattle, with pastures under them lines; that they got to either have another expense of adding some more mineral or whatever. So that it don't -- Because it takes something out of them cattle. And if you look at these pastures that got cattle in, most of the time

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they're standing underneath the lines, because 1 2 there is less flies and mosquitoes so you can't tell me that there ain't current coming out of 3 there that's detaining them from being there. But I would just like to encourage the PUC 5 to -- I can't see that South Dakota is benefiting 6 7 from this whatsoever. Just to bring it through 8 South Dakota, the best farm ground and everything else and turn around when there is other routes 9 that would be a lot straighter and shorter and 10 11 would not interfere with more people, so. 12 would be my kind of challenge to the PUC. 13 (Applause.) 14 THE COURT REPORTER: Can I have your name 15 again? 16 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Sir, would you spell 17 your last name for the court reporter, please. 18 Thank you. 19 LLOYD BUNTROCK: B-U-N-T-R-O-C-K. 20 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you very much. 21 THE COURT REPORTER: And your first name 22 was --23 LLOYD BUNTROCK: Lloyd. 24 THE COURT REPORTER: Lloyd, okay. Thank 25 you.

1 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yep, thank you. going to have to ask my compatriot fellow 2 Commissioner about the flies and mosquitoes. 3 4 wasn't aware of that. Chris raises cattle so we're going to have a discussion on that some day. 6 That's an interesting -- I hadn't heard of that 7 before. Yes, sir. CHRIS PODOLL: Chris Podoll, Columbia. 8 Podoll is P-O-D-O-L-L. First question I have: at 9 the October meeting it was brought up about our 10 11 crop insurance having to have proven yields and by 12 you paying for double the crop year, that's not 13 really helping us other than that one year. 14 you come up with a solution yet, too, how you're 15 going to handle the bushels lost for your 16 production history? 17 **HENRY FORD:** Well, like I said, if you 1.8 lost \$10,000 of crop the year that we did the 19 construction and we pay you 20,000, how does that 20 not help you beyond the one year? 21 Because I still don't have CHRIS PODOLL: 22 them bushels for proven yields. You're getting rid 2.3 of them bushels. I don't have them anymore. 2.4 So you're talking about it's HENRY FORD:

in the crop insurance calculation?

1 SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: That's a 2 ten-year history. 3 HENRY FORD: Yeah. Yeah, I don't know 4 what we can do about that. 5 CHRIS PODOLL: I don't know what I can do 6 about it either. 7 (LAUGHTER.) 8 **HENRY FORD:** It seems like whoever does those calculations, it seems like they ought to be 10 able to, you know, include those bushels because 11 they were lost beyond, you know, for a reason 12 beyond your own control. 13 SPEAKER FROM THE AUDIENCE: What world do 14 you live in? 15 (LAUGHTER.) 16 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yeah, we're going to 17 remain -- I know that was in gest, but we need to remain civil as best we can and speak at the mike 18 19 and give your name and all that. I'm not prompting 20 you to go speak, but you look like you're 21 compelled. 22 (LAUGHTER.) CHAIRMAN HANSON: Looks like you want to 23 24 say something. 25 CHRIS PODOLL: Second question. You had

spoke on easement values and you said 80 percent of land value. There is some easements out there if it's just an overhang easement, they're only being paid 50 percent of the value.

easements, which means there is no poles or anything on the land, it just means that the 150-foot-wide easement would cross over the property line. So that's why it's called overhang.

CHRIS PODOLL: Correct. Some of those easements have that statement on there; some of them do not.

HENRY FORD: Right. So there is no direct impact to that land by the overhang, except that, like I say, we're trying to define this 150-foot-wide right-of-way. So, yes, overhang easements are being paid or being offered to be paid at 50 percent of the easement that contains poles. That's correct.

chris podoll: So an easement isn't an easement. If it's an easement with this power line, it's not a cut, if it's an easement, you get this, you get 80 percent. You get half, if it's just an overhang easement?

**HENRY FORD:** That's correct.

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CHRIS PODOLL: You get half of the 80; is
 1
 2.
    that correct?
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             HENRY FORD: That's correct.
             CHAIRMAN HANSON: Chris -- I believe Chris
 4
 5
    has a question.
 6
             COMMISSIONER NELSON: Follow-up question
 7
    on that. So where you're running down the quarter
 8
    section line, who is getting paid the 80?
 9
    getting paid the 50?
                          How does that work?
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             HENRY FORD: Well, what we've decided to
    do on those locations is if -- It depends on the
11
12
    location. Some of them, they actually want the
13
    poles right smack on the quarter line. So if it's
14
    right smack on the property line, we're just taking
15
    the easement value and dividing it in half, because
16
    it's impacting both landowners equally.
17
             COMMISSIONER NELSON: So 80 percent in
18
    half?
19
             HENRY FORD:
                          Yes.
20
             COMMISSIONER NELSON: Yeah.
                                          Okay.
21
    Thanks.
22
             LELAND STAUCH: Leland Stauch,
23
    S-T-A-U-C-H. I own property in Henry Township and
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    also south of Andover where these power lines will
25
   be coming through. I have a number of questions to
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ask you.

First of all, who is going to maintain and control the weeds around these posts for where it's next to a fence line? Those weeds will grow there. Somebody will have to either spray them or cut them or let them go to seed like the Canadian thistle, sow thistle, and that. Somebody forever and ever will have to maintain weed control on this property surrounding these posts. I see a guy today just about hit a post with his sprayer when he made a big swing with his John Deere. He came so close to that post, a fence post, he could have lost that sprayer real quick.

And when you sign these easements and sell these leases to the public utility, you will maintain that for your life, your kids' life, and whoever comes after you. You fully need to understand that. You need to figure, you have a cost that you're going to have to maintain every year to keep this right-of-way looking proper. And nobody wants Canadian thistles and sow thistles going to seed and going all over the countryside, because there are plenty out there right now.

Another question. These guys that got killed out here by Highmore, hit a wind charger.

Now, that wind charger should have had a light on the top of it to warn these guys who are getting close to it in the fog. Are any of these 150-foot poles going to have red lights on the top for safety?

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**HENRY FORD:** No, they will not.

is, you say on the bottom of the scoop on the wire hanging is 30 feet above the ground.

**HENRY FORD:** Worse-case scenario, yes.

LELAND STAUCH: Worse case, okay. you're doing aerial spraying of pasture land -- And I sprayed some of my pasture land last year with an I plan to do it in the aerial sprayer. Okay. future to control the weeds. A lot of these pastures, wherever they may be, have not had weed control whatsoever. Okay, who is it in that plane is going to want to barrel underneath that power line when he's got 30-foot clearance between the ground, the plane hitting the top of that wire, or is he going to have to go over the top and dip down and then come back along the power line to get full coverage for that spray dump. If I pay 15 bucks an acre for spraying this cropland, I expect the weeds controlled.

Another question we have is the right-of-way for the crops. Okay. The crop you plant, you say you're going to use adjusted yield or county average, you need to come up and say, Are we using proven yield or county average? What are we going to base the price on? You can take the average for corn off of the last two years and come up with an average of \$6 a bushel. What's the price of corn going to be this fall? Maybe it's going to be \$3.50. If it's \$3.50 for your basis, remember you said this probably will not be finished 'til 2019. You know, it's 2014 today. Land prices have done a lot in the last five years. In fact, three years.

What are you going to base your land value on? The date you sign that easement contract? Are you going to base it on when you agreed on the price per acre? I would like to tell the people -- have you tell the people here what year are you going to set the value for this land. Land right now has not been down in value. Morehouse bought a quarter right across the road from me. He knows what he paid. He did not steal the property. He paid top money for pasture.

Another thing, when you receive this

10,000 bucks an acre, let's say as an example, you're not going to get all that money. 15 percent 2 3 goes for federal capital gains tax, 3.4 goes to Obama medicare tax. If you live in Minnesota, which I happen to live yet -- Although I'm from 5 South Dakota and I love South Dakota, South Dakota, 6 I was born here; to me, it's my home. I will pay 8 15 percent, 3.4, and 9.8 to Mr. Dayton on the sale 9 of this property. So I'm going to lose 30 cents of 10 every dollar. So I am not getting 10,000. 11 getting 7,000 an acre, and my land is worth a hell of a lot more than 7,000 an acre. 12

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They have sold land up by Cambria this spring for thirteen-five-plus an acre. There was two quarters sold in Putney Township two years ago, 2012, at 13,000 an acre. A quarter of land that's right across from where you want to put the power line on my land, Henry Township, sold for eleven-five an acre. Now, based on land records from the college, land prices have went up three to five or six percent this past year. So that eleven-five across the road is no longer even a good figure today. Nobody has agreed on these prices. People need to be told, when are we going to set the price so you know?

And then when are we going to get paid?

Are we going to get paid 2019? Are we going to get paid 2017? We want to know that. With the government spending money the way it is, they're going to be increasing the tax rate, whether it's in South Dakota, Minnesota, or nationwide. Obama is spending a lot of money, and he's going to need to recover it and you, the tax payer, are going to put the money on the table.

And I think people need to be informed really of what's going on, and a lot of these questions have not been answered. I don't care -- I'd just as soon not put any pole on any of my land, personally. I don't want to see a pole on any of my land; my personal opinion. I bought every acre here and I don't want a pole on any of it, really, if you want to know the God's honest truth. I'm not buying it to have to look at poles on it. They're an eyesore and that pole will be there forever, for the life of all of us here.

Don't look at anybody -- those poles will be -- The poles if they're built, stay forever.

And I think people should learn to think about this, what's going to happen. Is the county assessor going to drop the tax value on that nine

acres? I'll betcha not. I'll betcha she won't.

Let's put that in writing. The county assessors

will be advised to drop the land value on this nine
acres of property, the value that you decrease the

value, because you cannot build a house on it.

You're going to have to stay a distance from it. So you're losing more than those nine acres; you're losing much more. And you're losing the control of that land forever and whoever buys it in the future will have restrictions. That easement stays forever. I hope you think about it when you sign those agreements.

I haven't signed any to sell anything.

I'm not going to be the first guy to sell the place. I'm going to get what I feel is a fair price, and I think everybody is entitled to a fair price, and that's where we need to come from. I care about South Dakota. I care about every one of these farmers, half, 90 percent of these guys I don't remember. I've been away from here since 1960 when I graduated college and went into the Army. And after that I went to Minneapolis, because there was no point in staying in South Dakota. Thank you for you time.

(Applause.)

**HENRY FORD:** I can comment on just a 1 2 little bit of that that I can remember here. One 3 thing as far as the easement payment itself, you 4 know that we're out getting options today. And our 5 intention is that if the stars align and we do get our route permit for the project, that's the point 6 7 in time when we start going forward and making easement payments. So if, you know, depending on 9 the schedule here, if we were to get our line 10 permit before the end of 2014, we would begin to 11 make the actual easement payments in 2015. And our 12 intention would be to pay all those payments in 13 '15, because, you remember, we're looking at starting construction in 2016. 14 15 So from a land-value standpoint, I guess it would be 2015 land values that we would be 16 17 looking at for making the easement payments.

that would be the year that we would be doing that.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: If I could just follow up on the one question, though, so far as the crop damage payments, I'm assuming that's going to be made in the year the damage is incurred and the price is set at that point? Is that accurate?

**HENRY FORD:** Yes, that's correct.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Thank you.

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LYLE PODOLL: My name is Lyle Podoll.

P-O-D-O-L-L. My concerns echo some of these that are here, and, Gary, you did explain that you did have some limitations, but I'm going to read this anyway as it is, so.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: (Nods affirmatively.)

LYLE PODOLL: As a result of the joint meeting on October 17, 2013, we were informed verbally by BSSE that the PUC requested that they give consideration to those having residences within a half mile of the proposed line but may not have actual property on that line. We thank you for that.

Just a point now, we are involved in this proposal on change No. 2 on the map.

The results have been mixed. I was verbally informed last fall that BSSE was proposing moving the three-and-a-half mile line on 120th Street east of Westport a half a mile north of 120th to the quarter line, which would place the line on some of our property. This resulted in moving the project farther from some homes and closer to others but still leave the line within a half mile of seven residences. Which was on the original letter we sent last fall.

Being partially compensated does not 1 change the issue for the following reasons: With 3 no written information being offered, my wife and I requested a meeting in an attempt to learn more 4 5 about what they were proposing. We met on April 15, 2014, at which time an option form and 6 information was presented. We had a great deal of discussion on the issue, but what it boiled down to was that I did not have a problem with the power 10 poles on ag land. We already worked around that. 11 But I did have a problem with the line being close 12 to our home, approximately within 800 feet of our 13 new house built in 2010. It would also run within 600 feet of my son's home across the road. 14 15 plan to run the line 120 feet north of the quarter 16 line because of trees so we would not be 17 compensated for this property with the house on it. 18 We would be compensated for the bare quarter 19 section to the east. This discussion ended with 20 the fact that we would continue to visit with them 21 about the proposal, if they would further discuss 22 the impact of devaluation to our home. 23 assured that they would discuss it at one of their regular meetings. 24

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In a telephone conversation on May 7, this

month in 2014, on another issue, I asked if the devaluation was discussed. The response was, "We asked ourselves, is there a loss of value to a residence because of unsightly poles nearby? The answer would be a definite yes. We just don't know how much value to place on it."

We own 440 acres and we now have two, excuse me, transmission lines on those 440 acres. Not distribution lines. These are transmission lines. Now, the proposal is to add a third line. Add that to their comment that the unsightly poles will definitely devalue our new home is of grave concern to us. What direct financial cost should we bear to further this proposal? How much would you as individuals be willing to sacrifice for this project if you wanted to sell your home?

We were also told that if we did not go along with the above proposal, BSSE would go back to the original proposal. Which was proposed last October.

With that in mind, Arnold and
Darlene Dennert, and Carol Rydberg and I requested
another meeting to discuss the original proposal.
We met with representatives on May 13, 2014. Our
discussion centered on some of the reroutes we

proposed in our packet as of October 17, 2013. All three of us feel that the proposals in the packet still have a great deal of merit. As of this date, we have not received any response on those proposals, other than under consideration. Arnold and Darlene would allow a diagonal across two quarters of land to keep it further from their residence, and Carol would allow it to border 10 feet from the quarter line going south for one mile instead of having it out onto her land in the original proposal.

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The landowner to the south of Carol for a half mile indicated just recently that he would allow it along one quarter of his land, but he is also a lessee on the next quarter. It is his intentions to purchase -- It is his intention to purchase that quarter and would like to have some input as to the routing of the poles on that quarter if this route were selected.

As this just came up recently, details on the remaining quarter have not been discussed.

What that brings -- With that it brings the line to two-and-a-half miles of an improved township road -- unimproved township road going east to once again meet up with the original line. With this

proposal, there are only two residences within a half mile of the line; one that has requested the line come through his land, and the last residence has no change in distance with either proposal. This being Lloyd Buntrock who just spoke previously.

This also has merit from the standpoint that six residences would not have to deal with devaluation of their homes as was indicated to me. As you can see, we are so close to making this work for everyone. The representative we met with said they would discuss it but indicated that their meeting with the PUC was in June and time was a factor.

Arnold Dennert said if they went back to the original proposal, there would probably be three large landowners in the immediate vicinity that would go through condemnation and that would take a great deal of time also, probably more time than looking at this proposal. The representative also stated that they should have moved the original line coming from North Dakota many miles west of here and turned east somewhere near Aberdeen to meet up with the line going east. They indicated to us at the meeting that their selection

of the route in this area was, by their own admission, not a good decision.

It would be our request at this time for the PUC to delay any approval until such time as more discussions and agreements can be worked out between BSSE and the landowners. If BSSE indicates to you, the PUC, that any delays in approval would be a cost to the project, it should not be a factor in your decision. By their own admission the preferred line should have been many miles west of here and a great deal of savings would have been obtained from land values alone.

At the October meeting last fall, I asked why they did not consider the diagonal line through the Coteau Hills, possibly along an existing rail line and probably save \$80 million. I have since been in touch with that rail line and they indicated three times that they would be very interested in discussing it with BSSE and would look forward to a meeting with them, but they were not contacted. That indicates to us that money is not a factor. It is acceptable to proceed with a bad decision as long as the PUC allows it. It would also be acceptable to BSSE, by their own admission, to incur devaluation of our homes if the

PUC allows it. It would be regrettable if the PUC did not consider the needs of the landowners and homeowners over two public utilities from other states when possible solutions for the benefit of everyone can still be achieved.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter, and I know that the landowners in this area would be willing to meet any time to obtain a workable solution beneficial to everyone. That's all I have.

## (Applause.)

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. Did you have some questions?

could indulge you, if you could bring up No. 2 on the slide, could you just quickly show me where your alternative is on here.

## LYLE PODOLL: Sure.

COMMISSIONER NELSON: And I've gotten your written materials, but I understand that what you're talking about now is different from what your materials were last fall; right?

LYLE PODOLL: Yes. It is actually real close to what we had last fall. Let's see. We're three miles east of Westport, if I can find

Westport on here. Okay, this is the proposed line here. This is Arnold Dennert's place here. He would allow that -- He owns the next two quarters to the east. He would allow that line to go through an entire mile to come over here, which gets it further away from his residence. If it comes back to the original proposal, it will still be just a few hundred feet from the front of his house. He would agree to this diagonal line.

Carol Rydberg owns these two quarters here. She would allow, on that 10-foot of her property, where here it was going to be 120 to 150 feet out on her property. She owns those two quarters.

And then we have the quarter here. And I went and talked to that guy twice, and he said he would be in agreement to letting them do that.

The only quarter that we have in question, then, is this quarter right here that he intends to buy. Now, whether we could do a diagonal there or go this route here, but that brings us to the two-and-a-half miles of township, unimproved township road to get back to the original line. This was in one of those original proposals. And we had discussed various routes coming this way,

because of certain vacant places. But as you can 2 see, there are no residences whatsoever in this area, other than Arnold, and that proposal would 3 take it further away from his house. This place is 4 5 vacant. It's probably not inhabitable the way it is, but it is a nice location that may be some day. 6 7 So the only quarter in question to make 8 this go is this here. Now, the landowners all live out of state, but the lessee has said that he works 10 well with them, and based on that, he said he would 11 hope that we could come up with a solution. The 12 landowner in question that wants it would be right 13 here. He would prefer that it come through his ground. A couple of landowners that have land, 14 15 this is mostly pasture land and stuff along here, 16 too, so it wouldn't have an impact on much ag land 17 at all. Does that answer your question? 18 COMMISSIONER NELSON: It does. Thank you. 19 **LYLE PODOLL:** Okay. Thank you. 20 **CHAIRMAN HANSON:** Good evening. 21 I'm Dana Jones. I live in DANA JONES: 22 Watertown, but I own land in Brown County in Cambria Township, me and my siblings. And I didn't 23 see that change map until tonight. If you'd go 24 25 back to change No. 3, please. Now, the blue line

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    and I'm probably going to have to come and show
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    you, because if you look -- it would be easier for
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    me to show you than for me to try and explain it.
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              Now, I take it that this purple line is
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    the original route. Right?
              HENRY FORD:
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                           Yes.
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             DANA JONES: Okay. How far is this change
    in miles from this purple line, or from this
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 9
    original deal?
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             HENRY FORD:
                          That should be about a half a
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    mile.
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             DANA JONES:
                           It looks like one square,
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    which on the plot map would be one mile; right?
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             HENRY FORD:
                          Half mile, yes.
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             CHAIRMAN HANSON: The answer was half
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    mile.
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             THE COURT REPORTER:
                                   Thank you.
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             DANA JONES:
                          What's that?
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             CHAIRMAN HANSON: I have to speak for
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    Mr. Ford, because he doesn't have a mike. So I'm
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    just telling the court reporter what he's saying.
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    Go ahead.
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             DANA JONES: Oh, okay. So if this got
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    moved, then we have a quarter of land that I think
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    this was probably going to go through and go down
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and border that line. And it's possible that this might get moved over to a mile -- or a half a mile to the west, if I'm not mistaken? I would almost have to see the -- I've never seen this map. There is nothing written on here about legal descriptions of where the land is; it's pretty vague. So I don't really know.

HENRY FORD: Yeah, I'm not sure what you're asking, but the red route on here is the route that has been under consideration and negotiation with Dennis.

DANA JONES: Okay. See, the land that we own borders the land that Mr. Ringgenberg owns farther to the south of it. So he probably knows more about where this is going than I do, because I haven't seen this map. This map is crappy. It doesn't have any descriptions on it, as far as legal. It says, 124 North here. And it says, 062 West, but that doesn't really give you a -- doesn't really give you a quarter description. It just tells you what section you're in vaguely.

**HENRY FORD:** Yeah, you're in Section 28 here, and down here would be --

DANA JONES: And here is 27.

HENRY FORD: Right. So this would be the

Southeast Quarter of 28. 1 DANA JONES: Okay. Well, I'll have to 2 3 write that all down and get a different map and then go home and look in my book and figure this 4 all out then. Okay? **HENRY FORD:** Yeah, you could certainly 6 7 talk to Terry. DANA JONES: Well, I think he's going to 8 9 get me some different maps, because we already had 10 a conversation. 11 HENRY FORD: Okay. 12 DANA JONES: But until then it's a big fog in my mind. 13 Thanks. 14 **HENRY FORD:** Okay. 15 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Good evening, sir. 16 BUD DENNERT: Good evening. Bud Dennert. 17 Westport, South Dakota. D-E-N-N-E-R-T. And we've 18 been fighting this for -- proposed line since we 19 first heard of it. And every time we have a meeting like this here, it seems that there is more 20 people that are unhappy. They, like the last 21 22 fellow, the crappy maps they sent us. We had to 23 try to figure out where it was going to go, whether 24 it was coming on our land or not, but we put up 25 with it. And now it's getting about time to just

say, "Let's shut the dam thing down. We've had enough of it. If they want to build it, come back and resurvey it."

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I think they surveyed this two years ago, if I remember right, when we had all the snow. And they couldn't get down anything but the mail routes and the school bus routes and that there to take a picture of what they wanted to work with. Let's get it so that they're doing a job that, oh, an engineer should do when he does something. here it looks like they had a square that was big enough to go over one inch, and they turned it every time so that they could make a stair step. And that's not an engineer's way of doing something. The proper way to do that is point A, point B, straight line. And this here, there is no straight line. And thank you. Mr. Podoll, he did the work on that other proposal and did a heck of a job for us. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, sir. Further comments? Good evening.

RYAN BUNTROCK: Good evening.

Ryan Buntrock, B-U-N-T-R-O-C-K. Columbia.

Garland Township. I have a question for the BSSE

25 on if the PUC hasn't given you the permits or

nothing yet to do any work, why do you have surveyors out chipping up on our roads already and the roads that you're on, the landowners haven't even signed nothing yet. My father and I have went and met with your crew, and they said that they were testing and surveying on the roads already, both township and county. That's my question.

**HENRY FORD:** Terry, you want to answer that?

TERRY FASTEEN: Sure.

HENRY FORD: Terry Fasteen is our consulting engineer from Kadrmas Lee & Jackson. They're the survey company. I can give you kind of a general response, but I think Terry would give you a little bit better.

TERRY FASTEEN: Terry Fasteen with KLJ.

Part of the reason that people are out doing surveys, they're looking for section corners, quarter corners, which by law that access to the right-of-way has been granted. So for part of the project, as you're hearing Bud point out, to do an engineering research to really look at things, you need to set and establish control.

You've heard there is no legal description. You can't write a legal description

accurately unless you locate for established section corners. That's what the crews are out there doing. That's what they're trying at this time.

application granted. So the opportunity would be either to -- for the owners to expense some moneys in advance, anticipate they're going to get a permit, and do the work ahead of time; or wait until that point in time, if the application was granted, and then try to undertake all the work and get the project constructed. So it's part of a gamble, I guess you could put it, on their side that we're out there doing this. But that's what they're tying to do. Plus there was an aerial photography plan to look at ground features, and again, to make sure that they line up with the sections you need control. So that's part of what the survey crew were doing.

**RYAN BUNTROCK:** So even though they're chipping up on our township roads already, doing drilling and actually chipping up the roads?

TERRY FASTEEN: That's the only way you can get to a section corner in most cases because they're usually buried under something. So that's

how they do it. They actually have to locate that 1 section corner or determine if it is there or not. 2 And if it's not there, there is a public land 3 4 survey system that's established by the government 5 to tell you how to reestablish it. So in order to determine that, they have to physically look for 7 So that's what they're doing. If that answers it. 8 your question. 9 **RYAN BUNTROCK:** Yeah. Thanks. Interesting question. 10 CHAIRMAN HANSON: 11 Thank you. Good evening, sir. 12 CHRIS ROETTELE: Thank you. 13 Chris Roettele. R-O-E-T-T-E-L-E. Columbia. Ι 14 have a couple questions. First one was, it was 15 brought up at the last meeting about life of the 16 It was brought to everyone's attention easements. 17 that North Dakota was a 99 versus a life term of 18 easement. What have -- Have you guys thought about 19 that for South Dakota maybe getting a 99 or less 20 than a life, that way maybe my kids or grandkids 21 could possibly not be affected by this?

HENRY FORD: Yeah, I guess what we're doing is following the law in each of the states.

And North Dakota has a law that limits the easement to 99 years. It's a relatively new law, but

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South Dakota has no such law so we have the right to get a perpetual easement.

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chris roettele: So with the landowners here, their right is taken away from them, and they have no ability to do anything about it. Is there any chance that you would do 99 just like

North Dakota, to try and help out the landowner?

**HENRY FORD:** Well, from our perspective, I guess, the question is what happens -- and, sure, it's way beyond any of our lifetimes here -- but from a business standpoint, I mean, if you invest \$300 or \$400 million in a project like this, and in some distant point in the future we no longer have the right to have that facility there, and the facility is still needed and is still, you know, being used, you know, we're kind of left in a bad position as far as companies. We would have to go out and renegotiate. I mean, the line is, I would hope, is still going to stay in that location. we would be forced to come out and renegotiate it. And I quess in North Dakota they passed that law so that's why we're doing it. If South Dakota passed that law, I guess we would have to do that. that's the whole reason why perpetual easements were originally established was for these

facilities that are intended to be there, you know, essentially forever.

it at this, but I guess my thoughts are, is that does cause potential money and problems for you, but your value that you're giving the landowners of 80 percent, which I also just found out now 50 percent for the overhang, they don't get the increased value 99 years down the road. And as we know, the last 20 years, ground has gone up from a thousand dollars to 13,000. So we're losing that value, that time value in the future that we would maybe need to know. At least my grandkids could get a little bit of it back down the road. I guess we'll leave it at that.

And on the other thing on the easement value. The last two meetings I've been to, I was told 80 percent on each of them. Just a couple days ago I was informed about this 50 percent. How long has that been out there? My -- I don't own any land on this, but my -- I rent land, and the owner of it did not know about it either. And so I guess I'm kind of wondering why we weren't informed of this earlier in any public meetings.

HENRY FORD: Yeah, I can't tell you off

the top of my head whether that was ever discussed, but overhang easements have been considered to be paid at that rate since the beginning of the project based on the fact that there is physically nothing, there is really nothing encumbering that property, other than just the fact that the 150-foot right-of-way would be there. So there is that, that encumbrance of the easement, whatever that distance would need to be. But there is nothing physically in your way on the property. So that's why there is a difference.

if we would have been informed. I know at one of the meetings, there was a recorded event that the question was asked and we were directly told 80 percent. And so that kind of disturbs me that we were lied and it was caught on tape. But the bigger thing is, one of the issues with my landlord, she actually was not opposed to this route, and -- but she was told when the option contract came out, that she would only be giving rights to soils actually on the ground. And from my understanding from one of the other people here, that brought it to the attention here, that she actually signed the right to let you place easement

anywhere on her ground. Is that correct?

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**HENRY FORD:** What the purpose of the option was, is really to determine a landowner's willingness or non-willingness to have the line crossing on their property. So we're talking to the landowners in a sense before we really know where the line is going to be. You know, what you've been seeing is, is preliminary structure locations and, you know, you've seen these five route changes today. The option, there is an exhibit that goes with every option, and that exhibit outlines a 500-foot-wide strip of land. So what we determined is that with, I guess, pretty high level of confidence, we expect the center line to be somewhere within that 500-foot strip of land. And that's what the easement is -- or the option agreement is stating or covering.

**CHRIS ROETTELE:** So then beings she signed that, she's giving you the right to basically put it within that 500 feet; correct?

**HENRY FORD:** Well, she hasn't signed an easement yet, but, yeah, that's the intention, is that in signing the option, that landowner has agreed that we -- that they would support the line coming somewhere within that 500-foot strip.

CHRIS ROETTELE: If you were told that you'd lose \$90,000 by signing that because you didn't know that it was 50 percent versus 80, would you sign it? Because she was, unfortunately, lied to and I wanted on her behalf, even though she's for this, to make it known that -- You've showed a slide earlier that 60 percent of options were My landowner was lied to. She did sign I have not been contacted. I know many of the other farmers in here that actually farm the ground and own it were not informed of a lot of these And she told me that there was discussion things. with you guys that you guys were going to talk to me about where the location of the line would be. I have not received a phone call. So it disturbs me that she was lied to, and that she didn't know the value of what she could have, and I guess now she's kind of out on one leg right now.

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HENRY FORD: Yeah, the only thing I could say to that is I guess we'd have to find out which of Terry's land agents was dealing directly with her to find out if this is true or not, I guess.

All the land agents were trained at the beginning of the project. They understood the difference between overhang easement and pole location

1 easement. So I can't make any excuses why a land 2 agent would have gone out there and said the wrong 3 thing. 4 CHRIS ROETTELE: Okay. I'll finish up 5 here, but I'd like the PUC to at least, you know, 6 think about these easements, the 99 versus life, and then the fact that no one else -- and possibly some of these other 60 percent people have signed, 9 did not know until they got the final paperwork, 10 that, hey, it's 50 percent versus 80 percent. 11 Thank you. CHAIRMAN HANSON: One second, please. 12 Ι believe Commissioner --13 14 COMMISSIONER NELSON: The follow-up 15 question that I've got for Mr. Ford, in the 16 easement that's presented for signature, does it 17 have the 50 percent figure in it? 18 HENRY FORD: The --19 TERRY FASTEEN: The option, it should be. 20 Well, they're signing --21 HENRY FORD: I'll let Terry answer. 22 TERRY FASTEEN: I believe --23 **COMMISSIONER NELSON:** You're signing an 24 option, but obviously you're seeing the easement 25 language at that same time; correct? Or not?

**HENRY FORD:** Yeah, we're -- Go ahead.

TERRY FASTEEN: Yeah, Terry Fasteen again. When the landowner gets a package, it has the option document in it, and talks about how many acres the easement would be. It talks about if it's an overhang or a -- we call it, a straight easement at 80 percent or at 40 percent, so, you know, 50 percent of the land value. In that package, also, is a sample document of what the easement would be. The easement is not filled out, because we don't have the specific, the project does not have a specific location, because they don't have an application. So within that 500-foot option area, that easement document isn't completely filled out.

But, again, on an option document, it shows what the intent for the option payment is, and there is conversation with the agent as to based on a percentage of crop, your easement payment could be X-number of dollars or if it's pasture. And it does, it shows if it's overhang or not. So that conversation there.

I can't say because I'm not in every conversation with that person, but I truly don't believe that our agents would deliberately lie and

tell somebody they're going to get something that they're really not. But, again, I'm not there having the conversation so I can't make that comment. But I don't know who we're talking about. Maybe you and I can get together and you could tell me who you're referring to because I don't know everybody, sorry.

CHRIS ROETTELE: We can discuss afterwards.

TERRY FASTEEN: Sure.

not there either. This is just what I was informed. Like I said, she is for it -- or not against it, I guess I would say. So that's why, like I said, I figured the truth and the right details would be perfectly fine in that scenario, and I just want to make sure that everyone here gets the truth, I guess, so we can all see what we're doing.

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** I'm just going to ask a follow-up question. So in this packet, there is a description that describes what an overhang easement is, and that it is paid at 50 percent; is that correct?

TERRY FASTEEN: It shows that a straight

easement is at 80 percent and that the overhang is 2 at 40, so. COMMISSIONER NELSON: And does it describe 3 4 what an overhang easement is? 5 TERRY FASTEEN: I believe it does. 6 believe it says that the easement is on the property, but there is no physical structures on 8 the property. 9 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. 10 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Terry, do any of your 11 options -- Let me ask it this way. Are all of your 12 options exactly the same from a standpoint of --13 obviously, the property that's described and the 14 person who is signing it is different, but are they 15 all identical? 16 TERRY FASTEEN: Unless there was some 17 specific request to define something clearly to 18 It's a template. someone. 19 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. TERRY FASTEEN: So it's just replicated 20 21 with name and --22 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Do you have on any of the -- Specifically, what I'm interested in is 23 24 knowing, do you have any options that would state 25 anywhere within the property, boundaries? Do all

of them -- Another way of asking the same question is: Do all of the options state within 500 feet?

HENRY FORD: The exhibit.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: You stated when you were telling us about this particular easement or about an easement you said you didn't know which one we were talking about, and that it said, it states that your intent is to place the line inside the 500-foot line.

TERRY FASTEEN: Yeah.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Now, do all of those, all of the easements that you submit to landowners have that statement in them, or do some of them state within the boundaries of the property?

TERRY FASTEEN: The option agreement would state within the 500-foot limit. Now, some people don't have a full, you know, 500 on their property, because they might have a quarter line, but the exhibit physically shows that. And the text is the easement would be placed within the option area boundary. And it's -- In an aerial photograph, the option area is boldly outlined. And it's -- It does state that, yes.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: And do all of them state the price that is going to be paid?

TERRY FASTEEN: For the easement or for 1 2 the option? For the option, it does. When we 3 first meet with the landowners, we don't exactly know how much is crop and how much is pasture. And 4 5 it says that that will be fully determined when the actual footprint location is determined, because it 6 7 could switch, based on the legal description and the legal -- or the land use within 150 feet. 8 9 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Certainly. But does the 10 option specifically state how that's going to be calculated? 11 12

TERRY FASTEEN: Um, I can't really recall all the verbiage right now at this time, but I cannot -- I would look and get back to you on that.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: I don't necessarily mean that it's going to be this many acres. What I'm asking is, does it state the amount of money that would -- that would be -- that would be paid for an overhang or the amount that would be paid for poles area?

TERRY FASTEEN: We don't have that specific calculation at that time. You know, it just said that we pay by the land use at X-number of dollars per acre.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: I'm concerned about any

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ambiguity that would be in the option. 1 2 TERRY FASTEEN: The best I could probably 3 do is bring it to you, so you could -- send it to you so you could read it yourself. 4 CHAIRMAN HANSON: All right. Thank you. 5 Any further questions at this juncture? Sir. 6 RANDY SCHURING: Commissioner Hanson, 8 Randy Schuring again. I have in front of me an 9 option that was given to me on Friday, and I'll 10 grant that I haven't reviewed it thoroughly, but 11 just glancing through it I see nothing in here 12 saying 80 percent or 50 percent. And I'm glancing 13 through here. If it's in here, I would like to 14 have somebody show me. Because I haven't had a 15 real good chance to study it, because I just got it 16 Friday. But it says nothing in the option about 17 80 percent or 50 percent. 18 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. 19 **HENRY FORD:** Do you want to look at it? 20 TERRY FASTEEN: Yeah. 21 **HENRY FORD:** Could we look at it? 22 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Mr. Schuring, would you 23 mind bringing that up to counsel for the Applicant? 24 Thank you. Yes, sir. 25 DARRIN ERDMANN: My name is

Darrin Erdmann. That should be easy to spell. I'm a third-generation farmer located primarily in the center of Brown County. The reason I'm here is I've had no follow up with BSSE since the meeting last fall concerning this project. I asked numerous questions at that and just kept hearing, "Yep, we'll get back to you on that." Haven't heard anything back.

One of the things that they spoke of was repetition of service, that even though we've already got three other lines coming through our township, we need a fourth so in case one goes down, you know, you can't rely on just one power line to feed everyone. My issue with this is, if there is a severe weather event, it's -- you're probably going to take out the lines within a mile or two. And they're going across the Jim River and the last time I can remember being able to cross the Jim River, I was not old enough to have a driver's license. And that's where these lines are going across. It says the route that they rerouted, was actually, on this number three, was where --

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Excuse me, sir. Excuse

25 me.

Your conversation is going to have to be away from the court reporter. She needs to be able to hear what's being said. Thank you.

red line, the county just tore out that bridge. So even at low or below normal water level, best-case scenario, there is no way for those -- for them to get across there without going way around to get to the other side of the line.

The other thing that I asked about last fall was radio interference. It was mentioned, the inability to place these transmission towers in the railroad right-of-ways since the footprint of the tower is small, yet the electrical field was liken to an interstate highway.

Now, I would like to know what is going to be done to ensure we are able to continue using corrected GPS signals such as RTK without accuracy being affected. The response that I got last fall was GPS is line of site, and going under a power line isn't going to hurt anything because you're looking at the satellite. We need to correct those GPS signals with a base station. And, you know, we don't use them for steering and guidance anymore; that's a minor use. The thing that we use the GPS

technology for is site specific application of
fertilizer, seed, and chemical. We're currently
zeroing in our productivity so specific that we can
have different seeding populations every
two-and-a-half feet. And by having the radio
interference from these towers, we've got ten feet
to a half a mile that were affected by not being
able to correct and farm to the best of our
ability.

And we as producers need to know what you're going to do to mitigate this, because as we're in South Dakota and easements are for perpetuity, the technology to do what we're doing has come about in the last ten years. There is nobody that can tell what we're even going to be able to do in the next two. And, yet, we're going to have to live with this power line through the most productive land in the county or the state for perpetuity. And no response. You didn't get back to us.

The soil disruption. You mentioned that it was only a disturbance, not --

THOMAS WELK: Sir, I need to respond to you.

**DARRIN ERDMANN:** Okay.

THOMAS WELK: We did respond to a data 1 2 request. There was a follow-up --3 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Tom. Mr. Welk, please. THOMAS WELK: Oh, excuse me. In answer to 4 5 your inquiry, the staff sent us a written request to answer under oath and we did respond to the PUC, 6 7 a staff, and follow up yours. And also one more thing to help you, we brought an electrical 8 engineer, who is knowledgeable about this to try to 9 answer your question. So if you'd like to hear 10 from him. 11 12 DARRIN ERDMANN: That would be great. THOMAS WELK: He's the one that 13 14 actually -- As a result of your inquiry last time, 15 we did follow up. We took it seriously, the staff 16 took it seriously, and we did some additional 17 research. So if you'd like to hear from Mr. Leman, 18 he's the electrical engineer that's familiar with 19 the systems. 20 DARRIN ERDMANN: That would be great. THOMAS WELK: Do you want him to respond, 21 Mr. Chairman? 22 23 CHAIRMAN HANSON: That would be 24 appropriate, yes. 25 THOMAS WELK: Okay. His name is

Jon Leman. He's from Power Engineering.

Jon, would you just give a little bit of background about yourself and your electrical engineering and your familiarity with the guidance systems, GPS.

JON LEMAN: Not sure -- As was mentioned, my name is Jon Leman. I work with Power Engineers, Incorporated. I've been with Power for about 14 years now. I would have been involved in the design of high-voltage transmission line and analysis of electric and magnetic field issues, as well as interference issues like the question that's brought here. Prior to Power, taught electrical engineering for the United States Navy.

So to your question regarding GPS, there are two ways in which GPS can be interfered with. The first way is the line-of-sight issue that you brought up, and the second way is by interference from the radio, radiofrequency transmissions from the power line. So the electric fields around the conductor emit radiofrequency signals that are broad spectrum, and there are certain things that that can interfere with. However, GPS signals, for example, RTK, or even the older style GPS, uses frequencies that are above those that are produced

by the transmission line. 1 2 GPS tends to be in frequencies of 3 450 Megahertz to 900 Megahertz. Hopefully that's similar to what you've seen in your GPS systems. The frequencies of radio-interference broadcast by 5 high-voltage transmission lines tends to be around 6 7 1 Megahertz, and as you go above 1 Megahertz, it drops off, drops off significantly. So we wouldn't 8 9 expect to see any interference from the 10 radiofrequency broadcast of the transmission line. 11 Rather, it would be a possible line-of-sight issue 12 like you might have for a tree or any other 13 building. 14 Does that answer your question? 15 DARRIN ERDMANN: Yes. My concern is, 16 though, is if you're wrong, what is going to be 17 done to mitigate the problems that we see when this 18 power line goes up? 19 JON LEMAN: Yeah, I'm not going to answer 20 that question, because I've done my research and 21 I'm pretty confident in that answer, but maybe I 2.2 can turn that back to Mr. Ford. 23 **HENRY FORD:** Still, thanks. 24 (LAUGHTER.) 25 Spell your name,

THE COURT REPORTER:

1 quick.

**JON LEMAN:** J-O-N, L-E-M-A-N.

in on your question last fall because it was a great question, and I appreciated when the company filed their response. I read that and appreciated the work you did on that. My question for you is, we obviously got high-powered transmission lines all over ag country. We got people doing the exact kind of technology you're talking about. Do you have any evidence that this is creating a problem anywhere? That's what I want to know.

talk to. You know, evidence, you can have an engineer battle all day long. You know, each side can bring them in. From my experience we have typically had more problems with our GPS when we're crossing under high-power voltage lines.

commissioner Nelson: So you've seen the problem. Explain to me what happens when you do that.

DARRIN ERDMANN: You lose signal.

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** For how long?

DARRIN ERDMANN: It's in the vicinity of the lines. And I'm not going to stand here and say

that it's forever. You know, there is days it happens; there is days it doesn't. But when it happens, it tends to be in the fields with the high-voltage lines. And the problem is, we don't have a clue where this technology is going. I was just informed by a representative from John Deere that their next step is we're not even going to have wiring harnesses anymore. We're going to have wireless transmission of information from the implement to the tractor. We already have tractors and combines talking to each other in the field.

The problem I see is this line is forever. We don't know where technology is going to go. Are we going to be prohibited from using it in some of the best soil in the state?

And as far as the soil goes, they mentioned six inches, is what was Mr. Ford mentioned, I believe it was you, that mentioned it last fall. Six inches is what was going to be affected during a construction. That's the soil that matters. Corn roots go down over six feet on a regular basis.

There is a lot of things that people do to take care of their ground using tracks, not going out there when it's wet. Who is going to have

control when you guys are in the field? Do we have 1 2 veto power and say, "It's too wet. You're not 3 going to tear it up. You're not going out there"? Or are you guys in charge of that? 4 5 **HENRY FORD:** The construction manager who is, you know, the boots on the ground, is 6 ultimately the one that is going to make that call, 7 and I guess as a landowner, you would be talking to 8 him or, hopefully, contacting him. And, you know, I think that he's going to have that kind of 10 11 instruction. I mean, if the field conditions are 12 too wet, I mean, if we're doing a lot of damage out 13 there, we don't want to do that because that costs us more money as well. So we're going to try to 14 15 avoid that as much as we can, but, you know, I'm 16 not going to be sitting out on the project myself. It's going to be our construction manager. 17 **DARRIN ERDMANN:** So, ultimately, it's the 18 19 construction manager's call on whether they can go 20 out on the land, whether it's fit to be worked? 21 I would say so, yes. HENRY FORD: 22 DARRIN ERDMANN: Okay. I have other issues. The road damage, it's been mentioned. 23 The bonding, it's been mentioned. Yield loss 24

compensation, it's been mentioned. Aerial

application, it's been mentioned. Land devaluation.

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As far as drainage, is there anything in the easement which would prohibit us from running tile line underneath the power lines?

**HENRY FORD:** I would say no.

DARRIN ERDMANN: Okay. A couple of last things I want to touch on. We met with a lady, I think it was last Friday -- or Monday that she came out. Just recently. And it was very a threatening tone, that if we didn't sign off on this, there would be eminent domain. I also asked her if the option was truly an option or whether we were basically signing our rights away, and in that option we agreed to sign the easement -- or we were going to be obligated to sign the easement. And she hemmed and hawed a little bit and finally she did say that -- "Yeah." So it's not really an option. You sign that option thinking -- And they talked about this four- or five-year deal, but from her information, we're obligating ourselves to sign the easement.

And the other thing you mentioned just a few minutes ago, is we're going to use 2015 land values, but there is land values already written in

the contracts. So which are we going to use? Are 1 2 we going to use the land values that have already been presented to us? Or are we going to use the 3 4 2015 land values as you stated a few minutes ago? 5 **HENRY FORD:** Well, we kind of said from the beginning that our intention is to keep track 6 7 or keep a watch for how land values are changing. So as land values change, those payments will be 8 adjusted, you know, up until we sign an easement. 9 10 So I think we have that intention to review the 11 land values again, probably early next year before 12 we would go forward with making those payments. DARRIN ERDMANN: So you have the intention 13 14 of reviewing them, or they will be reviewed? 15 HENRY FORD: They will be. 16 DARRIN ERDMANN: And you mentioned earlier 17 that it will benefit wind generation. So if there is a wind project between Ellendale and Big Stone, 18 19 they're going to be allowed to tie into this? 20 **HENRY FORD:** Absolutely. If they want to tie into it, it's beyond our control. 21 22 DARRIN ERDMANN: Thanks much. 23 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. Any further 24 comments? 25 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I just have --

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Oh, Kristie here.

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: I just have a quick followup for Mr. Ford. You talked about the construction manager and that that person would have ultimate decision on when they go in the agriculture land. Are they changed on soil compaction? Are they trained on agricultural practices? Do they have training on that so they can make a good decision for our agricultural farmer?

HENRY FORD: I can't personally answer that question. That would be a consultant that would be doing that work so I'm going to try to defer to Mark Shaw here with Power Engineers and see if he can answer it.

MARK SHAW: I'm Mark Shaw with Power Engineers. Shaw is S-H-A-W. And it kind of depends on the construction manager. We have a variety of experiences. I'm not aware that we have specific training like you're asking, but that's not to say that we don't already have that. It's something that I've not run across myself so I couldn't tell you for sure. But we can certainly check and find out what our typical construction managers have.

1 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Thank you. Because 2 if they have ultimate decision-making authority on 3 soil compaction as might relate to agriculture, 4 certainly look at it every day, our farmers are 5 looking at it every day, and we want to make sure 6 the construction manager understands the practices. MARK SHAW: I mean, with their experience 7 8 I think they have gained experience, but whether they have absolute training, that's what I'm not 9 10 sure. 11 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: (Nods 12 affirmatively.) 13 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yes, sir. Good evening. DAVE NILSSON: Yes, I'm Dave Nilsson. 14 15 N-I-L-S-S-O-N. I'm in Cambria Township. Is part 16 of the reasons why you're not doing the overhang, 17 and you're not going to put it right down the 18 section line, is that way you can cheapen up the 19 route because you're only paying 40 percent on half 20 of it? 21 HENRY FORD: No. 22 **DAVE NILSSON:** Well, then why aren't we 23 putting it right down the middle of the quarter lines? 24 25 **HENRY FORD:** We are doing that in quite a

number of locations. There again, it depends on
the landowner themselves, if that's where they want
it. In a lot of cases, you've got, you know, one
landowner who is willing to take the poles and the
neighbor isn't, so. There is no -- They're not
going to all be in the same place.

DAVE NILSSON: How about the right-of-way
lines? Are you still going to do the 150, 200

lines? Are you still going to do the 150, 200 feet, 50 feet out, or can, if the township and the county says it's okay, we can put them right in the right-of-way; we do not have to stay 150 feet off the road?

**HENRY FORD:** Let's see. We are looking at each of the county's setback rules from their right-of-way, and --

**DAVE NILSSON:** Brown County does not have a rule.

HENRY FORD: Brown County. Is that true, Brown County has no setbacks?

TERRY FASTEEN: Not that we saw.

HENRY FORD: Okay. I guess I can't tell you for sure. If there is no setback rule -- The reason we were looking at, the 183 feet is what it amounted to, from the section line or from the center of the road was due to the idea that being

further out in the field was allowing the farmer to farm around that structure versus if it's close to the edge of the field, he can only go around one side and so he's losing out on the cropland on the other side of the pole.

Now, we have adjusted those locations in more than one place where, for whatever reason, you know, the farmer would prefer it to be closer to the section line than that. But I guess we'd have to take into account all the options we've got here, and if that's what you're saying you would like to do and there is no setback rules that would prevent that, you know, then we probably could do that.

DAVE NILSSON: So once the Commission says that this is okay, and we go in and we're signing the easements and everything, you're going to let us change that pole placement where we want them?

HENRY FORD: Yeah, we're not going to be done, you know, routing this line really until all the easements are signed.

pave NILSSON: The next thing is when you're doing the damage out in the field, we've been doing no-till for a long, long time. There is no way in the world you guys are going to be

driving around out there and not lose the 10, 15, 2 20 years of no-till. How are you going to 3 compensate that much time? 4 **HENRY FORD:** Do you have a recommendation? 5 DAVE NILSSON: Stay out of there. 6 (LAUGHTER.) 7 (Applause.) 8 DAVE NILSSON: And why was the route 9 changed on Section 28 down there? Why was that 10 changed? That's No. 3. 11 **HENRY FORD:** Okay, No. 3. Go back. 12 Section 28. 13 DAVE NILSSON: It's right in the middle 14 It's right where the substation is. there. 15 **HENRY FORD:** Why was it changed from the 16 original, the purple route? DAVE NILSSON: Yeah, why didn't it keep 17 going straight south? 18 19 **HENRY FORD:** Terry, can you answer that? 20 I mean, this has all been part of the landowner 21 negotiations, so. I don't know that I have the 22 detail. 23 TERRY FASTEEN: Terry Fasteen, KLJ. 24 of the reason was the discussion with the 25 landowners, plus we've discussed, Dave, several

times about if it's possible not to cross 2 transmission lines, it's better. So the landowners we've been talking with actually posed this route 3 to us. Why don't you come this way? It's a 5 benefit to us as landowners with our property. 6 Plus, we won't have to cross that transmission line. Is part of it because there 8 DAVE NILSSON: 9 are three pivots down there that you couldn't 10 cross? 11 TERRY FASTEEN: I believe if you talk on the original line, we did talk to those landowners, 12 13 and in talking with design, we could avoid those pivots and put the line through there. 14 15 DAVE NILSSON: So it's just strictly you, 16 you talked to the landowners and they moving the 17 pivots had nothing to do with it? 18 TERRY FASTEEN: Correct. 19 landowners -- I'm not naming names, because we told 20 them we wouldn't do this. But there is landowners 21 that have land on that line that said it would be 22 better for us if you could stay on our property, 23 reroute this line there, and would it or would it not be better for you guys to avoid these 24

transmission lines? We took their advice.

spent weeks, talked to their landowners on an 2 alternative route to see if they were open to that or not, and that's why the land is going this 3 way -- or proposed to going this way, excuse me. 4 5 DAVE NILSSON: Okav. TERRY FASTEEN: If that answers your 6 7 question? DAVE NILSSON: Yes, it did. Thank you. 8 9 Then I guess your main deal here was you were going to put wind towers, that's your main option to 10 11 this, is to try to get Minnesota to be renewable fuels by two thousand -- What is it? 2020. 12 That's 13 your main purpose here? Is that what your main 14 qoal is? 15 **HENRY FORD:** Well, remember right at the 16 beginning of my presentation I explained how this project was not something that was created by MDU 17 18 or Otter Tail. This was created by MISO, and 19 MISO --20 DAVE NILSSON: But I'm concerned if you 21 look at the existing plans, you're going to 22 Big Stone, Big Stone to Brookings, Brookings to the 23 Cities. 24 That's correct. HENRY FORD: 25 DAVE NILSSON: So we're trying to get

renewable fuel to the Cities, is that what we're really trying to do? And if wind power is part of that, why are you trying to put a power line through the lowest ground in South Dakota to try to say that you're trying to put wind towers on it? And it's also the best ground. You've heard that how many times, the best ground maybe in the state, and you're going through the lowest ground in the state and you're talking wind towers?

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where the wind farms might be. I don't know where the wind farms might be. But from this overall grid transmission loading analysis, a line between those two points is what's necessary. So whether or not a wind farm necessarily connects directly to this particular line, this line is a benefit to that wind farm.

DAVE NILSSON: You told me that at one of the other meetings that this was an 85-year line. Why are you worried about the easements longer than 85 years, when you said that this was 85-year line?

HENRY FORD: I think when we started out very early in the public open house meetings, we had not yet concluded that this was going to be a steel monopole line and we were talking about wood

1 | poles.

meeting that you were talking about you said it was an 85-year deal.

**HENRY FORD:** Yeah, I don't believe I said that for a steel monopole line.

**DAVE NILSSON:** You don't have any idea where the pole placements or if you're going to be putting corner posts in or not?

**HENRY FORD:** Corner posts?

pave NILSSON: You know, you've got to have, anchor them in some way when you're turning. Are you going to put those corners in, yes or no? Because we've heard it both ways. We've heard you're going to just put one pole in the corners, turn and go. Next time you say you're going to put corners in and you're going to anchor them.

HENRY FORD: What we're looking at doing is, the corner will be the corner. And it can be built so that it's unguyed or it can be built with guy-wires. We are committed to not having any guy-wires in any cultivated ground. Now, if a landowner is agreeable, we can put down guys in pasture land, and there would be an extra payment for that.

DAVE NILSSON: Okay. I guess I've just 1 2 got a couple more things here. You're talking that 3 these aren't going to affect -- Do they know how the transmission lines are going to affect like the 4 5 robots and the drones and those things in the future? Does he have any idea what the effect of 7 those are going to be? 8 JON LEMAN: Can you -- This is Jon Leman, 9 Power Engineers. Can you repeat that question, 10 please? 11 DAVE NILSSON: The robots and the drones 12 that are shortly in our future. We've already got 13 robot tractors out there, and they're already 14 flying drones. Is that affecting this anywhere in 15 any amount? JON LEMAN: Well, I can't comment on any 16 17 future technologies. But when you say robot 18 tractors, you mean the automated systems that 19 they're using now based on GPS technology? 20 DAVE NILSSON: No. We're talking about 21 tractors that are out in fields all by themselves 22 where you run them with a computer at home. Okay. So you're running them 23 JON LEMAN: 24 from a computer at home via what type of 25 communication link?

1 DAVE NILSSON: Well, I don't know what 2 they're going to do. This is all future stuff. 3 What are we going to affect? I mean, that's what 4 the whole problem is here. You're coming through 5 the best kept ground in the country, the most 6 technological part of the state. We are cutting edge on a lot of the stuff that we do, and you're 8 going to take this ground and you're going to put 9 poles on it, and now we're not going to be able to 1.0 use it. So now we got robots beyond six, eight, 11 ten quarters that we've got. Now we've got to go back and do the conventional stuff on these two or 12 13 three quarters with poles because we can't use them 14 on that.

technologies and how they might interact with this. What I can say is that the behavior of the transmission lines electromagnetically and their radiofrequency spectrum is very well understood. And so it's certainly feasible for designers to be able to accommodate that, and that's as far as I can comment there.

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DAVE NILSSON: Well, at least you guys understand what we're going through here. We got too much technology coming through here, and they

can't answer our questions about what it's -- or how it's going to affect us down the road. So how are we supposed to know if we use this technology or not when we don't -- not even sure what's coming in at us.

And I guess the other thing that -- I've heard so many comments of the people that are coming and talking on the easements and doing that stuff, the people out there, it seems like there is no, no con- -- no reason for them not to tell, to tell stories and tell lies and be -- and just say whatever they want to say. Their main purpose is to get that option signed, and they will do anything or they will say anything to try to get that option signed.

I heard stories about a guy telling me, he said, I was told that I was getting paid more than anybody else in the state. I know that was a lie, because I knew I was getting paid more than him. There has got to be some ramification of some sort when they come out and started talking to us to be honest with us, to be upfront with us, and not to tell a story just to get this paper signed so they can get their 60 percent up there. Thank you.

(Applause.)

**CHAIRMAN HANSON:** Yes, ma'am.

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GWEN ANDERSON: 2 Hi. My name is Gwen Anderson. And I notice a lot of females in 3 the crowd, and I'm sorry that I'm the first one to get up and say something but I feel the need. I tend to get a little feelie, emotional, and that kind of thing, because I'm a fifth generation farmer, farmer's daughter. My parents have farmed for over 53 years. They've worked the land. They've fed the -- They're feeding the world off 10 11 They've taken care of South Dakota land. the land. 12 All of us have been born and raised. My dad, my 13 grandfather, my great-grandfather, his father and 14 my great-great-grandmother started. 15 kind of funny that I'm up here talking right now, a female. 16

But with that, I'm just going to leave that at that. Everybody in this room has brought us facts, stories, opinions, feelings, strong South Dakota roots right here. And I'm here to say to our elected officials, our commissioners here, that we need to take a look at this as a business, and that all of our businesses are affected by this transmission project. If I were to go to town to a banker and say, I need a loan for a business, a

small business loan, they're going to ask me to 1 have my Ps and Qs and my dots done. I need to have 3 my homework done before I go there and ask for that loan, or they'll refuse me and send me back to the drawing board. That's what I think needs to be 5 looked at here strongly. This project needs to be looked at strongly in that area, having their homework done. And they haven't done that. haven't shown my family that. Thank you. 9 10

(Applause.)

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**CHAIRMAN HANSON:** Thank you, Gwen. evening again.

**PAUL DULITZ:** Good evening again. Paul Dulitz. D-U-L-I-T-Z. Let me address something that your engineer on the power line mentioned earlier. He is a -- You said you had the degrees in power engineering. Correct? Okay. Ι have the Extra Class ticket on ham radio. understand the ham radio, and I understand that even if this power line is -- radiates at 1, you said, 1 Megahertz. Okay. That 1 Megahertz of radiation is the direct radiation, but the energy that it radiates will desensitize radio receivers. And that's what Mr. Erdmann is -- the problem he has with the GPS units, and that's the potential

we're going to see with, let's say, a quad copter drone. If that's flying -- you know, a little more about eBay. If that's flying near the power line, he could lose communication between that drone and the transmitter, the handheld transmitter, because of an overload, overloading the receiver. It would be, let's see -- What would it be akin to? Well, it would be akin to what our court reporter has here. She is listening and when we had this conversation over here, you asked them to move away from her. That was essentially the same thing as a receiver overload. She couldn't discern between the two conversations. That's what we're going to have with this power line when things are close enough.

I have grave concerns about what I can receive on HF, which is approximately the same frequency he's talking about. It's above broadcast standard. The State of South Dakota has decided, the Department of Health has decided that they're best served for emergency communication between hospitals, is to use ham radio. I'm between Watertown and Aberdeen. The power line comes in, I might -- I can't say definitively yet, but if I can't communicate with my fellow hams in Watertown

to relay information under poor conditions, oh, 1 2 well, somebody's life may be lost. Won't be Mr. Ford's. Won't be our esteemed colleague here with the engineering degree, but it could cost 5 somebody their life. Is it worth it? Nope. Do I have any -- Do you have any questions for me? JON LEMAN: Jon Leman again, 8 Power Engineers. I don't have any questions, but 9 if I could comment on that as well. I also happen 10 to be an Extra Class ham operator, 87GC. 11 PAUL DULITZ: NOTPW. 12 JON LEMAN: Nice to make your 13 acquaintance. 14 PAUL DULITZ: Nice to make your 15 acquaintance. 16 JON LEMAN: One thing I will say is, in 17 general I agree with your statement that if there 18 is a broad spectrum noise signal, then that can 19 affect a receiver. But where, I guess the 20 difference lies, is the frequency of the GPS units 21 that we're discussing are so much higher than the 22 radio interference that would be broadcast by the 23 transmission line, that the, you know, analogy that

you drew here between the conversation taking place

here interfering with our court reporter, it would

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be like if they were having a conversation and using dog whistles over here, if that was taking place, she wouldn't be interfered with, because the difference in the frequency is so high.

Now, your comment on HF, certainly, if your HF receiver was near the transmission line, you might experience some interference. But if you're a distance away from the transmission line trying to communicate with a ham operator on the other side of the transmission line, I wouldn't expect any interference there. It's only going to be interference to a receiver that's within the sphere of influence of the radio broadcast.

**PAUL DULITZ:** The electromagnetic envelope.

JON LEMAN: That's correct. That electromagnetic envelope drops off very quickly as you move away from the conductor. So the line is designed with that in mind. So, again, any interference you might experience on HF would be only if your receiver is right next to the transmission line. But it's not going to interrupt communications from point A to point B when those two points are not near, right near the transmission line.

PAUL DULITZ: Uh-huh (Yes). What I'm 1 2 wrapping around this is that, see, I'll be 3 approximately -- depending on where it's actually routed, the work -- the farthest away I probably 4 5 will be is approximately three-quarters of a mile. And the way I see it is, you know, you've got the 6 sphere of influence. You've got the ground wire 7 over the top. You've got the grounding, earth 9 ground underneath, which is, you know, more or 10 less, we get what we get. We don't get a very good 11 ground there all the time. But -- On skywave, I 12 can understand. That's going to bounce over the 13 tower, over the power line. But on a direct wave, 14 which is approximately 30 miles of, 25 to 30 miles, 15 unless I use the high-incident antenna system, 16 which would cause the wave to essentially, 17 practically go straight up, and then hit the 18 ionosphere and bounce right back down to that 30-mile skip, that 30-mile hop. I don't know, I'm 19 20 going to be looking line of sight right to that power line. And, you know, if you're going to come 2.1 on -- you know, if we can arrange a time to 22 demonstrate on a different location where there is 23 345 kVA line, you know, I'll look at it. 24 25 this point, you know, we've got to admit that my

conditions, your conditions of the demonstration
may be a lot different. But where do we want to go
with that?

JON LEMAN: Yeah, and I'll just simply
clarify. When I say there is a sphere of influence

clarify. When I say there is a sphere of influence of radiofrequency noise being broadcast by the transmission line, that is a broadcast. That is not a solid wall that your signal cannot then pass through. So the cross section of your conductor is actually very, very small. So if you're using two meter, for example, line of sight with someone else, I wouldn't expect any problems with that, again, unless the receiver is very near the

**PAUL DULITZ:** And two meters I would. But I'm talking about 38.60.

JON LEMAN: Even then.

**PAUL DULITZ:** 38.60. And I do have 160 capability. And 160 meters, that would be approximately 1.4, is it? Yeah.

JON LEMAN: Yeah. Even at that frequency, line of sight shouldn't be blocked by these conductors which are quite thin and signals can pass through that corridor.

PAUL DULITZ: Okay.

transmission line.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Gentlemen, I'm going to 1 ask that -- This is an intriguing conversation. 2 3 (LAUGHTER.) PAUL DULITZ: It's intriguing to me, I'll 4 5 tell you that, but I understand your point. CHAIRMAN HANSON: I'll ask that -- I think 6 7 the asked and answered has taken place considerably 8 here, and it sounds like the two of you should get 9 on your ham radios --10 (LAUGHTER.) 11 **CHAIRMAN HANSON:** -- and have some 12 chitchat. But we very much appreciate the 13 conversation, and I'm sure that we'll hear more of 14 it later. 15 All right. Thank you. PAUL DULITZ: 16 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you very much. 17 Yes, we have another -- Randy Schuring, welcome 18 back. 19 **RANDY SCHURING:** We moved our conversation 20 out in the hallway and Terry admitted that it 21 doesn't say exactly what he thought it said. Okay. 22 And one other thing I think that they need to, 23 their team needs to get together on, because we've been told here, tonight, you know, what the 24 25 easement price would be, and you said that 2015

prices you'd be looking at it. Well, I just happen to have this copy of the option here, and this is Exhibit C, Compensation. The easement purchase price shall be equal payment of \$4,000 per acre, signed and dated when you sign the option. It doesn't say it would be the price in 2015 or 2020 or whatever. It says, right here, the blank is already filled in.

So just for clarification purposes, you know, it's good PR to tell us that, yeah, we'll look at it. But if people are signing, they're locking themselves into an easement price if you want to take -- if you want to take and pursue that. So this is an actual, like I said, this is right off the option. And Terry and I had a nice conversation and he was very, you know, gracious about -- you know, well, admitted. It doesn't say exactly what he thought it said.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you.

meeting June 10, 11, and 12 in Pierre, do these reroutes have to be completed before then?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Do the reroutes have to be completed by --

RANDY SCHURING: Well, we don't know for

1 sure what the final route is going to be. Does 2 that have to be determined before the June 10, 11, 3 and 12 meeting? CHAIRMAN HANSON: I don't know that it 4 does, but I'm going to ask -- Oh, I think --5 COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: And, John, do you 6 7 mind, or, Chairman Hanson, if Mr. Smith gives an overview of the timing for everything on the permit 8 9 process so everybody understands that in public? CHAIRMAN HANSON: I believe if a 10 11 commissioner asks him, then he has to. 12 RANDY SCHURING: And that's what we need 13 for clarification purposes. We're never going to 14 get all this done. 15 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, Mr. Schuring. 16 RANDY SCHURING: Okay. Thank you. 17 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you very much. 18 And prior to Mr. Smith answering, I would like to 19 ask Terry -- Get on the microphone, please. You had a conversation with Mr. Schuring in which he 20 21 just alluded to. Do you have any exception to the 22 remarks that he just made? 23 TERRY FASTEEN: No. It's -- I made a 24 mistake like Randy pointed out. It has a specific 25 dollar amount in there. I know when we started we

had 80 percent and 40 percent, but, apparently, we made a switch and we put the specific dollar amount per land use. So it's 4,015.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you very much.

Thank you very much. That's been a very valuable conversation that you had there then. Mr. Smith.

JOHN SMITH: Thank you. Nothing you say would preclude us from -- This isn't going to be a meeting. Now we're moving to formal trial-type hearing. We're talking just like you see a court case on TV. It works just like that. It's totally different than this. People don't -- Not everybody is going to get up and talk. Okay?

Nothing per se says that the line has to be 100 percent finalized at the time we hear the case. Now that said, when we address a case like this, I mean, one key facet of it, you know, I mean, that's why they kind of call it a siting case. We don't call it in this state that. It's called a permit, a construction permit case. But in most areas, they call them siting cases because, basically, one of the key issues that the Commission considers is where the thing is going to be. So I would say there is -- You know, I'd say it makes their case a lot harder the more uncertain

the line location is.

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And there was a point at which the 3 Commission quite a few years ago used to require extreme precision on the location of things like, 4 you know, either electric transmission or pipelines, which we call transmission, too, but it's pipeline transmission. But we, in reality, with a tremendous increase in the amount of things we've had to deal with over the years recently, about I'm going to say 90 to 95 percent of all the siting cases that have been heard by this Commission have been since I went to work for the Commission and that was in 2002. That's throughout the whole history of the state of South Dakota. And almost all of those have happened within the last ten years. That's a fact.

And by the practical level, we just can't get down to that level of micromanagement, you We really can't. So like with Keystone, we know. approved a general project route, and basically what we do then is we require that any, what we call, a material deviation from the approved route, and the approved route will be an exact route, or at least relatively. But as with Keystone, when Keystone underwent construction, actually, a great

many relatively minor changes on the route occurred, and almost all of those were done to accommodate landowners. That's the truth.

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We had a whole bunch of people who were very negative about the project, and testified at hearing against it and were very negative and evil is evil. And after the fact, I've had two or three of them come in to me in my office and tell me, after all was said and done, that they were extremely actually pleased with the way they were treated during the construction process by the Keystone Company. Keystone made deviations, minor deviations, many of them, with many people, actually, to accommodate landowner desires, you That happened a lot. And actually one of know. the strongest opponents of the project came in and said after it was all over, he realized that in a way, he was wrong about being that paranoid about it.

So that's the deal is, no. Does every little tiny dot have to be -- or *i* have to be dotted before we can hold the hearing? The answer is no. If there is too much uncertainty, I think the Commission may have trouble making the requisite findings to issue a permit, you know.

There is a certain level of certainty that has to happen. And I'm sorry for the ambiguous answer there.

But now I'm going to just take one second and address the business about why we have to hold the hearing now. And do we have to hold it on June 10th and through the 12th? The answer is no. Except that we have to do scheduling quite a ways in advance because both -- because the Commission has so much stuff going on, it's our own schedule, but we're also dealing with a whole lot of other people's schedules. So there isn't -- It's more difficult than you might think to reschedule. Now, do we -- do we have discretion to just say, "Well, we can put it off for six months"? And the answer is no. The Application was filed on August 14 is my recollection, Tom; is that correct?

THOMAS WELK: 13th.

JOHN SMITH: 13th. One of those, okay.

THOMAS WELK: One of those.

JOHN SMITH: The law gives us one year by which we must render a decision. We have one year. That's by statute. We are not allowed to go beyond that. So we are breaking the law if that decision

is not -- We must have that decision, then, issued by August 12th. That's one year later. And so we're going to have to have that -- that's going to be the case. And so we have no choice on that.

Now, why then do we move it forward to June 10th through 12th? Because, normally, in these cases -- Again, if they're a settlement case it's one thing, but where we've got contested -- We've now got a contested case, we've got six intervenors in the case, and it's probably not going to be resolved through settlement stipulation.

So we schedule them, we usually try to schedule about 60 days in advance of our mandatory decision date. And the reason for that is so that, first of all, I have to write these orders and these things and I'll tell you, it's a 60-to-80-hour-a-week, two-to-three-week process to write one of those orders and I'm not kidding you. It really is. So it takes me a couple of those weeks to just do that.

And then what we like to do is have time, following the hearing -- we've got to get a transcript and so on -- and then we usually like to do briefing by the parties, because the issues are

usually relatively complicated. You know, we've got, at this point, we've just got Bob Pesall in there, attorneys for the Applicants and our attorneys, staff attorneys. But we usually do briefing. And the reason we do that is then it gives the attorneys and the parties the opportunity after we've heard all the hard -- You know, in here we hear a lot of philosophical stuff and emotional stuff and questioning and that kind of thing. But when we get down to the actual hearing, we're talking chop-chop. You know, facts. What's provable fact. And that's what we're going to be talking about.

And then we like to have a cycle of time after that where each attorney can have, or side, can have roughly, you know, at least two weeks, three weeks or so to present the Commission with briefs, and then responsive briefs to that. At least one round of briefing and responsive briefing. And that provides us with the analysis of what the evidence presented at the hearing shows. And it makes a huge difference in the quality of decision making that the Commission can make to have that kind of an organized analytical process.

And I apologize for my voice. I've had a long day. I went to work at 6:00 o'clock this morning so I'm wearing out here so I apologize for the tone of my voice. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

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chairman hanson: Thank you for the explanation. I believe Commissioner Fiegen has something further; is that correct? Would you wait just a moment, please? My sincere apologies, Ms. McClanahan, we've been going for three-and-a-half hours here. Would you like to take a break?

THE COURT REPORTER: If we're not real close to being done, I would, yeah.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Okay. Why don't you take a break right now. With the understanding that it is getting late here, we want everyone to have an opportunity to speak. When we come back -- This is off the record.

## (RECESS TAKEN AT 10:02 P.M. TO 10:14 P.M.)

of the Public Utilities Commission back to order again. And we are in the process of hearing testimony. I believe fellow Commissioners may have a question or two that they would like to ask. Is that correct, right now?

**COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:** Can you just clarify one thing?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: All right. Please.

Commissioner Fiegen would like Mr. Smith to clarify something.

**COMMISSIONER FIEGEN:** And the parties.

JOHN SMITH: Yeah, I guess one other thing too. At the formal hearing, that will only involve in terms of the actual hearing itself, people who have filed for actual intervention in the case as parties. Okay. Now, a lot of times I will say this, that the Commission has in the past also scheduled yet another, and this -- we've already had three of these, you know. One last comment period in connection with the formal hearing.

Now, we did not do that this time. We thought about doing this, this one we're having tonight, like that. That's what we did with both the Keystones. We had the final hearing like that at the time of the formal hearing. We chose not to do that in this case, because here we were talking about corridor shifts that implicated new people within the half-mile line, and so we thought that that had to be, we had to hear from and give those people a chance to express their views to us prior

to the hearing, rather than what we a lot of times do and just have one last comment period at the hearing.

So as of now, at least, we haven't scheduled another comment period, so. At the hearing itself, presentation of evidence, and now we're talking evidence when we get to the hearing. That will be just by persons who have sought admission as parties through intervention. Okay?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: And the last comment period is always held in Pierre, and that's another reason why we're holding this one, so that we can come out and make it more accessible to you folks.

Commissioner Nelson, you asked to --

COMMISSIONER NELSON: Just a couple quick questions for the Applicant. On Route Change

No. 1, you indicated that it had been accepted, but then you followed by saying that not all the options had been signed. So how do you consider it to be an accepted change? What's your criteria?

**HENRY FORD:** Accepted change means that within the owner's team, we have -- you know, it's met all the criteria.

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** It's met your criteria, but maybe not everybody's signed off on

it; is that correct?

**HENRY FORD:** Right. Right.

question, in your data response to Staff's Question 2-25, and this is dealing with moving poles along the fence line rather than out in the field, and we had one really good question on that tonight. And in your response, you indicated that one of the things that would drive you to require the poles out in the field would be zoning restrictions. But then I thought I heard you say that in Brown County you don't have those. Could you just clarify for me what those zoning restrictions are in the three counties, so far as whether there are any of those restrictions that would prevent you from moving the poles to the section line?

**THOMAS WELK:** Commissioner, the answer on the setbacks is in another data response.

thought that was the case, but my recollection was that it indicated there was a Brown County setback, but I heard testimony tonight that that's not the case and so that's what I want to get clear in my mind.

And while you're looking for that, I'll

just go on to my third question. Did I also read,
is there going to be a fiberoptic component to
this? And if so, is that buried or overhead?

HENRY FORD: No, transmission lines today,

you know, all transmission lines have what's called shield wire on the very top which are not conductors. Their sole purpose is to deflect lightning. And what's happened, technologically, we were talking about all the advancements in technology, we, utilities will put a special type of shield wire on these transmission lines that is a fiberoptic cable. And the purpose of that fiberoptic cable is to be used for the protective relaying systems at the substations, so it's a method of these relays being able to communicate with each other.

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** Okay. So to answer my question, then, it is going to be part of the overhead structure.

**HENRY FORD:** Correct.

**COMMISSIONER NELSON:** And I guess the last question on that line is, Will that only be use for your purposes, or is there capacity on that that you might lease out for other purposes?

**HENRY FORD:** No. This -- It's called

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1 OPGW, optical ground wire, is only to be used for 2 this system protection purpose. 3 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Okay. Thank you. Mr. Welk, did you find the --5 THOMAS WELK: Yes. Commissioner Nelson, 6 it's in Data Response 2-14 that stated, Please provide a description of the setback requirements for each township road, county road, state road, 8 9 the preliminary route parallels, no setback 10 requirements a factor, please identify such. 11 then it goes on to talk about those in that data 12 response. 13 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Does that indicate 14 that for Brown County if there is a setback 15 requirement? 16 THOMAS WELK: Now I have to read what it 17 savs here. (Pauses.) It says, and I'll try to find the Brown. 18 19 Each of the counties through which the preliminary 20 route is located employs county ordinances relating 21 to zoning and certain use regulations. The setback 22 requirements vary by county and also to a lesser 23 degree by zoning districts with each county. Roads, the preferred route is anticipated to 24

parallel in Brown County are located in ag

preservation and many ag zoning districts which have a 100-foot setback requirement as required by Sections 4.0606 and 4.0706 of the Brown County Zoning Ordinances. Then it goes on to talk about the other counties.

commissioner Nelson: So would it be correct that if a landowner wanted the line moved to the section line, you'd have to get a county variance? Is that accurate?

real estate lawyers. I don't know the answer to your question. And I didn't draft this. One of our real estate lawyers looked into all this, and I would be -- I'll take it upon myself to answer your question, but I don't know the answer.

appreciate that, and I appreciate you looking that up, because that's what I remembered but I heard different testimony tonight so I appreciate your clarifying that. And I will tell you this is an issue that I am very sensitive to. If it were my crop ground, I would want that thing on the section line and not out in the middle of the field. So I wanted to see exactly what the restrictions are in that area that would prevent you from doing that,

if any. 1 THOMAS WELK: Do you want this in writing, 2 3 or do you want it orally at the hearing, Commissioner Nelson? 4 COMMISSIONER NELSON: You know, in writing 5 6 would be great. Yeah, and that way we can put it 7 out and everybody can see it. 8 THOMAS WELK: All right. Thank you. 9 **COMMISSIONER NELSON:** Yep, thank you. 10 No further questions. Thank you. CHAIRMAN HANSON: This -- We will try to 11 take another 15, 20 minutes for anyone who has not 12 13 had an opportunity to address us at this juncture. 14 **LELAND STAUCH:** Lee Stauch, S-T-A-U-C-H, Brown County, Henry Township. I would like a 15 16 question answered so everybody knows upfront. 17 everybody being paid the same of money to get an option? Either A thousand bucks, 2,000 bucks or 18 19 three? Is everybody being paid the same figure for 20 that option? 21 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yes or no. 22 **HENRY FORD:** Yes. Did we shut off? Each landowner is paid \$2,000 per parcel per 23 24 option.

**LELAND STAUCH:** Okay. That answers that

question. Thank you.

Then the next one. Now, they were talking about, Mr. Schuring mentioned that when he signed that option, in my interpretation, when you sign an option, that is an option for you to purchase the property, but when you sign that option, you're not having had agreed to the price of it so the price is yet to be negotiated. Now, if somebody signed an option and thinking that is only an option to negotiate the price, he should be informed that this option you're signing is your agreed-upon price. In essence, you're already signing the easement.

Have people been informed of that? If they haven't been, your sales representatives have been misrepresenting your company. That's what we need to have brought out and on the file. If that is being so, you need to go back to every one of those people who signed those options, in error, because you have sales people pressuring to sign options, when they didn't agree on the price for that crop lease.

And I know one thing, I was taught you treat people fair. You don't try to misinterpret something to get them to sign that option. And I

appreciate your listening to and I want the people to check into it and provide the deal. If options have been signed, with a price on there, and the price has not being agreed, that option is null and void. That's the way I look at it. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Further questions? Is there anyone in the audience? Good evening, ma'am.

LaDonna Sumption: Good evening. I'm

LaDonna Sumption. S-U-M-P-T-I-O-N. I just had a rep at my house today so I know all about threatening and intimidating nature of it. We were told three things. We've had someone come twice.

Both times they told us you don't want to be like so and so, because we don't have to go around you. We were told you don't want to have to take this to court, because it's going to cost you a lot of money. And then we were told that eminent domain is going to come into play and they're going to condemn you land. So those are the three things that we were told today. Three of us were told.

In fact, I told the person he shouldn't threaten us. So this is happening everywhere. I'm an educated person. I could understand somebody who is 80 years old being taken advantage of. It would be easy to do. So that's what happened to

me.

I do have one question for the Commission. Can you consider a 99-year lease, or is that out of your range?

COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: (Nods

6 | affirmatively.)

had a lot of emotions tonight but he said we're going to -- you're going to conclude the facts.

Are you going to consider the fact of the economic value that is provided by this versus the cost to all the people, who are going to lose the value of their land?

restricted to some extent on what we can consider. I will tell you that. I mean, we've had a lot of discussion about easements here. And in reality, the Commission has no direct authority whatsoever over the easement process. We really don't. That's a private landowner process. We have no authority whatsoever legally over the eminent domain issue. That's been ruled by the courts to be purely a court process, the courts and private citizens and, again, the easement process.

And the reason for that is that process at

this point is viewed as, it's strictly a landowner -- it's a transaction, you know. It's like we have no authority to prevent anyone here from selling any interest in your land. You know what I mean? You know, we just don't. And, really, the issue of whether you want to deed over your land, you know, an interest in it to the Applicants here, the owners, they call themselves, we don't have any direct authority over that.

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Now, is there one facet in which we could consider that? And I think the answer is yes. that is, one of the findings and I don't have it right in front of me now and I'm tired, (Chuckles) but one of the factors the Commission does consider and one of the criteria the Applicant has to prove, is that the -- is that the project, and if we can consider the whole, the whole land acquisition process as part of the quote, "project," In a very general sense, the Commission may be, that if the process they deem is harmful enough, that they might be able to decide that it doesn't meet the one standard about not being harmful to persons living in the project area. You know, that's, I think -- I think if it went that far, they could probably do that. And they could deny the permit

on the grounds that the process was detrimental to people in the project area. That's as close as we could get, and it's a little bit of a long shot.

Okay.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: I believe the verbiage

is that it will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment or to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or the expected inhabitants in the siting area.

LADONNA SUMPTION: So the economic value comes into play when we're perpetual and generations after us?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Will not affect -- It will not pose a serious threat to the economic condition of the inhabitants or future inhabitants.

LaDONNA SUMPTION: So the definition is serious comes into play.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yes.

commissioner fiegen: Ms. Sumption, I nodded at the wrong time, I think. You said could we consider a 99-year lease, and what I thought you had said could we require a 99-year. So when I was nodding my head, I meant we could not require or mandate it. It doesn't mean that if it comes to us, that would be a different point, but we can't

require or mandate according to the law. 1 2 LaDONNA SUMPTION: So when you consider 3 the facts and the money talk about versus the short-term effect of the money that's coming in 4 5 from the project, versus the long-term effect, 6 long-term effect of how it impacts our income, that 7 would be considered. 8 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Yes. We're nodding our heads here. Yes. Since we're on the record. 9 10 (LAUGHTER.) 11 LaDONNA SUMPTION: I'm done. Thank you. Thank you, 12 CHAIRMAN HANSON: 13 Mrs. Sumption. 14 **PAUL DENNERT:** Good evening. Paul 15 Dennert. D-E-N-N-E-R-T. That's a name before 16 tonight. 17 CHAIRMAN HANSON: You're going to run for 18 office again so you can change the law; right? 19 (LAUGHTER.) 20 PAUL DENNERT: I wasn't going to get up, 21 Commission, but the easement talk just created me 22 to get up. I was a member of the legislature for a 23 lot of years. It's kind of interesting, we hear 24 the talk easements work both ways, you know. 25 mean, do you want them or don't you want them, I

guess? I'm not going to say that we looked at perpetual easements in South Dakota five times or six times in my tenure there, but they looked at it this last session when I wasn't there again. And I think, for your information, and I could stand to be corrected, I don't think the legislation has ever got out of committee to go to a 99-year easement. I think it's always been killed in committee, to my recollection. I don't think it was ever voted on the floor.

Kind of interesting, I think a couple years ago they talked about 30-year or something like that, but it's real interesting when that topic came up to any committee discussion on the opposition to go away from perpetual easements. So in South Dakota, if you want to change that, as you stated many times, it's out of your hands. It's in the legislators' hands, and if I would guess, I would say there would be less than 30 percent of the legislators today that would look at anything less than, you know, a perpetual easement, so.

And just the other information, I guess I sold the wrong land to my son. (Chuckles.) The only land I got left in my name happens to be in the new boundary change. We've been visited once.

I'm going to request another visit. It could 1 affect a mile of my land, and I think it's 2 3 propositioned to be on -- fully on my side of the quarter line. Not a section line. But I haven't 4 signed anything yet. And my son probably would be 5 here but it's Dad's land yet. So it's the only land that is mine. The new route change would be a mile from my buildings. It's closer to some other 8 buildings, but I would say that barring nothing, I haven't signed anything, but as of the present 10 11 time, it does not affect me either way. I live a little east and north of 12 Mr. Podoll, and I really appreciate his concern, 13 14 though, because of where it has to come through 15 there, you know, on that particular. If you change 16 it to his proposal, I won't see it. I mean, it's 17 totally away from me then, so. We'll talk later. Thank you. 18 19 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you very much. 20 PAUL DENNERT: Just thought I'd bring up 21 the easement deal. Talk to your local legislators 22 if you want to change it. 23 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thanks for the history lesson. Appreciate it. 24

LYLE PODOLL: Just brief, Gary, can I have

one minute yet?

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Absolutely.

just want to set the record straight that the proposal on No. 2 that they came, the reroute proposal, I've not told them no to that proposal. It is only slightly better, very, very slightly better than the original proposal, because it puts it closer to two other residences' houses. Also, there would be less land involved in regards to going out onto the property.

For Paul's information, I have the map right here that tells where it's going to go on your property. That brings, like everyone else's concern is, even though I knew this reroute was last November, I have not received any notification. I had to request a meeting and request hard copy, and it looks like that a lot of that's going on here, because we met today or yesterday or last week.

Where was this information the last six months? That was my question. The frustration, that we had to dig up this information and now we're back up against this decision next month. A lot of this could have been ironed out for

everyone's benefit three months ago, four months 1 ago, five months ago. The verbal thing that they presented last November, there was no followup at 3 all on that as to how I felt about it. Send me 5 something in writing. I guess that's my 6 frustration. It looks like a lot of the frustration here. But I appreciate the opportunity to speak again. Thank you. 8 9 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, Lyle. Any one further who is compelled to address the 10 11 Commission at this time? 12 **LELAND STAUCH:** Excuse me, I'm back again. 13 But anybody when he writes these easements on the 14 property, can write in there 99 years, when he 15 signs that easement. He does not have to accept 16 wide open. Nobody has to accept a wide open 17 easement forever and ever. You can write in, 90 years, 99 years, and if everybody agrees, it's a 18 19 done deal. 2.0 CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. Anyone else 21 wishing to address the Commission at this time? 22 RON RINGGENBERG: Ron Ringgenberg. That's 23 spelled just the way it sounds. Ringgenberg. 24 got a question. I guess I wouldn't -- Are you

trying to stay away a half a mile from buildings?

Is that -- I live in Cambria Township and I'm going to be within half a mile. Plus, does the East River Electric, if they decide to come out of that substation a couple miles south of our place, they've been doing some surveying right two blocks east of our house. We're going to be sandwiched between two power lines. Do they go through the PUC?

commissioner nelson: It depends on the size of their power line. If it's over 115 kV, then they have to go through this same process. I don't know what size that line is.

RON RINGGENBERG: Yeah, I didn't even know they were going to do it until last fall when WEB water come and started marking, you know, where the WEB water line was, and I said, "What are you doing that for?" He said, "Well, they're going to put a power line through here." "That's news to me."

about how far from buildings. The only routing rule that we're trying to follow is to stay a minimum of 500 feet away from occupied residences. So if it's an unoccupied residence or, you know, outbuildings, we don't -- we're not saying that we should try to stay 500 feet away from that.

RON RINGGENBERG: There was something else that I was going to ask you and I forgot.

chairman hanson: Well, we'll still be open for business, so you can contact the PUC.

(LAUGHTER.)

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CHAIRMAN HANSON: That's another thing, as I said, you can contact the PUC with your concerns. Yes, sir.

**LLOYD BUNTROCK:** Lloyd Buntrock. I just had another question, too, on the valuating of this land, you're paying less for pastures than cropland. When I get my little tax slip, it goes by soil deal so, in other words, my pasture I still got cattle on, but tomorrow I might break it up and I could farm it. It's as good as some of the farm ground on the farm. So I don't think, you know, that would be true either, because if they're taxing us according to what it can produce, that's what we should get paid for, whether it's pasture or not. And in the past year, it's been a lot of pasture broke up and stuff like that, so they're going to actually benefit better than us that are trying to stay in the cattle business yet.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, sir. One last shot at the microphone. Good evening.

farmer's daughter. I'm a farmer's wife and I'm a landowner now. This second one is going right straight through my land. I agreed to it because I knew the need. A lot them are saying here, "I don't get no benefit from the line. So why should I let it go through?" I know, because I have a family member in the Cities and I know the electricity will go to the Cities, that work for a printing press that had to close down for several days because of brownouts, because of lack of electricity. So I knew the need. I did not object to it going through my land, and it would have been farm ground on both sides, it would have been a nuisance.

Now, on the change, it won't come through there anymore, but it's still coming through the river bottom, and they're going on the quarter line, and I'm fine with that.

And I would like to give a little history of some other land that I had that was south of Groton and north of Ferney, in between. That was when REA and stuff was coming through. I grew up in my growing-up years in Spink County, and we were the last ones to get electricity. I knew what it

was like to grow up without running water, without electricity. We were the old-fashioned people with the old-fashioned outhouse. And we learned to live with it. And when this transmission line, is a two-pole one, and the wooden poles are a lot closer than these are. It was going to go through on my father's land. They wanted to put it on the quarter line, and the other landowner wouldn't have anything to do with it. And he was going to stop the power line from going through. So my father stepped up and said, "Put it all on my land" and they did.

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It's a bearcat to drive around and farm around, but we did it because we was not going to deny people that needed electricity. We knew what it was like to live without electricity. And how many of us here grew up without electricity? How many of you would like to have a brownout where you didn't have electricity and couldn't do your business? There is a need and we can't be dogs in the manger. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Ma'am, would you please give us your name, please.

**ELLEN LEONHARDT:** My name is Ellen Leonhardt. L-E-O-N-H-A-R-D-T.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you. Anyone further at this time?

about the noise. Dave Nilsson. Can you tell me how far the noise from these go out from the poles, like, if it's calm and it's still and it's quiet, how far away can you hear the lines?

HENRY FORD: I can't, but I think Jon can.

Engineers. Yeah, one of the calculations we have done is to predict the audible noise severity, and it depends on the weather conditions. If it's foul weather, it tends to be a little bit noisier, but as an example, a typical 345 kV transmission line produces about 40 to 45 decibels on the noisiest points of the transmission line. Trying to give you a gauge, but if we were all to be perfectly silent in this room, the air conditioning going back behind us would probably be about 40, 50. And so that would be during foul weather conditions.

And then during fair weather conditions when it's nice, it's much, much quieter, and it would be around a 20-decibel noise limit, which is actually very, very difficult to hear unless all the other conditions around you are very quiet.

DAVE NILSSON: Are these lines insulated?

I mean, is there insulation around them to quiet them down?

JON LEMAN: I'm not sure I understand the question.

**DAVE NILSSON:** Is there insulation around the wires to quiet them down? Is there something around the wires so they're not as loud, not as noisy.

JON LEMAN: Oh, okay. No, it's bare, bare conductor. All transmission lines and distribution lines are typically bare conductor. But the design, the number of conductors that's used for each phase and the spacing between phases is specifically designed to keep noise limits within recommendations.

mile away, you're not going hear it? If you're 50 feet away, you're not going to hear it? What would you say is the distance?

JON LEMAN: Yeah, for fair weather conditions, you're certainly not going to hear it a quarter mile away. I would say in fair weather conditions, it would be very difficult to hear it if you were right next to the -- right next to the

line. 1 DAVE NILSSON: What I'm thinking about is 2 3 a 500-feet limit. For a 500-feet limit for fair 4 JON LEMAN: weather conditions, it would be very difficult to 5 hear. DAVE NILSSON: Worst-case scenario. 8 JON LEMAN: Worst-case scenario, for foul 9 weather conditions, again, it's difficult to gauge because foul weather conditions, you got rain, 10 there is other noise that's kind of drowning that 11 12 But if you could silence out all the other 13 noise, 500 feet away, you would be able to hear it. But by 500 feet away, it's tapered off quite a bit. 14 15 Does that answer your question? 16 **DAVE NILSSON:** Yeah, because they love to 17 sit out on the deck and listen to the nature, and 18 this will definitely interfere with that. 19 JON LEMAN: If you're sitting out on the 20 deck in rainy conditions 500 feet away, you might 21 be able to hear something. 22 COMMISSIONER NELSON: Thank you. 23 JON LEMAN: Maybe. 2.4 JIM McKANE: Yeah, Jim McKane. 25 M-C-K-A-N-E. Andover. We're affected by route

four change. First time around, we were on one 1 2 quarter. Now we got three quarters affected. And 3 when you come up with you want to take 80 percent, how do you come up with 80 percent of the land 4 5 value? I'm not sure I understand the 6 HENRY FORD: 7 question. 80 percent -- How did we pick the 8 80 percent? 9 JIM McKANE: Right.

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HENRY FORD: Essentially, we kind of through our consultant here, we looked at what is being done kind of in the industry in the area, and the 80 percent number sounds like it's kind of a common number. So it's not, you know, just a general rule of, you know, encumbrance, 80 percent. It's kind of an arbitrary number, but 80 percent is what is being done in the industry.

JIM MCKANE: You should be paying at least a hundred percent with what the land value is. I mean --

we're not -- we shouldn't have to pay a hundred percent because you're still able to use that land. You're still farming that land and you still own that land. So we're not -- We don't feel we're

encumbering the land to the total value of the property.

JIM MCKANE: Thank you. I understand.

**HENRY FORD:** Okay.

CHAIRMAN HANSON: Thank you, sir.

If that is all the comment, then, I'd like to say thank you very, very much for all of you who attended this evening and your perseverance for staying the entire hearing. Usually we dwindle down to just about 5 or 10 percent of the people but it looks like nearly everyone has stayed. So I want to remind you that you can contact the Public Utilities Commission through the <a href="https://www.puc.sd.gov">www.puc.sd.gov</a>. And if you forget that, just look us up on the internet. Just look up South Dakota Public Utilities Commission and you can follow this docket as it transpires. You can follow the information that takes place.

If you happen to send us a letter, that letter, whether it's written or e-mail, will be placed in the docket itself so you're comments will remain there. And if we respond, which we always do, then that response that is sent to you will also be part of the docket.

Are there any questions of the PUC at this

1	juncture? If not, I will call I will ask for			
2	adjournment and appreciate all of you being here.			
3	Please drive safe. Drive home safely. Is there a			
4	motion to adjourn?			
5	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Move to adjourn.			
6	CHAIRMAN HANSON: I have a motion.			
7	Commissioner Nelson?			
8	COMMISSIONER NELSON: Aye.			
9	CHAIRMAN HANSON: Commissioner Fiegen?			
10	COMMISSIONER FIEGEN: Fiegen votes aye.			
11	CHAIRMAN HANSON: Hanson votes aye. The			
12	meeting is adjourned. Thank you all very much for			
13	your attendance.			
14	(HEARING CONCLUDED AT 10:48 P.M.)			
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	1			
1	STATE	OF SOUTH DAKOTA )	CERTIFICATE	
2	COUNTY OF CODINGTON )			
3	BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing record was			
4	stenographically reported by me, NANCY McCLANAHAN, a			
5	court reporter; and that the foregoing 2 - 189 pages			
6	are a true and correct transcript of all the			
7	proceedings had upon the taking of said proceeding,			
8	all done to the best of my skill and ability.			
9	DATED at Watertown, South Dakota, Codington			
10	County, on this 30th day of May , 2014.			
11	The miller			
12	Nancy McClanahan, RPR/RMR/NP			
13				
14	* * *			
15				
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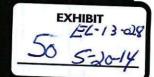
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### **Public Hearing**

May 20, 2014













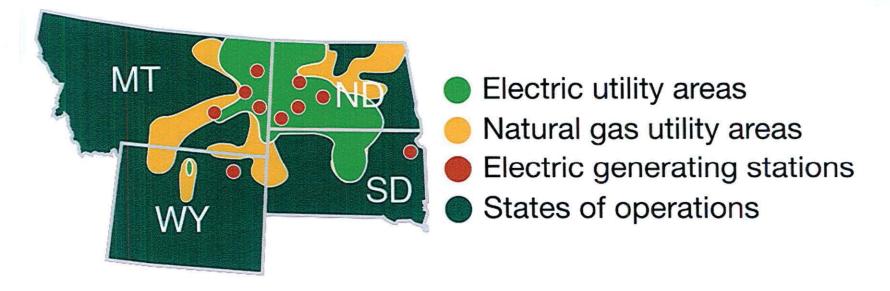


#### Today's presentation will cover:

- Applicant overviews
- Project development
- Project overview
- Routing process
- Route Change Requests
- Engineering design
- Project outreach
- Right-of-way
- Next steps



#### Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.



- Headquartered in Bismarck, North Dakota
- Electric and/or natural gas service to parts of Montana,
   North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming
- Service area covers about 168,000 square miles
- Approximately 312,000 customers



#### Otter Tail Power Company

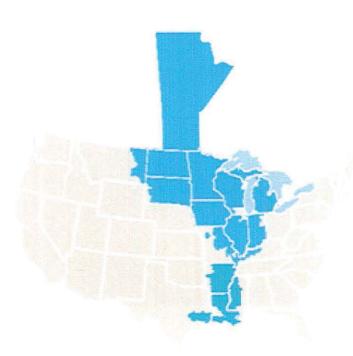


- Headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota
- Electric service to parts of Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota
- Service area covers about 70,000 square miles
- Approximately129,400 customers in422 communities



#### Project Development

 MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) consists of 48 transmission owning utilities including Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company.





### Project Development

 MISO is an essential link in the safe, cost-effective delivery of electric power across all or parts of 15 U.S. states and the Canadian province of Manitoba. As a Regional Transmission Organization, MISO assures consumers of unbiased regional grid management and open access to the transmission facilities under MISO's functional supervision.



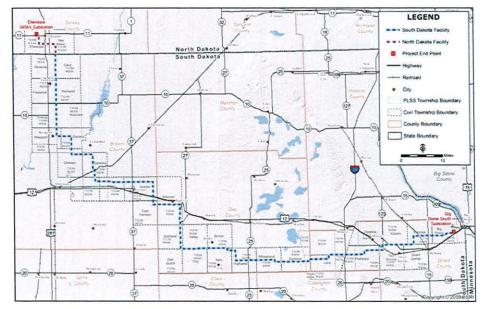
### Project Development

- Multi-value project (MVP)
  - Regional reliability
  - Economic value
  - Support for renewable energy public policy objectives
  - On December 8, 2011 MISO approved a portfolio of 17 MVP projects which included the BSSE 345kV transmission line.



#### Project overview

- Joint project with Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
- New 345 kV transmission line
  - Ownership to be approximately 50% MDU and 50% OTP
- Approximately 160-170 miles
- Endpoints:
  - Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, SD
    - OTP ownership
  - New Ellendale substation near Ellendale, ND
    - MDU ownership
- Anticipated project cost \$290-\$370 Million
- In service 2019





#### Local economic benefits

- Short term local economic benefits during construction
  - Construction expenditures (estimated range \$3 \$7 Million through construction period)
  - Other tax benefits: (estimated range \$5.5 \$9 Million)
    - Sales and use taxes
    - Contractor taxes
- Long term local benefits
  - Increased taxes paid to affected counties/townships
  - Estimated annual property taxes paid by Project:
    - \$715,000 \$885,000 in Brown County
    - \$535,000 \$755,000 in Day County
    - \$490,000 \$605,000 in Grant County



#### Owners' routing criteria

#### Information evaluated:

- Overall length and cost
- Existing high voltage transmission lines and transportation infrastructure
- Section lines
- Populated areas/residences
- Environmental and engineering considerations
- River crossing locations
- Public and agency feedback

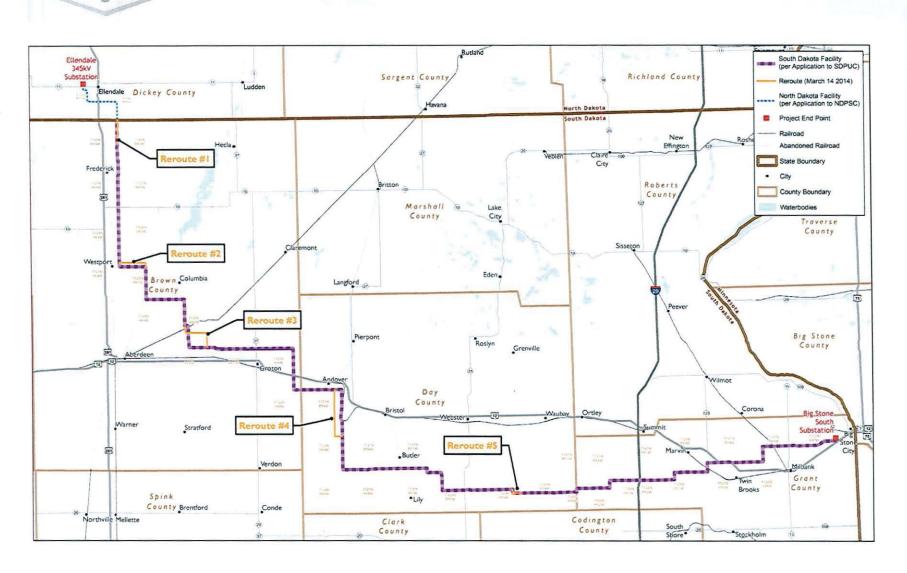


### Potential Route Changes

- Total of 36 Route Change Requests (RCR) have been reviewed by the project team
- Of this total, 5 RCRs are under negotiation that required additional landowner notifications
- The 32 landowners impacted by these 5 RCRs are the reason this additional hearing is occurring



### Potential Route Changes



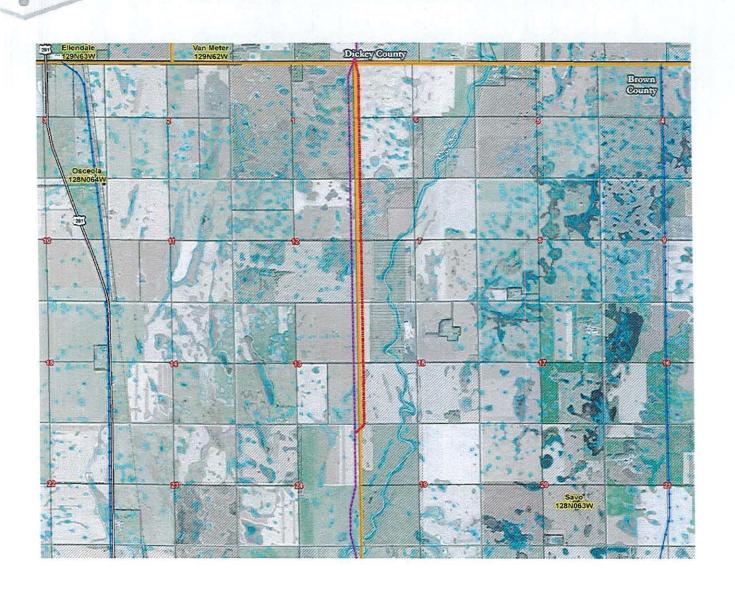


### Potential Route Changes

- Route Change Requests are reviewed by the project team using the same routing criteria as was used to select the original route.
- Of the 32 RCRs proposed, 14 have been approved, 5 were not approved and the rest are still under investigation.

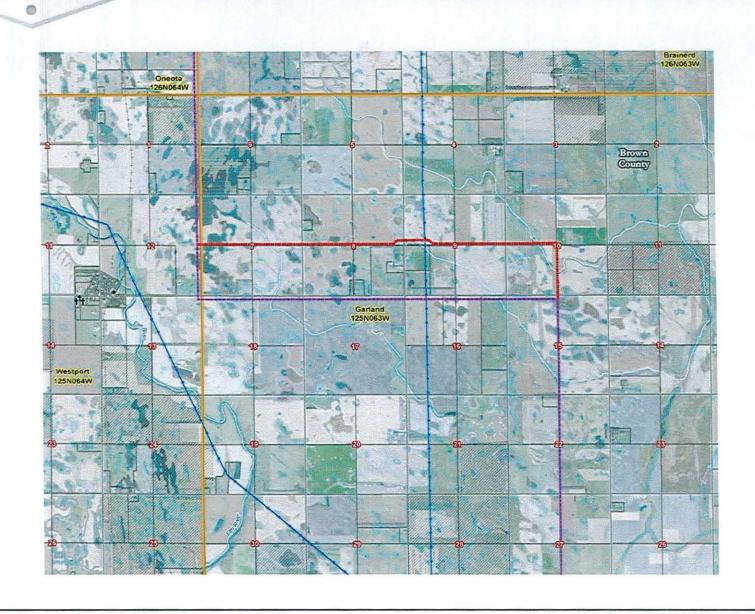


# Potential Route Change #1



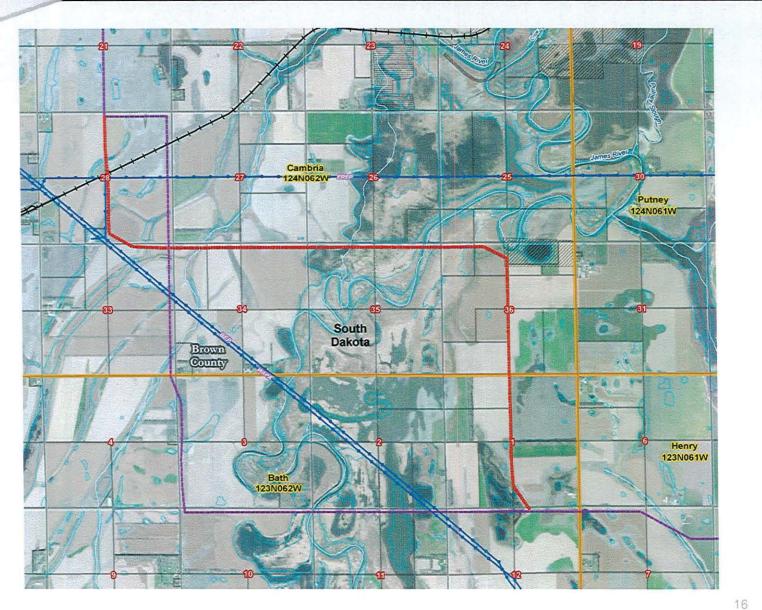


# Potential Route Change #2



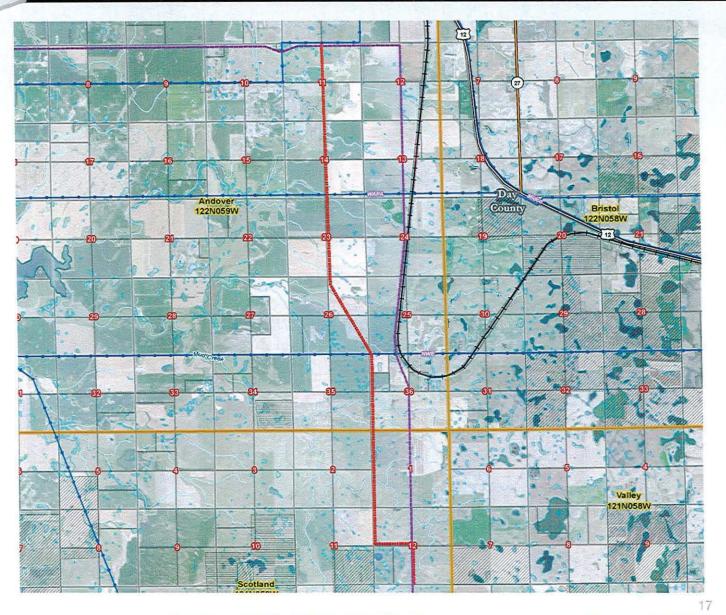


### Revised Potential Route Change #3





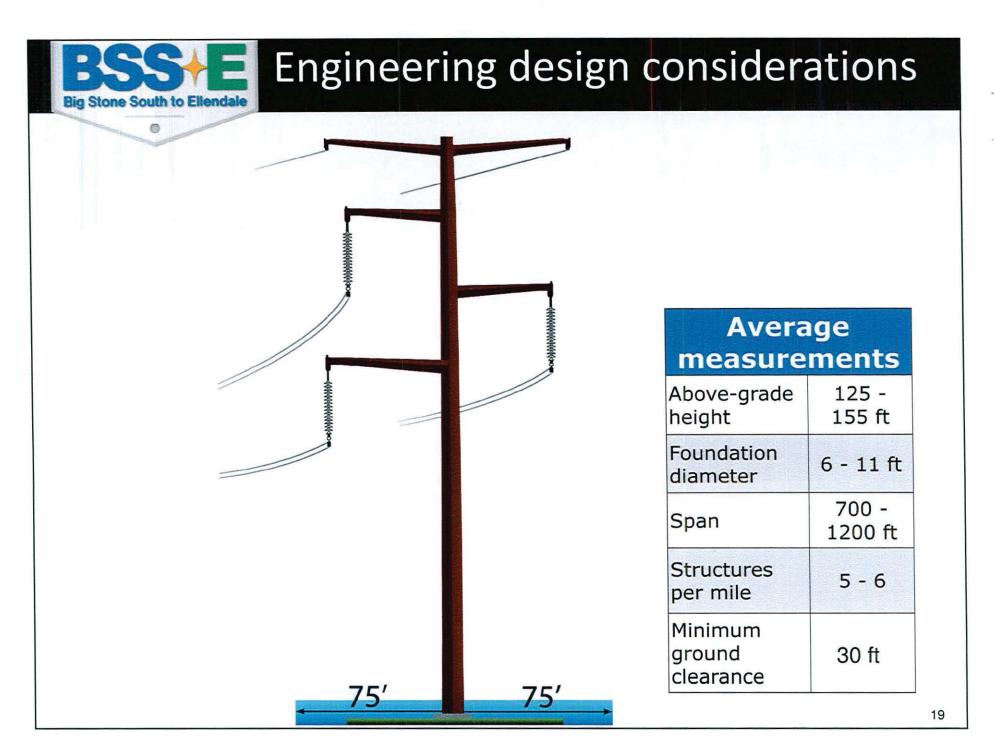
### Revised Potential Route Change #4





# Potential Route Change #5







#### Construction overview

- Survey structure locations and identify ingress and egress locations.
- Auger the holes where the structure poles will be set and pour foundation (if required).
- Assemble the structure on the ground adjacent to the holes/foundation.
- 4 Lift structure and place in hole or on foundation.
- 5 String wires.
- 6 Restore right-of-way and energize line.













#### Project outreach summary

- Letters or postcards mailed (September 2012, October 2012, February 2013, April 2013, May 2013, June 2013, August 2013)
- Open house meetings (October 2012 & February 2013)
- Newsletters mailed (November 2012, June 2013, October 2013, January 2014)
- County meetings (August 2012 & January 2013)
- Interagency meetings (August 2012 & January 2013)
- Tribal Agency meetings (October 2012, March 2013, May 2013, July 2013)
- SD PUC Public Input hearings (October 2013)



### Easement progress as of May 20th

- Started contacting landowners on August 5, 2013
- 100% of the SD parcel owners have been contacted to date

 Nearly 60% of the SD project miles have options signed



### Next steps

2008-2012 Planning 2012-2014 Environmental review and permitting 2012-2016 Engineering design and right-of-way 2016-2019 Construction 2019 In service

We are here



### Thank you!

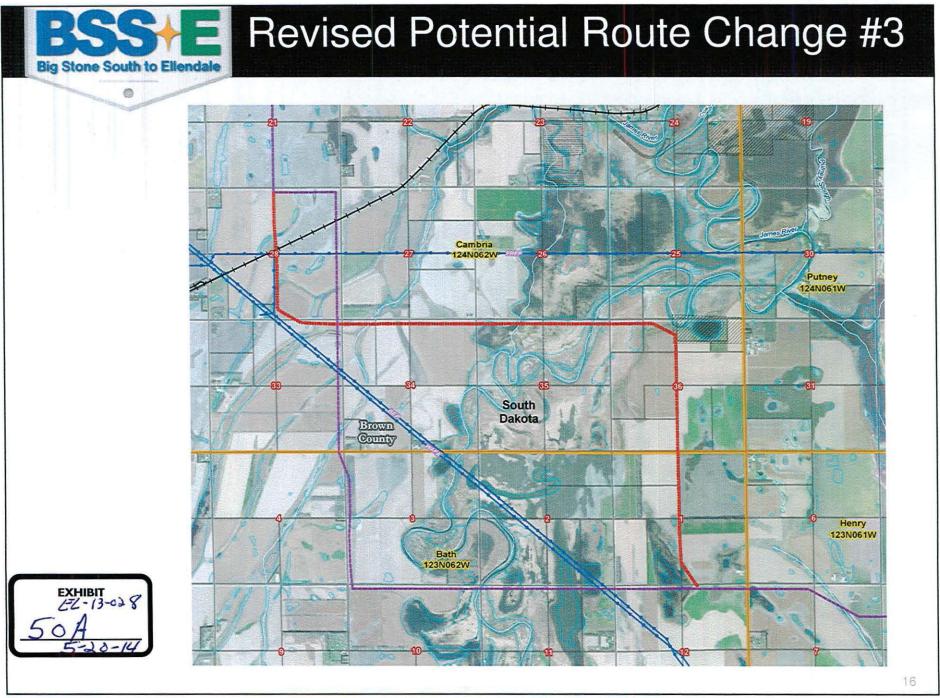


# **HOW TO STAY INFORMED and PROVIDE FEEDBACK:**

- Visit our website at www.BSSEtransmissionline.com
- Call our toll-free information line: 1-888-283-4678
- Join our mailing list (online or at this meeting)
- Email us at: info@BSSEtransmissionline.com
- Make a comment at this meeting or online at www.BSSEtransmissionline.com



Revised: 05/20/2014



Revised: 05/20/2014



### Revised Potential Route Change #4

