

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**WHAT: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company Big Stone
South to Ellendale electric transmission line project
Brown, Day, and Grant Counties, South Dakota**

WHEN: Tuesday, May 20, 2014, at 6:30 p.m. CDT

**WHERE: Meeting Room D & H, Ramada Aberdeen Hotel and Conference Center, 2727
Sixth Ave. SE, Aberdeen, S.D. 57401**

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an Application for an Energy Facility Permit filed on August 23, 2013, by Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company (jointly, the Applicants) for the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV Transmission Line project (Application). The Application requests Commission approval of a permit to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line of approximately 150 to 160 miles in South Dakota (Project). The line will cross the South Dakota and North Dakota border in Brown County, South Dakota and extend south and east through Brown, Day, and Grant counties to the Big Stone South Substation in Grant County, South Dakota near Big Stone City. Modifications to the South Dakota Facility may occur depending on the final route permitted, land rights, and final engineering design. On August 23, 2013, Applicants also filed a Motion to Schedule Prehearing Conference. The Commission held two public input hearings on the Application in Aberdeen and Milbank on October 17, 2013. On January 13, 2014, the Commission issued a Procedural Scheduling Order setting the matter for formal evidentiary hearing on June 10-12, 2014, in Room 413 of the State Capitol Building in Pierre beginning at 1:00 p.m. CDT with days two and three beginning at 8:00 a.m. CDT. On January 27, 2014, Applicants filed a First Amendment to Application (Amendment).

Due to Applicants having made some route changes in certain areas of the Project which will result in some additional landowners coming within the half-mile Project corridor, Applicants will be required to serve notice on such landowners, and the Commission deems it proper to hold an additional public input hearing. At the public input hearing, Applicants will present a brief description of the Project, following which interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the Amended Application and the Project. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5), the Application is on file in the Brown, Day, and Grant County Auditors' offices and in the Commission's office in Pierre, and the Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed Project maps, may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2013 Electric Dockets, EL13-028.

The parties to this proceeding are currently Applicants, Gerald Pesall, and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, any person residing in the area of the Project, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the Project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before April 16, 2014. Application forms for party status may be obtained from the Commission or the Commission's web site.

The Commission will hold a formal evidentiary hearing as set forth above conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff, or the

Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL 1-26, 49-1 and 49-41B and ARSD 20:10:01 and 20:10:22.

For approval, Applicants must show that the Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, 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 having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds are appropriate. The parties will have the right to appeal the final decision in this case to the appropriate Circuit Court by serving and filing a notice of appeal of the decision in accordance with SDCL 1-26-31, within thirty (30) days after the date of service of the notice of decision in this case.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings are being held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; fax (866) 757-6031; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.