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November 5, 2018

LANDOWNER NAME
ADDRESS
CITY ST ZIP

RE: Application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for a Permit for the Proposed Bitter Root Transmission Line, Docket # EL18-045 - **MEETING DATE CHANGE**

Dear Landowner:

I am pleased to give you notice of an upcoming public meeting convened by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to take public comments concerning our proposed Bitter Root Transmission Line Project.

You are receiving this notice because you are a landowner of record for property within the study area in Deuel County, South Dakota where the proposed overhead transmission line is to be located. According to state law, the affected area is all lands within one half mile of the proposed route of the proposed transmission line.

Pursuant to state law, the PUC will hold a public meeting to take comments from the public on **Tuesday, December 18, 2018**. The meeting originally scheduled for Monday, November 19, 2018 has been cancelled due to an issue with the local newspaper notice; therefore the meeting has been re-scheduled for December 18. Please see the enclosed notice for more information. At the meeting, we will make a short presentation to provide context to the comments of the public regarding the proposal. The majority of the time will be reserved for accepting public comments on the proposal.

You can learn more about the proposed project by accessing a copy of the Application online at the PUC website: <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2018/el18-045.aspx>

Additionally, we have filed a paper copy of the Application with the Deuel County Auditor and the Application can be viewed at their office.

Under state law (SDCL 49-41B), we must have a permit from the PUC prior to beginning construction. Accordingly, the PUC will hold further formal proceedings concerning the application. You may have the right to become a formal party. The formal hearing will be unlike the public meeting listed above, and instead will be an adversary proceeding, at which the rules of evidence will be applied. Any formal party has the right to be present, and to be represented by a lawyer. Any formal party could appeal from an adverse decision of the PUC, to Circuit Court and the State Supreme Court. Those rights would be forfeited if not exercised.

The date and place for that formal hearing have not yet been set. At that hearing, witnesses will provide sworn testimony and be examined by lawyers for the parties. Additionally, there will be intermediate steps taken prior to that hearing for the parties to prepare, including discovery in the form of written interrogatories and depositions.

You should also be aware that the PUC has a professional staff of lawyers, analysts, and engineers to review the Application, engage in discovery, and take evidence. The PUC staff acts in the interest of the public. The PUC staff may also contract with a number of outside expert witnesses. Those people will help staff review the Application and will provide evidence to the Commissioners, on behalf of the public, including people like yourself. The cost of the staff's time and their expert witnesses is paid for by the Applicant, as required by state law.

Sincerely,

Michelle Matthews
Development Manager

Enclosure