

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.  
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
1ST SET OF DATA REQUESTS  
ISSUED APRIL 4, 2019  
DOCKET NO. EL19-009**

**Question 2-3**

**Pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-25.3 (4), provide a description of MDU's efforts to ensure the lowest reasonable costs to ratepayers for the Leola Transmission Project and the Bowdle East Transmission Substation project.**

**Response:**

The transmission substation designs used for Leola and Bowdle are standard designs for Montana-Dakota, reducing the costs of design and unknowns in construction. Montana-Dakota also purchases equipment that is consistent across all of our facilities, reducing construction time and reducing ongoing O&M expense. Montana-Dakota competitively bids all engineering and construction contracts as well as all equipment purchases.