

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
1ST SET OF DATA REQUESTS
ISSUED MARCH 20, 2019
DOCKET NO. EL19-010**

- 1.2. Was the breaker failure contingency mitigation of the 230/115kV transformer located within the Hettinger 230kV substation an expected consequence of the TSW expansion? Were the costs associated the relocation of the 230 kV line terminal included in the economics when selecting TSW Phase II?**

Response:

The breaker failure contingency was not required to be studied when the original generator interconnection agreement for the Thunder Spirit Wind (TSW) project was signed. The first phase of the TSW project, only being 107.5 MW in size and below the normal Hettinger Junction 230/115kV transformer rating of 112 MVA, did not require any breaker failure mitigation post-Commercial Operations Date (COD) when the study scenario was required to be reviewed.

When the expansion of the TSW project was proposed, the Company was aware of the need to review the new breaker failure contingency, but the scope of work and cost of mitigation were unknown. The Company, in its ownership scenario analysis, included one million dollars of contingency over the project purchase price to cover unknowns like the breaker failure contingency as well as its internal acquisition costs.