

**MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
FIRST DATA REQUEST ISSUED MARCH 16, 2020
DOCKET NO. EL20-009**

- 2. Refer to the Sidney Transmission Line section on page 2 of the letter.**
 - a. Provide the SPP planning studies that determined the need to install larger conductor.**
 - b. Provide all bids that were received for this project and a description of how this project is being completed at the lowest reasonable cost.**
 - c. What will the capacity of this line be upon completion of this project?**
 - d. How long is the section of transmission line addressed by this project?**
 - e. Confirm that the SPP facility credits for this upgrade will be passed back to customers via the TCR.**
 - f. Provide a detailed map of this project.**

Response:

- a. Please see Response No. 1-2 a Attachment A. This project is identified on page 42 of the report.
- b. Montana-Dakota creates a list of qualified construction contractors that are allowed to bid on transmission line projects. This qualification process involves safety records, financial qualifications, specific construction experience, and the location of crews and company offices. This project was only bid by one qualified contractor that Montana-Dakota deems appropriate for this project. This contractor was selected due to the familiarity of this specific work in Sidney, their experience working with the Company, and their Dickinson, ND location of construction crews. Please see Response No. 1-2 b Attachment A for the bid received.

Montana-Dakota purchases material from Border States Electric (BSE) through an alliance agreement. The agreement requires the Company to approve a list of acceptable suppliers for material and equipment. Montana-Dakota purchased the transmission line conductor from BSE. BSE received two bids and ordered the lower cost of the two from the least cost approved supplier (Southwire quoted \$1,029.32 per 1000 feet and General Cable quoted \$1,136.84 per 1000 feet).

- c. The new line will have a summer rating of 189 MVA and a winter rating of 206 MVA.

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- d. The length of this section of the transmission line to reconductor will be 2.75 miles.
- e. Confirmed. The SPP facility credits will be passed back to customers via the TCR Docket No. EL20-010.
- f. Please see Response No. 1-2 f Attachment A.