

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

- 3. Refer to the Mandan Substation Project section on page 3 of the letter.**
  - a. Provide a detailed map showing the layout before and after the project.**
  - b. How long is the new section of the Wishek line (to extend it to the Mandan Substation)?**
  - c. Explain how the retirements of Heskett 1 and Heskett 2 impact the decision to retire the Heskett Substation and expand the Mandan Substation.**
  - d. Describe the power inflow and outflow at the Mandan Substation before and after the expansion.**
  - e. What other options did MDU contemplate in making this decision? Provide any analysis that was performed which shows this option as the least cost, within reason.**
  - f. Confirm that the \$1.2 million project estimate should be \$6.8 million, as shown on page 4 of Attachment B.**
  - g. Provide all bids that were received for this project.**

**Response:**

- a. Please see Response No. 1-3 a Attachment A for the layout upon completion of the project and Response No. 1-3 a Attachment B is prior to the project. Response No. 1-3 a Attachment C is a map for the Mandan Substation Project.
- b. The length of the new section of the Wishek line is 1.5 miles.
- c. The total project is estimated at \$6.8 million and will be completed in two phases. The first phase to be completed in 2020 will be approximately \$1.2 million and will involve moving the Wishek 230kV line and the Heskett 230kV/115kV transformer to the Mandan Substation.

The second phase will complete the additions at the Mandan Substation and building a new 115/69/41.6 kV Substation on the Heskett site in 2021 and is estimated at \$5.6 million. The project will increase reliability and reduces outage contingencies on the electric integrated system. Upon retirement of the Heskett units certain portions of the substation will no longer be usable.

The other option Montana-Dakota considered is leaving the Heskett Substations intact. This option would require an estimated \$3.7 Million investment to make these substations available after the retirement of the Heskett coal plants and the

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Company would still be left with old and deteriorated substations. Montana-Dakota is also able to eliminate a flooding issue during heavy rains where excess water collects in the existing Heskett Substation.

As noted above, the \$1.2 million amount noted in the letter is for the portion of the project to be completed in 2020. The revenue requirement was prepared with the total project cost of \$6.8 million. Because the project is being placed in service in late 2020, the revenue requirement is minimally impacted by approximately \$5,300. The revenue requirement will be updated upon completion of Staff's review.

- d. Montana-Dakota is only moving a transmission line and relocating equipment at this time, so power inflow and outflow remain the same.
- e. See response to part c above.
- f. See response to part c above.
- g. All project costs are estimates at this time. No requests for bids have been sent out.