

EXHIBIT A

**STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION
OF LEOLA DATA CENTER LLC TO
HAVE MONTANA DAKOTA
UTILITIES CO., A SUBSIDIARY OF
MDU RESOURCES GROUP INC.,
ASSIGNED AS ITS ELECTRIC
PROVIDER IN THE SERVICE AREA
OF FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION
INC.**

* **LEOLA DATA CENTER LLC'S ANSWERS TO**
* **EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER**
* **COOPERATIVE, INC.'S, BASIN ELECTRIC**
* **POWER COOPERATIVE'S AND FEM**
* **ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.'S JOINT**
* **FIRST SET OF INTERROGATORIES AND**
* **REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF**
* **DOCUMENTS**

EL24-027

COMES NOW, Leola Data Center, LLC ("Data Center"), by and through its counsel of record, William M. Van Camp, and responds to East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s ("East River"), Joint Interrogatories and Requests for Production of Documents (First Set):

INTERROGATORIES

1. State the full name, address, and occupation of the person or persons answering these interrogatories.

Answer: Bill Connors. Managing Director Leola Data Center. 11641 358th Avenue, Leola, South Dakota 57547.

2. State the name, address, occupation, and relationship of any person or persons assisting in the answering of these interrogatories.

Answer: Bill Connors. William Van Camp, counsel.

3. State the name, address, and telephone number of each person you contemplate will testify as a witness at the hearing of this matter.

Answer: Bill Connors. No other witnesses have been identified for hearing at this point by Data Center. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate.

4. Identify any and all contracts you have with FEM regarding FEM's available electric services.

Answer: Bill Connors has spoken with the Manager of FEM generally about the Data Center Project and its electrical needs.

5. Describe why you didn't negotiate with FEM regarding electrical service for the Data Center's needs?

Answer: Data Center approached Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. ("Montana-Dakota") for a number of reasons which have been identified in the prefiled testimony of Bill Connors in Docket #EL24-027. Data Center was not aware it was required to negotiate with FEM under South Dakota Law.

6. Describe in detail the electrical needs for the Data Center and any facilities subject to your Petition.

Answer: See, prefiled testimony of Bill Connors in Docket #EL-027.

7. List, identify, and describe in detail the contents of each document which it is contemplated will be offered in evidence in support of your claim that Montana-Dakota can furnish electric service to meet the Data Center's needs, consistent with factors of SDCL 49-34A-56 or which are material evidence or which contain, constitute, or are reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of material evidence.

Answer: No such documents have been identified by Data Center at this point for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate.

8. Describe in detail all facts known by you that support your belief that Montana-Dakota can furnish electric service to meet the Data Center's needs, consistent with the factors of SDCL 49-34A-56 Petition that Montana as follows:

- a. Montana-Dakota can meet the electrical service requirements of the load to be served;
- b. Montana-Dakota has an adequate power supply;
- c. Serving the Data Center will assist in the development and improvement of the Montana-Dakota electric system, including economic factors relating thereto;
- d. Montana-Dakota has adequate facilities in proximity to the Data Center from which electric service of the type required may be delivered;
- e. Petitioner has a strong preference to be served by Montana-Dakota; and
- f. Other pertinent factors related to the furnishing of adequate electric service to fulfill Petitioner's requirements support the ability of Montana-Dakota to provide such service.

Answer:

- a. Montana-Dakota has represented this fact to Data Center and the Commission in its prefiled testimony in Docket EL24-027.
- b. Montana-Dakota has represented this fact to Data Center and the Commission in its prefiled testimony in Docket EL24-027.
- c. Data Center relies on the representations of Montana-Dakota and is not aware or possessed of a duty to understand the development and improvement of the Montana-Dakota electric system, including economic factors relating thereto.
- d. Montana-Dakota has represented this fact to Data Center and the Commission in its prefiled testimony in Docket EL24-027.
- e. Data Center has stated this.
- f. See generally the prefiled testimony of Bill Connors in Docket EL24-027.

9. Identify each person whom you expect to call as an expert witness at hearing. For each such person named, state:

- a. His or her name and address;
- b. The subject matter of the facts to which he or she is expected to testify;
- c. The substance of the facts to which he or she is expected to testify;
- d. A summary of the grounds for each opinion; and
- e. Identification and protection of all reports, notes, and correspondence to or from each expert related to this case.

Answer: No such expert has been identified by Data Center at this point for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate.

10. Please identify the name and address of each consulting expert whose report or work product was reviewed by any testifying expert witness who you may call at the hearing of this case.

Answer: See answer #9.

11. Please state and identify the legal description of the real property where the Data Center will be located.

Answer: The Data Center leased 20 acres adjacent to Montana-Dakota's Leola Substation located at the southwest corner of 358th Avenue (Highway 17) and 116th Street approximately 5 miles southwest of Leola in McPherson County. We will provide the legal description after receiving the survey to be performed.

12. Please identify the current owner of the real property where the Data Center will be located.

Answer: Derek and Laura DeRaad

13. If you are not the current owner of the real property where the Data center will be located will you be acquiring ownership in the land?

Answer: No.

14. Will any businesses be located on the land acquired, other than the Data Center? If so, identify the business.

Answer: No

15. Please provide detailed information concerning the electrical service requirements for the Data Center and related facilities, including peak, monthly usage, and any other projections that you or your advisors have identified.

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. Notwithstanding the foregoing objection, the only test provided in SDCL 49-34A-56 relevant in this Docket is a 2 MW load which will be exceeded by the Data Center. See prefiled testimony of Bill Connors in Docket EL24-027.

16. Please provide detailed information concerning how Montana-Dakota proposed to serve the Data Center and related facilities, including:

- a. A detailed description of all transmission facilities to be constructed by you or your electric transmission supplier to transmit electric service to the Data Center, together with the expected costs and source(s) of funds for such facilities. Include in such description any land acquisition, easements, permits or licenses required to construct such facilities; and
- b. Provide a drawing of the facilities to be constructed, indicating the type and number of structures to be built.

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. Notwithstanding the foregoing objection, see prefiled testimony of Bill Connors and Montana-Dakota in Docket EL24-027.

17. With regard to such transmission facilities, a description of how the increased proposed electric

load from serving the Data Center would affect the transmission infrastructure that exists today, including any immediate or future (within the next 5-10 years) upgrades in conductors, breakers, or other equipment that is anticipated.

Answer: See answers to Interrogatories 8 and 16.

18. Provide a detailed description of all substation facilities to be constructed by you or Montana-Dakota for service to the Data Center, together with the expected costs and source(s) of funds for such facilities, including:
- a. A description of any land acquisition, easements, permits or licenses required to construct such facilities; and
 - b. Provide a drawing of the proposed substation, indicating the type of number of transformers and other equipment to be included in the substation.
 - c. Provide a detailed description of all electric distribution facilities to be constructed by DEC or its electric transmission supplier for service to the DTG plant, together with the expected costs and sources(s) of funds for such facilities, including:
 - f. A description of any land acquisition, easements, permits or licenses required to construct such facilities; and
 - g. Provide a drawing of the facilities to be constructed, indicating the type and number of structures to be built.

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. Further, Data Center is not familiar with DEC of the DTG plant. Notwithstanding the foregoing objection, see answers to Interrogatories 8, 16, and 17 and prefiled testimony of Bill Connors in Docket EL24-027.

19. Provide a detailed description of the switchgear, metering equipment, and other equipment to be installed by you or Montana-Dakota for service to the Data Center, together with the expected costs and sources(s) of funds for such facilities, including:
- a. Provide detailed information concerning the size and capacity of such equipment; and
 - b. Provide a drawing of the equipment installed at the location.

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. Notwithstanding the foregoing objection, the only test provided in SDCL 49-34A-56 relevant in this Docket to this interrogatory is a 2 MW load which is exceeded by the Data Center and the representations of Montana-Dakota. See generally prefiled testimony of Bill Connors and Montana-Dakota in Docket EL24-027.

20. If not disclosed in the proposed Electric Service Agreement requested to be furnished in the following Requests for Production, what is the rate to be charged for electricity to the Data Center?

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. Notwithstanding the foregoing objection, the rate is subject to the Montana-Dakota Rate 45 tariff and outcome of Docket EL24-028.

21. Has Montana-Dakota required Leola Data Center, LLC to post any performance bond or other form of security for the electrical service to be provided, the facilities to be constructed, equipment to be installed or other expenditures by Montana-Dakota related to service to the Data Center?

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. It further seeks information that is the subject of Docket EL24-028 in which East River, Basin and FEM were denied party status as they are not subject to the ESA nor are they impacted by it if ultimately approved by the commission.

22. If you withhold any requested information on the basis of privilege, work product, or otherwise, provide the following information:

- a. The nature and subject matter of the document or communication;
- b. The date of the document or communication;
- c. The name and title of the author, addresses, and any other recipients;
- d. The name and title of each person (other than stenographic or clerical assistants)
- e. participating in the communication or preparing the document; and
- f. The basis on which you claim the document or communication is protected.

Answer: Objection. This interrogatory is unduly burdensome, seeking information not relevant nor reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. It seeks to require Data Center to identify all documents in its possession related to its communications with Montana-Dakota regardless of the nature of such communication and regardless of any relevancy to the analysis the Commission must undertake pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-56.

REQUEST FOR PRODUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

1. Produce all documents referenced or identified in response to any of East River's First Set of Interrogatories, any document you referred to or reviewed in responding to any of those

Interrogatories, and any documents which contain information relating to the response to any Interrogatory.

Answer: Please see prefiled testimony of Bill Connors and Montana-Dakota in Docket EL24-027

2. Produce a copy of any and all reports, drawings, designs, and studies that you obtained or have received relating to your claim that Montana-Dakota can furnish electric service to meet the Data Center's needs, consistent with factors of SDCL 49-34A-56.

Answer: Objection. This request seeks irrelevant information and is not reasonably calculated to lead to the discovery of admissible information. It further seeks information that is the subject of Docket EL24-028 in which East River, Basin and FEM were denied party status as they are not subject to the ESA nor are they impacted by it if ultimately approved by the Commission.

3. Produce a copy of the Electric Service Agreement.

Answer: See Objection to request for production of documents 2.

4. Produce a true and accurate copy of all contracts and all agreements of any kind presently in place or being negotiated between you or any affiliated entity or person and others that in any way relate to the above-referenced Electric Service Agreement.

Answer: See Objection to request for production of documents 2.

5. Produce a copy of any and all documents or writings that it is anticipated will be used as an exhibit or admitted into evidence at the time of the hearing.

Answer: No such documents have been identified by Data Center at this point for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate

6. Produce as an ongoing request a copy of all data, documentary or interrogatory requests you serve or receive to or from Commission Staff, any party or Intervener to this docket along with its complete answer to such request.

Answer: See Objection to request for production of documents 2.

7. Produce any and all expert reports that were or will be relied upon, in whole or in part, by any testifying expert in this case.

Answer: No such reports have been produced by or on behalf of Data Center at this point

for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate

8. Produce all documents or writings contained in the file of any person who has been retained as an expert witness in this cause of action on your behalf, including, but not limited to, reports, factual observations, opinions, conclusions, photographs, field notes, calculations, models, exhibits, correspondence, e-mails, and billing records.

Answer: No such expert has retained by Data Center at this point for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate

9. Produce a curriculum vitae or resume for each individual who has been retained as an expert witness in this cause of action on your behalf.

Answer: See answer to request for production of documents 8.

10. Produce any charts, diagrams, plats, models, visual aids, experiments, documents, or other writings or any item of demonstrative evidence prepared or preserved by you, your attorney, your experts, or any other person acting on your behalf that will or may be used at the hearing.

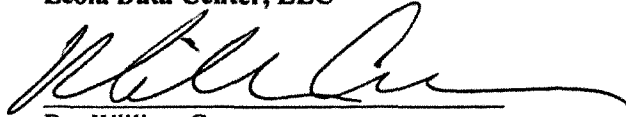
Answer: No such items have been identified by Data Center at this point for hearing. This answer will be supplemented as appropriate

11. Produce a copy of any subpoena issued for this matter and any documents obtained using any such subpoena.

Answer: No such subpoena has been issued or received by Data Center.

Dated this 6th day of November, 2024.

Leola Data Center, LLC



By: William Connors

State of Washington)
 :SS
County of King)

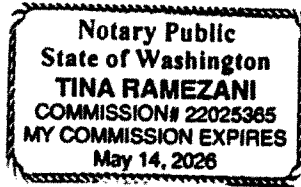
On this, the 6 day of November, 2024, before me, the undersigned officer, personally appeared, William Connors, who acknowledged himself to be the managing director of Leola Data Center, LLC, a Delaware Limited Liability Company authorized to do business in South Dakota, and that he, as such managing director, being authorized so to do, executed the foregoing instrument for the purposes therein contained by signing the name of the limited liability company by himself as managing director.

In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal.



Notary Public – Washington

My commission expires: 05.14.2026
(SEAL)

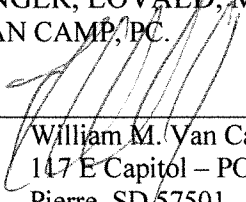


AS TO OBJECTIONS.

Dated this 7th day of November, 2024.

OLINGER, LOVALD, MCCAHERN
& VAN CAMP, PC.

By _____


William M. Van Camp
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Pierre, SD 57501
(605)224-8851
bvancamp@olingerlaw.net
Attorney for Leola Data Center LLC

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that, on November 14th, 2024, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Leola Data Center LLC's Answers to East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc.'s, Basin Electric Power Cooperative's and FEM Electric Association, Inc.'s Joint First Set of Interrogatories and Request for Production of Documents was served in the above-captioned action electronically on the following:

Vaugh Beck

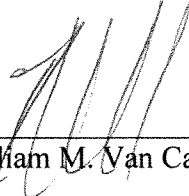
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William M. Van Camp