

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY )	NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER
WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER )	FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC
AGENCY AND MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY )	INPUT MEETING; NOTICE OF
SERVICES FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR AN )	OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR
ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY AND )	PARTY STATUS
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES INCLUDING AN )	
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE IN DEUEL )	EL25-028
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA )	

On August 7, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application for an Energy Facility Permit (Application) from Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, through its agent Missouri River Energy Services (Applicants). Applicants propose to construct an energy conversion facility and electric transmission line in Scandinavia Township, Deuel County, South Dakota, known as the Toronto Power Plant (Project).

The Project consists of 145 mW dual fuel power plant and a 345 kV generation-tie transmission line. The power plant consists of four combustion turbine-generator sets, a turbine hall building, diesel fuel truck unloading facilities, and other associated facilities. The 345 kV generation-tie transmission line will be approximately 4.9 miles long and connects the power plant with the existing Astoria 345 kV substation. Associated facilities will include natural gas piping anticipated to be less than 450 feet along the southwest side of the proposed power plant site. The power plant site is proposed to be located in the SE ¼ of Section 7, Township 113N, Range 48W in Scandinavia Township, approximately 3 miles north of Toronto, South Dakota. The 345-kV generation-tie transmission line is proposed to be located in Sections 8, 9, 10, 15, and 22 of Township 113N, Range 48W in Scandinavia Township.

Applicants estimate the total construction cost to be \$378 million. The Project is expected to be in commercial operation in 2029.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application on Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. CDT – Deubrook Elementary School, 695 Palisades Ave., Toronto, South Dakota.**

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, Applicants will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the County Auditor in Deuel County and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the docket, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at [puc.sd.gov](http://puc.sd.gov) under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2025 Electric Dockets, EL25-028.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, the parties to this proceeding are currently Applicants and the Commission Staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input meeting or may be obtained from the Commission's web site. **Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, October 6, 2025.** The Commission will also accept written

comments from anyone other than parties to the proceeding, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by providing testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct. You do not need to have party status in order to submit written comments. An individual with party status is required to submit information pursuant to a procedural schedule rather than submitting written comments.

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider issues raised by any party or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

For approval, Applicants must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application and Project on **Wednesday, September 24, 2025 – 5:30 p.m. CDT, at the Deubrook Elementary School, 695 Palisades Ave., Toronto, South Dakota.** It is further

**ORDERED**, that pursuant to ARSD 20:10:22:40, **applications for party status should be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, on October 6, 2025.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2025.

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 11 Aug 2025

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hansen

GARY HANSEN, Chairperson

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner