

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ) MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO. AND OTTER ) TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO ) CONSTRUCT THE BIG STONE SOUTH TO ) ELLENDALE 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE ) )	ORDER GRANTING MOTION FOR RELEASE OF ROAD AND PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE RESTORATION BOND  EL13-028
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On August 23, 2013, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a division of MDU Resources, and Otter Tail Power Company (Applicants) for a permit to construct a 345-kV transmission line of approximately 150 to 160 miles in Brown, Day, and Grant counties to the Big Stone South Substation in Grant County, South Dakota (Project). On August 13, 2014, the Commission voted to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation with provisions in addition to what is set forth in Condition 17 of the Amended Settlement Stipulation. On September 8, 2015, Applicants submitted an indemnity bond to the Commission as required by SDCL 49-41B-38 for the Project. On August 5, 2019, Applicants filed a Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Restoration Bond. Applicants stated that the construction of the Project was completed in December 2018, the transmission line was placed in service in February 2019, and the restoration of road damage has been completed. Applicants submitted signed releases from Brown, Day, and Grant counties along with all townships acknowledging that all the roads have been restored to preconstruction levels.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-38.

At its regular meeting on August 21, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Applicants' Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Restoration Bond. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the executive director or commission counsel to execute any necessary release documents to release Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Bond No. 190034312. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Release of Road and Public Infrastructure Restoration Bond is hereby granted, and the executive director or commission counsel is authorized to execute any necessary release document to release Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Bond No. 190034312.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27<sup>th</sup> of August 2019.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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:	<u>Karen E. Cronin</u>
Date:	<u>8/27/19</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

<u>Gary Hanson</u> GARY HANSON, Chairman
<u>Chris Nelson</u> CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner
<u>Kristie Fiegen</u> KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner