

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. a Division of MDU
Resources Group, Inc.
230 kV Transmission System
Public Convenience and Necessity**

Case No. PU-10-506

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE

November 2, 2010

On July 27, 2010, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct approximately 30 miles of 230 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities in Dickey and McIntosh Counties of North Dakota.

On August 24, 2010, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing. The notice provided until October 5, 2010 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No response was received. The notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Whether public convenience and necessity will be served by construction, ownership and operation of the facilities.
2. Whether the applicant is fit, willing and able to provide service.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. is a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., which is a Delaware Corporation authorized to do business in North Dakota as a foreign corporation, and is doing business in North Dakota as a public utility subject to the jurisdiction of and regulation by this Commission.

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. generates, transmits, and distributes electricity in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming. It is an experienced electric generation, transmission and distribution utility that currently serves over 120,000 retail electric customers in the northern great plains. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. has the experience and resources to construct, own, and operate the 230 kV transmission line and associated facilities.

Montana-Dakota's application indicates that the 230kV transmission line and associated facilities, including a 230 kV interconnection substation, are network upgrades needed to allow the interconnection of enXco Development Corporation's proposed 150 MW Merricourt Wind Project. Northern States Power Company has been issued a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Merricourt Wind Project in Case No. PU-08-910.

The Commission finds public convenience and necessity will be served by construction of the facilities.

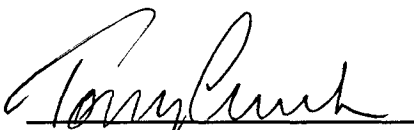
The Commission finds that Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. is fit, willing and able to provide service.

Order

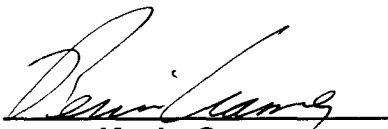
The Commission Orders:

1. The application of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. for a certificate of public convenience and necessity is GRANTED.
2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5425 is issued to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. to construct approximately 30 miles of electric transmission line and associated facilities in Dickey and McIntosh Counties of North Dakota.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Tony Clark
Commissioner



Kevin Cramer
Chairman



Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Certificate Number 5425

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., to construct approximately 30 miles of 230 kV transmission line, substation and associated facilities in Dickey and McIntosh Counties of North Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated November 2, 2010 in Case No. PU-10-506, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

This certificate is conditioned upon Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. securing the franchise or other authority of the proper municipal or other public authority for the exercise of these rights and privileges.

Bismarck, North Dakota, November 2, 2010.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner