



October 20, 2017

Darrell Nitschke
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**RE: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. / Otter Tail Power Company 345KV Transmission Line
- Dickey County Siting Application
Case No. PU-13-840
Notice of Intent for Construction Start**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed herewith for filing in connection with the above-referenced matter are copies of the following notices related to Order provisions 2 and 5:

1. A preconstruction conference call for transmission facility construction was held at 2:00 PM CST on Thursday, October 5, 2017, as per Order provision number 2. Minutes of this conference call are attached to this notice.
2. Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (jointly, the Applicants) are informing the Commission of their intent to begin construction on December 1, 2017 as per Order provision number 5. Weekly updates will be filed.

Also enclosed is a copy of the tree monitor report.

An electronic copy of this filing is also being sent to you at dnitschk@nd.gov and to the North Dakota Public Service Commission at ndpsc@nd.gov.

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If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 218-739-8607 or pbeithon@otpc.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ PETE BEITHON

Pete Beithon
Manager, Regulatory Recovery
Otter Tail Power Company

jch

Enclosures

By electronic filing and U.S. mail

cc: Dickey County Auditor's Office
c/o Bev Kuska
209 North 2nd Street
Ellendale, ND 58436

MEETING LOCATION

Conference Call

PROJECT ATTENDEES

Public Service Commission: Jerry Lien

Ulteig: Bob Youness

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.: Dan Albrecht

Otter Tail Power Company: Al Koeckeritz, Kris Koch, Andrea Harrington, Myron Rader, Lori Moxness, Pete Beithon, and Brian Beste

HDR: Brian Hunker and Jeff Schultenover

Agenda

October 5, 2017

2:00 – 3:30	Introductions	All
	Review the Order	PSC
	Questions & wrap up	All

Notes

Reviewed the Commission’s Orders

- Confirmed that the Cultural and Wetland reports were filed with the Commission
- Confirmed that the Tree and Shrub Mitigation Specifications were filed with the Commission

The team reviewed the 36 Certifications Relating to Order Provisions. HDR agreed to take notes for the meeting and provide them to Otter Tail to be filed with the PSC after the meeting. Although all 36 provisions were reviewed, the following provisions were discussed in more detail.

- Provision 3. Roles
 - Company Representative – Al Koeckeritz, OTP
 - Construction Supervisor – Brian Beste, OTP
 - Commission Staff – Jerry Lien
- Provision 4. Yes, permits have been filed with the Commission
 - There is a pending Corridor and Route Permit amendment that was noticed for Opportunity of Hearing
 - Don’t start the pending area until the Corridor and Route are approved
- Provision 5. Third-party Inspector’s contact information
 - Bob Youness, Ulteig

- 913-481-6700
- Bob.youness@ulteig.com
- Provision 5. File preconstruction meeting notes
 - Construction is anticipated to start in December 1, 2017 for foundation
 - Road work on existing roads will start in October 2017
 - File the preconstruction notes with an NOI to start construction
 - In the NOI note that construction is expected to start on or about December 1, 2017
- Provision 11. If any cultural sites are found, then let the Commission know immediately. Call Jerry Lien.
- Provision 13. Recommend videotaping roads prior to construction so that preconstruction conditions are recorded
- Provision 15. Segregate top soil. Keep topsoil onsite and spoils are provided to the landowner, if they want it.
 - Don't put spoils on topsoil
 - Topsoil is placed on topsoil. Top soil can be placed on timber mats to be picked off and respread
 - Blend in topsoil after replaced
- Provision 16. If a landowner wants to a seed mix that is different than the NRCS mix, then the PSC must agree with it
- Provision 21. Close gates during construction
- Provision 27. Let Jerry Lien know immediately of any injuries
- Provision 29. Onsite complaints directed to Brian Beste, OTP 612-363-8680
- Provision 31. If a structure moves within the Corridor, then notify Jerry Lien and get a written approval - Email and call Jerry. Include a map and reasons why the structure needs to be moved.
 - If a structure moved outside the Corridor then the Corridor needs to be modified and notice the Commission
- Provision 35. Call before you dig and make sure that its located
 - Make sure to have the location ticket

Tree and Shrub Provisions

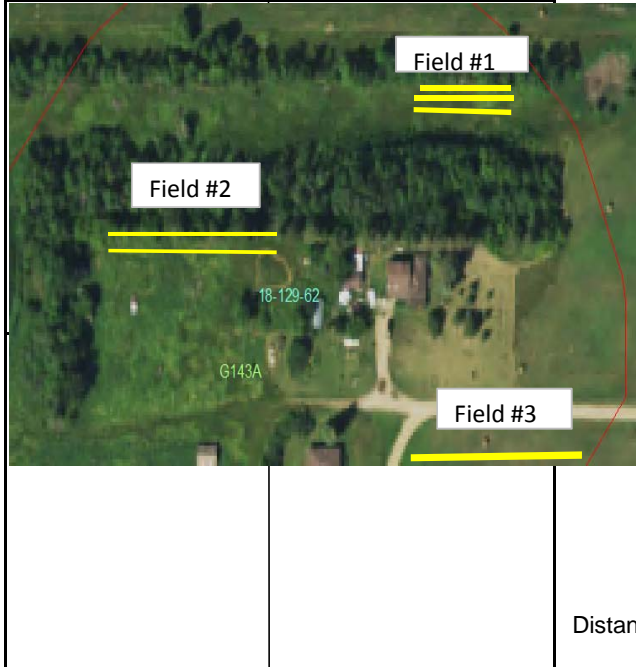
- Replacement Plan was provided to the Commission
- 75% survival rate after 3 years with annual reports
 - Replant now and monitor for three years

Questions

1. Construction start near the substation or at the ND/SD state line
 - a. Start foundations near state line and work north. Depends on weather. May put a second rig at the Substation and work south. Then meet in the middle.
 - b. End in February 28th
2. Jerry Lien – 701-328-1035 and jlien@nd.gov

Tree and Shrub Planting Plan and Record

Name Andra Jenkins Address 9855 91st Ave. SE Ellendale, ND Phone 701-349-3919



SE 18 129 62
 Quarter Sec Twp Range

Planned by: JU Planted by: Tree Crew
 Date: 7/29/2015 Date: _____

F/Stead XXXX; Field _____; W/Life _____
 S/Fallow _____; if other, specify type of
 land preparation _____

New Planting XXXXX; Replants _____
 (Indicate date of original
 planting) _____

CRP _____; EQIP _____ CO-01 _____

Other (Indicate) Big Stone Project

Between the row spacing 16 feet

Soil Type G143A Suitability Group 3,1

Protected from Grazing Yes (Yes, No)

Distance from Road and/or Buildings Yes

Condition of site
 at planting time: Tilled by District
 (Good, Fair, Poor)

Approved _____ (Yes, No) Date _____
 By: _____ Title _____

Field No.	Planned Length	Planted Length	Planted Width (Inc. 10' on ea. side of planting)	Dead Trees	Row #	Row #1 is on North or West Side of Planting	Species of Tree or Shrub	Spacing in row	Number Planted (Estimated)	Number Planted (Actual)	Spraying and/or Cultivating Plan and Record. (State how weed control is to be accomplished: - type of spray & rate and/or type of cultivation/equipment - indicating when action is to take place.)
						<u>NORTH</u>					
<u>1</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>184</u>		<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>Black Hill Spruce</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>Weed Barrier to be Applied. Laid barrier 6-13-16. Measured and Counted by Jeremiah on 7/19/2016. Weed maintenance is being done. Deer have been the main issue with the dead trees.</u>
	<u>200</u>	<u>186</u>		<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>Black Hill Spruce</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	
	<u>200</u>	<u>200</u>		<u>19</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>Maple</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>19</u>	
									"		
<u>2</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>163</u>		<u>11</u>	<u>1</u>		<u>Black Hill Spruce</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>14</u>	
	<u>200</u>	<u>175</u>		<u>15</u>	<u>2</u>		<u>Maple</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>15</u>	
									"		
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<u>3</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>186</u>		<u>8</u>	<u>3</u>		<u>Ponderosa Pine</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>16</u>	
									"		
									"		
									"		
									"		
	<u>1200</u>	<u>1094</u>							<u>102</u>	<u>100</u>	