

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. / Otter Tail Power Company
345 kV Transmission Line – Dickey County
Siting Application**

Case No. PU-13-840

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING

September 19, 2019

On July 10, 2014, the Commission issued Corridor Certificate No. 154 and Route Permit No. 166 to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company (Applicants) authorizing approximately 11 miles of 345 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities from a new Ellendale 345 kV substation to the South Dakota Border in Dickey County. This is the North Dakota portion of an Ellendale to Big Stone project shown on the attached map.

On December 16, 2015, the Commission issued First Amended Corridor Certificate No.154 and First Amended Route Permit No. 166 authorizing minor corridor and route modifications in sections 9 & 10 of Ellendale Township (T129N, R63W) and in section 32 of Van Meter Township (T129N, R62W).

On November 29, 2017, the Commission issued Second Amended Corridor Certificate No.154 and Second Amended Route Permit No. 166 authorizing minor corridor and route modifications in section 20 of Van Meter Township (T129N, R62W) in Dickey County.

On August 5, 2019, Applicants filed an Application for (1) a Modified Certificate of Corridor Compatibility, (2) a language change to clarify structure shifts and (3) a request to use new tree and shrub mitigation specifications:

1. Applicants request modifications to Second Amended Corridor Certificate No. 154 to shift the designated corridor at the new Ellendale 345 kV substation approximately fifty feet south to include the southern perimeter of the new substation within the designated corridor. Applicants explain that the substation location was shifted due to township road setback requirements.
2. Applicants request to amend Provision 31 of the Certification Relating to Order Provisions modifications to eliminate language that appears to provide that approval of modifications may be granted only after notice and opportunity for hearing.
3. Applicants request the tree and shrub mitigation specifications of Corridor Certificate No. 154 and Route Permit No. 166 be replaced with updated specifications recently adopted by the Commission.

The issues to be considered in this matter are:

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1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the facilities produce minimal adverse effects on the environment and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Are the facilities compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the facility locations minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?
4. Should provision 31 of the certification be amended as requested?
5. Should the tree and shrub mitigation specifications be updated as requested?

Those interested are invited to comment in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceedings and the reasons for requesting a hearing. **Comments and requests for hearing must be received by November 12, 2019.** If deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matter without a hearing.

For more information contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission.

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