

October 18, 2019

Steve Kahl  
Interim Executive Secretary  
ND Public Service Commission  
Inside Mail

Dear Mr. Kahl:

This is in response to your request for a review of the environmental impacts associated with the Case No. PU-13-840, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co./Otter Tail Power Company, 345 kV Transmission Line project located in Dickey County, ND.

The proposed project has been reviewed by State Water Commission staff, and the following comments are provided:

- There are no floodplains identified and/or mapped where this proposed project is to take place. No permits relative to the NFIP are required based on the current effective FIRM and State minimum standards.
- Initial review indicates the project does not require a conditional or temporary permit for water appropriation. However, if surface water or groundwater will be diverted for construction of the project, a water permit will be required per North Dakota Century Code § 61-04-02. Please consult with the Water Appropriations Division of the Office of the State Engineer if you have any questions at (701) 328-2754 or [waterpermits@nd.gov](mailto:waterpermits@nd.gov).
- The State Water Commission maintains a network of observation wells across the state for monitoring the water levels and quality in glacial and bedrock aquifers. These wells are often installed in road and highway rights-of-way to limit inconvenience to the adjacent landowners. State Water Commission observation wells have a yellow protective casing extending between 1 and 3 feet above ground surface, and their locations are marked with a stake. If an observation well is encountered during project activities and must be removed, please contact the Water Appropriations Division. The State Water Commission hopes to keep all observation wells, but otherwise will ensure the well is properly abandoned.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide review comments. Should you have further questions, please contact me at 701-328-4970 or [stevebest@nd.gov](mailto:stevebest@nd.gov).

Sincerely,



Steven Best  
Planner III

SB:dm/1570

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**Agency correspondence**

North Dakota State Water Commission

Steven Best, Planner III