



UTILITIES CO.

A Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
(701) 222-7900

July 18, 2016

Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: Case No. PU-16-____
Application for a Certificate of Public
Convenience & Necessity for a 115 kV
Transmission Line From Ellendale,
North Dakota to the North Dakota/South
Dakota Border

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., herewith files an original and seven (7) copies of an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct approximately 9 miles of 115 kV electric transmission line in North Dakota. The new 115 kV transmission line will interconnect with an existing substation located in Ellendale, North Dakota and interconnect with a new substation to be constructed near Leola, South Dakota with the project comprising a total of approximately 40 miles of 115 kV transmission line. This filing is made in accordance with NDCC Chapter 49-03-01.

Please refer all inquiries regarding this filing to:

Ms. Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501
Tamie.aberle@mdu.com

Also, please send copies of all written inquiries, correspondence and pleadings to:

Karl Liepitz
Senior Attorney
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650
Karl.liepitz@mduresources.com

Montana-Dakota also submits a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 as partial payment of the fee required by NDCC Chapter 49-05-04.2(2)(d). Montana-Dakota will submit additional funds as ordered by the Public Service Commission up to the \$175,000.00 amount required by NDCC Chapter 49-03-02.3.

Montana-Dakota respectfully requests that this filing be accepted as being in full compliance with the filing requirements of this Commission.

Please acknowledge receipt by stamping or initialing the duplicate copy of this letter attached hereto and returning the same in the enclosed self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Sincerely,



Tamie A. Aberle
Director of Regulatory Affairs

Attachments
cc: Karl Liepitz

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

In the Matter of the Application of)
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO., a)
Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.)
for a Certificate of Public Convenience) Case No. PU-16-____
and Necessity for a 115 kV Transmission)
Line From Ellendale, North Dakota to the)
North Dakota/South Dakota Border)
)

**APPLICATION FOR A CERTIFICATE
OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY**

I. Introduction

COMES NOW, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota or Applicant), a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., the Applicant in the above-entitled proceeding, and makes application pursuant to Chapter 49-03.1, North Dakota Century Code, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate approximately 9 miles of 115 kV electric transmission line and associated interconnection facilities starting at an existing substation located near Ellendale, North Dakota (the North Dakota Facilities).

That Applicant's full name and post office address are:

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.,
a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc.,
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

II. Description of Applicant

That Applicant is a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., a Delaware corporation duly authorized to do business in the State of North Dakota as a foreign corporation, and that it is doing business in the State of North Dakota as a public utility

subject to the jurisdiction of and regulation by the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) under Title 49, N.D.C.C., as amended. Applicant's Certificate of Incorporation and amendments thereto have been previously filed with the Commission under Case No. PU-08-710 and such Certificate and Amendments are hereby incorporated by reference as though fully set forth herein.

III. Standard of Review

This Application is being made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota. Under this statute, the overall standard applied by the Commission is whether public convenience and necessity will be served by the construction, ownership and operation of the North Dakota Facilities and whether the applicant is fit, willing and able to provide service.

The new 115 kV transmission line is required to enhance the reliability of electric service and Montana-Dakota is fit, willing and able to construct and operate its portion of the project.

IV. Description of the Project

The 115 kV transmission line is an integrated system facility and will be located in Dickey County in North Dakota and Brown and McPherson Counties in South Dakota. The new transmission line will interconnect Montana-Dakota's existing Ellendale Substation in Ellendale, North Dakota to a new substation in Leola, South Dakota. The new Leola Substation will interconnect to Montana-Dakota's existing sub-transmission system.

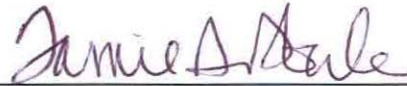
VI. Conclusion

No other electric public utility or any electric cooperative corporation will be affected by the ownership and operation of the proposed North Dakota Facilities and Applicant is fit, willing and able to own and operate the North Dakota Facilities. It is in the public interest that Montana-Dakota be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the authority it requests herein.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission:

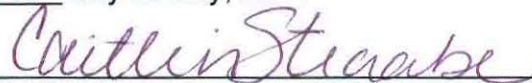
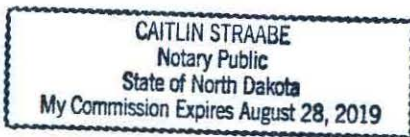
1. Give Notice of Opportunity to request a hearing to interested parties and, if no hearing is requested within twenty days, to waive the hearing in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-03.1-05;
2. Enter an Order and issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the Applicant to construct and operate a 115 kV transmission line between Ellendale, North Dakota and the North Dakota/South Dakota border.
3. Grant such other relief as the Commission shall deem appropriate.

Dated this 18th day of July, 2016.



Tamie A. Aberle

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 18th day of July, 2016.



Caitlin Straabe, Notary Public
Burleigh County, North Dakota
My Commission Expires: 08/28/2019

Of Counsel:
Karl Liepitz
Senior Attorney
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 5650
Bismarck, ND 58506-5650