

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana Dakota Utilities Co.
Advance Prudence – Heskett 4
Application**

Case No. PU-19-306

**Montana Dakota Utilities Co.
88 MW Turbine - Heskett 4
Public Convenience & Necessity**

Case No. PU- 19-307

**Montana Dakota Utilities Co.
Deferred Accounting – Lewis&Clark 1 Heskett 1 & 2
Application**

Case No. PU-19-317

AMENDED NOTICE OF CONSOLIDATED HEARING

April 17, 2020

A consolidated **Public Hearing** on the applications in Case No. PU-19-306, PU-19-307 and PU-19-317 was noticed to be located at the State Capitol, 12th Floor, 600 East Boulevard Ave, Bismarck, ND 58505. Due to the state emergency, the Public Hearing will be held remotely to begin on **April 30, 2020 at 2:00 pm central time.**

The public is encouraged to view the hearing electronically via <https://psc.nd.gov/public/meetings/live.php> or listen telephonically via 1-888-585-9008 with room code 259-316-322.

Public input received by the Commission will be placed into the record for consideration. The Commission will receive testimony through the following methods:

- **Written** - Written public input may be submitted beginning on April 30, 2020 through May 11, 2020 through email via ndpsc@nd.gov or by mail addressed to:

Public Service Commission,
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

- **Telephonic** – The public may provide input over the phone by calling 701-328-4081 to be placed on a list. Following the testimony by Montana Dakota Utilities Co., on April 30, 2020, the Commission will call you back to receive your input in an order determined by the Administrative Law Judge. ,

On August 28, 2019, Montana Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application for an Advance Determination of Prudence (Case No. PU-19-306) and for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (Case No. PU-19-307) to construct, own and

operate an 88 MW simple cycle combustion turbine referred to as Heskett Unit 4. The turbine is to be located adjacent to Heskett Unit 3, near Mandan, North Dakota. MDU states the primary need for Heskett Unit 4 is to offset the retirement of three coal-fired power plants: 1) Lewis and Clark Unit 1 located near Sydney, Montana, 2) Heskett Unit 1 located near Mandan and 3) Heskett Unit 2 located near Mandan. MDU states that these coal-fired power plants are no longer economical.

On September 16, 2019, MDU filed an application for deferred accounting treatment of costs related to its proposed retirement of the Lewis and Clark Unit 1, Heskett Unit 1 and Heskett Unit 2 until disposition of its next general electric rate case. MDU proposes to accelerate depreciation of the coal-fired power plants to an expected early retirement date.

On March 4, 2020 The Commission consolidated the cases for public hearing.

The issues to be determined in Case No. PU-19-306 are:

1. Whether MDU's proposed resource addition is prudent.
2. Whether the Commission should grant MDU an advance determination of prudence.

The issues to be determined in Case No. PU-19-307 are:

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

The issues to be considered in Case No. PU-19-317 are:

1. Whether MDU's proposed early plant retirements are reasonable and appropriate?
2. Whether MDU's proposal for accelerated depreciation should be approved?

The Commission will consider written testimony received up to five days after the hearing to accommodate members of the public that are unable to attend due to coronavirus concerns. 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 at least 24 hours in advance.



Steven M. Kahl
Executive Secretary
Public Service Commission