



Public Service Commission

State of North Dakota

COMMISSIONERS

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March 30, 2021

Travis Jacobson
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

RE: Mandan to Ellendale Transmission System Upgrade – Case No. PU-20-342

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.'s Mandan to Ellendale 230kV transmission line upgrade (Project) consists of reconductoring 90 miles of transmission conductor and replacement of certain pole structures. It is Commission Staff's understanding that construction on MDU's Mandan to Ellendale 230kV electric transmission line upgrade began in 2019 and is now nearing completion.

On July 16, 2020, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed a Certification and documentation under NDCC Section 49-22-03(3)(a) notifying the Commission of the Project. On July 28, 2020, MDU filed a revised Certification and documentation.

On December 2, 2020, MDU filed an Exclusion and Avoidance Areas Evaluation for a Project corridor that is 600 feet wide centered on the existing route of the Mandan to Ellendale transmission line. The evaluation identified multiple exclusion and avoidance areas within the corridor.

Under North Dakota Century Code section 49-22-03(3)(b)(3), Commission must either approve the impact to the avoidance area or the utility must obtain siting authority for the affected portion of the site or route.

Please provide a filing to the Commission that informs the following details related to the Project.

8 **PU-20-342** Filed: 3/30/2021 Pages: 2
Request for information

Public Service Commission

Patrick Fahn

- 1.1 Please provide maps similar to the maps provided in the Exclusion and Avoidance Areas Evaluation that identify the segments of the Project that have been constructed and the segments of the Project that have yet to be constructed.
- 1.2 For the line segments that have been constructed in portions of the corridor that contain exclusion or avoidance areas, please provide information, by line segment, detailing any impacts to exclusion or avoidance areas that occurred as a result of construction activity. Please provided detailed information regarding mitigation measures used to avoid impacts to exclusion and avoidance areas as a result of construction activities.
- 1.3 For the line segments that are yet to be constructed in portions of the corridor that contain exclusion or avoidance areas, please provide information, by line segment, detailing mitigation measures that will implemented to avoid impacts to the exclusion area or avoidance area. If an exclusion area or avoidance areas will be impacted, provide information detailing why there is no reasonable alternative to the expected impact to the exclusion area or avoidance area and measures that will be implemented to minimize the expected impact.
- 1.4 For areas containing cultural resources, please provide a copy of the letter from the State Historic Preservation Officer determining that no significant archaeological or architectural sites are affected.

Best regards



Patrick Fahn
Director, Public Utilities Division