



Public Service Commission State of North Dakota

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May 19, 2021

Robert Frank
Montana-Dakota Utilities
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck, ND 58501

Re: Case No. PU-21-151
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
230 kV Transmission Line - Morton County
Siting Application

The Public Service Commission Staff is reviewing Montana-Dakota Utilities Company's application. Staff is requesting that the company reply with answers to the following questions and responses for additional information:

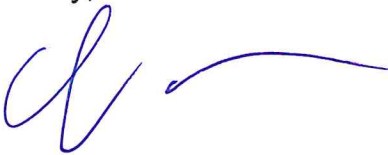
1. What is the width of the proposed corridor, the permanent right-of-way, and the temporary construction right-of-way?
2. Please update "Figure 1: Project location map" to include the proposed corridor and provide the associated GIS shapefile.
3. Provide all GIS shapefiles associated with "Figure 1: Project location map".
4. Provide a copy of an eight and one-half-inch by eleven-inch black and white map suitable for newspaper publication depicting the site area.
5. Provide answers in tabular form to each element within NDAC section 69-06-05-01(2)(a)(7). If not applicable, indicate as such.
6. What is the maximum span between pole locations?
7. Were any pole locations placed to avoid sensitive areas, such as wetlands, waterbodies, woodlands, agricultural land, or geologically unstable areas?
8. Describe how the company selected the pole locations in or near avoidance areas and wetlands.

9. Are guyed structures associated with this facility? If so, in which locations? How many guy wires will be required per structure, and how many feet from the pole structure will the anchors be located?
10. Provide copies of the engineering design layouts associated with the facility.
11. For each exclusion and avoidance area in NDAC 69-06-08-02, provide a table indicating for each exclusion and avoidance area, a description and discussion of how the company determined there were no exclusion and only one avoidance area in (1) the survey area (i.e., an area where field surveys were conducted), and (2) the study area (i.e., an area where desktop studies were performed).
12. Page 4 of the Natural Resource Impacts Evaluation to the Environmental Resource Impacts Assessment indicates that "natural resource evaluations were completed for potential wetlands, federally listed threatened and endangered species, and species managed under the North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan." What was the width of each field survey conducted? Provide copies of each of these evaluations with the Commission.
13. For each selection criteria in NDAC 69-06-08-02, provide responses to how potential adverse effects resulting from the location, construction, and operation of the proposed facility will be managed and maintained at an acceptable.
14. Please address the policy criteria in NDAC 69-06-08-02.
15. Provide a discussion of the company's policies and commitments to limit the environmental impact of its facilities, including copies of board resolutions and management directives.
16. Provide a description of the right-of-way preparation and construction and reclamation procedures.
17. Provide a table showing all permits required for the project, and the status of obtaining each.
18. Provide a discussion of present and future natural resource development in the area.
19. Provide the following project control documents:
 - a. Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan
 - b. Unanticipated Discovery Plan
 - c. Construction and Environmental Program Plan
 - d. Erosion Control Plan
 - e. Weed Management Plan and any county-specific weed management plan
 - f. Dust Control Plan
20. Table B-1 indicates that an agency correspondence letter to the ND Geological Survey was not sent. Please send notice of the company's application to it and provide copies to the Commission.

21. The conclusion to the Environmental Resource Impacts Assessment indicates that the USFWS provided a concurrence. Provide copies of the concurrence mentioned. Additionally, provide copies of all correspondence with the USFWS.

Please let me know whether you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Renfandt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Adam Renfandt
Analyst