



Public Service Commission State of North Dakota

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June 25, 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 (MDU) application. Staff is requesting that the company reply with answers to the following questions and responses for additional information:

1. The second answer to MDU's June 23, 2021 response includes an updated project location map with the associated 200-foot wide survey area.
 - a. Provide the dates the field surveys for cultural and natural resources were conducted for the new line segments and the existing line segment.
 - b. Please provide a map of all surveys MDU is relying on for cultural resources.
 - c. Please provide a map of all surveys MDU is relying on for natural resources.
2. Please provide maps showing all exclusion, avoidance, and selection criteria for the complete 1-mile study area. Please include the associated GIS layers.
3. Provide the following project control documents:
 - a. Emergency Procedures Plan
 - b. Wetland Delineation report
 - c. Revegetation Plan
 - d. Environmental training plan
 - e. Avian protection plan

4. Please provide a supplement to the application addressing avoidance areas relative to rural residences located within 500 feet of the route.
5. Was the Unanticipated Discovery Plan shared with the ND State Historic Preservation Office? Was it approved by them?
6. The twelfth answer in MDU's June 23, 2021 response indicates that "[n]atural resource evaluations were completed for wetlands, federally listed threatened and endangered species, and species managed under the North Dakota State Wildlife Action Plan" and that they were subsequently "transmitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the USFWS, and the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (NDGFD)". Please file copies with the Commission of all such evaluations.
7. For each exclusion and avoidance criteria, please provide a table with the following:
 - a. For the study area, the desktop analysis, or other analysis, that was performed along with the source(s) of the data.
 - b. For the survey area, the date the survey(s) was conducted, the width of the survey(s), whether the survey(s) was conducted across the entire corridor depicted on the updated project map to the June 23, 2021 response, and the survey location on the same updated map.

It would also be helpful for the structure of the application and an orderly hearing to have a table showing all the filing requirements for a corridor certificate and route permit along with the document and section that addresses each requirement.

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