



UTILITIES CO.

A Subsidiary of MDU Resources Group, Inc.

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

January 14, 2022

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

Re: Mandan Reroute Project  
Case No. PU-21-151

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) now submits this request to begin construction on the southern portion of the above referenced Project. Specifically, structures 11 through 15 as identified in the Company's July 26 Application and approved in the Commission's December 29, 2021 Order.

Pursuant to the Certification Relating to Order Provisions – Transmission Facility Siting, which states:

11. Company understands and agrees that all topsoil, up to 12 inches, or topsoil to the depth of cultivation, whichever is greater, over and along trench areas where cuts will be made, must be carefully stripped and segregated from the subsoil. Any area on which excavated subsoil will be placed must also be stripped of topsoil. The stripped topsoil must not be stockpiled in natural drainages, and must be protected from water erosion. Care must be taken to protect topsoil from unnecessary compaction by heavy machinery. ***Unless otherwise approved by the Commission, topsoil must be removed before topsoil freezes in the late fall/ early winter to the point that frost inhibits proper soil segregation.*** After backfilling with subsoil is completed, any excess subsoil must be placed over the excavation area, blending the grade into existing topography. Topsoil must be replaced over areas from which it was stripped only after the subsoil is replaced. [Emphasis added]

Montana-Dakota expects to encounter frozen soil that will need to be excavated in order to place each of the previously noted structures. The excavation will be limited to a diameter not to exceed 48 inches to allow the setting of each pole. The Company proposes to use an auger to carefully break up the frozen soil to determine the appropriate depth of the topsoil. The topsoil will then be

accumulated and stored separately from the subsoil. The Company will work with the 3<sup>rd</sup> party observer, Barr Engineering, to ensure the segregation of the soils is maintained despite the frozen conditions.

Montana-Dakota would like to reiterate that the overall excavation will be minimal and is isolated to the location of the structures located on the southern end of the project.

Montana-Dakota respectfully asks that the Commission approve the Company's request to begin construction and will comply with the various requirements relating to excavation despite the frozen soil conditions.

If you have questions, please contact me at 701.222.7855.

Sincerely,

***/s/ Travis R. Jacobson***

Travis R. Jacobson  
Director of Regulatory Affairs