

Otter Tail Power Co./MDU Co. 345kV Line, Case No. PU-24-91

August 19, 2024, Work session ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p style="text-align: center;">STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION</p> <p>Otter Tail Power Company/Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. 345kV Transmission Line - Jamestown to Ellendale Public Convenience & Necessity</p> <p>Case No. PU-24-91</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TRANSCRIPT OF WORK SESSION August 19, 2024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPEARANCES</p> <p>Commissioners Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Randy Christmann, and Julie Fedorchak</p> <p>PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: Brian Johnson, Christopher Hanson, Adam Renfandt, Victor Schock, John Schuh</p>	<p>1 So my first question is, if it's been identified</p> <p>2 in the Tranche 1, can we quantify those benefits for MDU</p> <p>3 and Otter Tail to look at it? That's my first question.</p> <p>4 Has that been -- I guess I assumed, and I shouldn't do</p> <p>5 that, that that was studied so we -- can we get some</p> <p>6 quantification numbers on that, the benefit of that</p> <p>7 line? So that's my first question. And I guess if we</p> <p>8 can get that, then that might lead to some more</p> <p>9 discussion.</p> <p>10 So I don't know. I'm going to look to Adam and</p> <p>11 Chris or Julie to maybe give me some history there on</p> <p>12 that, based on the two years that I've been on the</p> <p>13 Commission in that area, that that was -- has been</p> <p>14 identified. And I thought MISO maybe did a good job on</p> <p>15 identifying that. And this is the one, the only project</p> <p>16 in Tranche 1 that North Dakota has what I would say is</p> <p>17 maybe benefit. So I'll give that to --</p> <p>18 ADAM RENFANDT: So I've got a couple handouts</p> <p>19 here that might help guide the conversation here.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Thanks, Adam.</p> <p>21 ADAM RENFANDT: I think I put this in the wrong</p> <p>22 order. I got a couple -- I only have two more. I've</p> <p>23 got this one here. Okay, yeah. There. I think it's in</p> <p>24 that order then.</p> <p>25 So we're here to kind of discuss the Jamestown</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 3</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. This is a work</p> <p>2 session of the North Dakota Public Service Commission on</p> <p>3 the Otter Tail and MDU Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV</p> <p>4 transmission line. It's August 19th, 2024. It's Case</p> <p>5 No. PU-24-91.</p> <p>6 I don't have any anything else before turning</p> <p>7 over to the portfolio holder.</p> <p>8 Commissioner Fedorchak, do you?</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: No, I don't.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. It's all yours,</p> <p>11 Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Well, thank you.</p> <p>13 I guess going back to our commission meeting</p> <p>14 last week, I proposed an order and we got into some</p> <p>15 discussion. And so I think there's those discussion</p> <p>16 items that we need to go through. And I'm just going to</p> <p>17 say I'm -- I'm going to give -- just may -- my question,</p> <p>18 or lay it out and Randy and Julie and staff can answer</p> <p>19 this.</p> <p>20 You know, looking at that Jamestown to Ellendale</p> <p>21 line, we've identified there's some congestions that we</p> <p>22 can -- need to get -- being an exporter, get things out.</p> <p>23 So when I look at MISO and studying Tranche 1, this is</p> <p>24 an area that was identified there would be benefits on</p> <p>25 building this 345 kV line.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 2</p>	<p>1 to Ellendale 345 kV line that was part of MISO's Tranche</p> <p>2 1. I believe it was passed by the MISO board of</p> <p>3 directors in June of 2022.</p> <p>4 So the first page you see, it is an overview.</p> <p>5 When we think of LRTP projects, we kind of have to think</p> <p>6 of them more in a portfolio approach. And in this</p> <p>7 particular line, it happens to have been studied and</p> <p>8 paired well with not just the single line, which is the</p> <p>9 Jamestown to Ellendale line, but also the Big Stone</p> <p>10 South to Alexandria to Cass- -- Cassie's Crossing.</p> <p>11 When it comes down to the benefits, there are</p> <p>12 benefits in terms of figuring out what kind of</p> <p>13 reliability benefits there are. And in this case you'll</p> <p>14 see that this is from a MISO presentation that indicates</p> <p>15 that the Jamestown to Ellendale line as well as in</p> <p>16 combination with the Big Stone South to Cassie's</p> <p>17 Crossing relieves 40 elements with excess loadings for</p> <p>18 the first transmission element loss or the N-1 and some</p> <p>19 of the elements with excess of loading for the second</p> <p>20 transmission element.</p> <p>21 When MISO first started going through their</p> <p>22 analysis, they looked at several alternatives. They</p> <p>23 focused a lot on six of them. They look at largely --</p> <p>24 largely what kind of effect in terms of loadings it will</p> <p>25 have, and it will compare to see if, okay, if it can</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 4</p>

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<p>1 identify a mini portfolio project, if you will, that</p> <p>2 relieves the most. And they also tend to look somewhat</p> <p>3 at the cost of those lines, but really it's a</p> <p>4 reliability analysis. And they also then perform an</p> <p>5 economic analysis on it as well.</p> <p>6 So kind of getting back to the question on the</p> <p>7 benefits that this provides, this first page shows, for</p> <p>8 Zone 1 through 7, as we are in -- we are located in Zone</p> <p>9 1, so that would be to the yellow, to the right of that</p> <p>10 chart.</p> <p>11 Now this is the most conservative, what you call</p> <p>12 cost-benefit analysis. So the entire portfolio was --</p> <p>13 cost \$10.3 billion. And then they figure out, okay,</p> <p>14 well, what kind of benefits can we attach to it such</p> <p>15 that the benefit-cost ratio is 1.0 or greater. So per</p> <p>16 the tariff, that's the hurdle that we're looking at.</p> <p>17 And what do I mean by "the most conservative</p> <p>18 one" is that they also show this for a 40-year present</p> <p>19 value for benefits as well as they increase the value of</p> <p>20 loss load that they give their other metrics to</p> <p>21 something that is probably a bit unrealistic.</p> <p>22 So I think when people talk about and when you</p> <p>23 hear numbers reported, they're mainly talking -- they're</p> <p>24 talking about these numbers, which is the most</p> <p>25 conservative of them.</p> <p>PAGE 5</p>	<p>1 this -- assumptions that drove that?</p> <p>2 ADAM RENFANDT: Okay. So the assumptions that</p> <p>3 drive that is that starting off in the future's process</p> <p>4 when we first start taking a look at where to place</p> <p>5 these lines, we have to take a look at, okay, we have to</p> <p>6 meet certain IRPs, right? We have to meet our IRP</p> <p>7 goals.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And "we" meaning MISO?</p> <p>9 MISO.</p> <p>10 ADAM RENFANDT: MISO. MISO.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Not we.</p> <p>12 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, yeah, we. Yes.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: MISO says?</p> <p>14 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.</p> <p>16 ADAM RENFANDT: So MISO will collect every</p> <p>17 utilities' IRPs and they'll take that and say, okay, we</p> <p>18 need to -- you know, we need to achieve that.</p> <p>19 And then they also will meet a certain amount of</p> <p>20 goals that are not -- that aren't just goals. They're</p> <p>21 just -- you know, kind of wishes, if you will, that</p> <p>22 aren't -- that aren't mandated by the legislature, for</p> <p>23 instance.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So give me an</p> <p>25 example of a goal that we might bring forward.</p> <p>PAGE 7</p>
<p>1 So you can see that we're in Zone 1. So the</p> <p>2 minimum is 2.8. And then that's where the max comes in.</p> <p>3 So we've always tended -- tend to focus on the minimum</p> <p>4 benefits that we can achieve.</p> <p>5 And if we then go and look at the second page --</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And just to clarify,</p> <p>7 this is for the whole -- the whole portfolio, not just</p> <p>8 this line?</p> <p>9 ADAM RENFANDT: Right. Yeah.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Not just the two lines,</p> <p>11 it's the whole --</p> <p>12 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- all of Tranche 1?</p> <p>14 ADAM RENFANDT: And we have asked before to --</p> <p>15 for them to break it down further and more granularly.</p> <p>16 Yeah, that's maybe something that we're working on, but</p> <p>17 these benefit metrics and BC cost ratios are for the</p> <p>18 entire \$10.3 billion. Because they're all supposed to</p> <p>19 work together in one portfolio to deliver value.</p> <p>20 So if we take a look at the --</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: One more quick question</p> <p>22 on that one, Adam. The inset over there on the right,</p> <p>23 is that North Dakota resource additions by 2039?</p> <p>24 ADAM RENFANDT: Yes, they are.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So can you talk about</p> <p>PAGE 6</p>	<p>1 ADAM RENFANDT: If it was --</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: That's the -- not us</p> <p>3 really. We don't have these.</p> <p>4 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's other states that</p> <p>6 have their goals and they'll do a certain percentage of</p> <p>7 them.</p> <p>8 ADAM RENFANDT: Yep. Right.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: We have a goal but</p> <p>10 it's long been exceeded --</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, these are more</p> <p>12 like state -- the IRPs are what the companies are</p> <p>13 planning, right? So they assume that's going to happen,</p> <p>14 because the companies are planning for those at least.</p> <p>15 They work to build a system that is going to meet the</p> <p>16 needs of their members, which are the investor -- the</p> <p>17 people with the IRPs.</p> <p>18 ADAM RENFANDT: Uh-huh.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And then they'll meet</p> <p>20 the -- then they'll build a system to reach a certain</p> <p>21 percentage of, say, Minnesota's renewable mandates or</p> <p>22 Wisconsin's or whatever. That -- that's the other --</p> <p>23 ADAM RENFANDT: Yep, right.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- piece component.</p> <p>25 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah. And in this component --</p> <p>PAGE 8</p>

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<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Of the futures.</p> <p>2 ADAM RENFANDT: Of the futures.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: These are the</p> <p>4 futures --</p> <p>5 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, yeah. And that's</p> <p>6 another --</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- that help to</p> <p>8 (indiscernible) how -- and they're not like, you know,</p> <p>9 meeting like a hundred percent of any future. They're</p> <p>10 just used as the guidelines to begin to imagine what</p> <p>11 kind of system we're going to need. Because nobody</p> <p>12 really knows, but these are the things that direct and</p> <p>13 guide what this future system they think is going to</p> <p>14 need based on what people are putting in their plans.</p> <p>15 ADAM RENFANDT: And that's an important point</p> <p>16 because we're looking at the year 2039. And by 2039, in</p> <p>17 this particular case of what -- what all of this benefit</p> <p>18 metrics is based upon is that you meet 100 percent of</p> <p>19 your IRP goals -- or not we, but MISO will say we're</p> <p>20 going to meet a hundred percent of our IRP goals and</p> <p>21 we're going to meet 85 percent of our aspirational goals</p> <p>22 that -- that they -- that Commissioner Fedorchak was</p> <p>23 just describing.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And I do think it's</p> <p>25 important to re-emphasize that MISO is trying to build a</p> <p>PAGE 9</p>	<p>1 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah. We -- yeah, in their</p> <p>2 assumptions so...</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Do they take into</p> <p>4 consideration the EPA regulations?</p> <p>5 ADAM RENFANDT: They haven't.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't think so.</p> <p>7 ADAM RENFANDT: No, no. No, they haven't.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: All right.</p> <p>9 ADAM RENFANDT: So then kind of moving onto the</p> <p>10 next page, so these are the benefits that they've</p> <p>11 identified. The first benefit is --</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Let's talk for a minute</p> <p>13 about how these get developed.</p> <p>14 ADAM RENFANDT: Okay.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Because each one of</p> <p>16 these processes is like a big, long, you know,</p> <p>17 stakeholder input on identifying what benefits are going</p> <p>18 to be used to measure the overall -- the overall benefit</p> <p>19 calculation. And these are where you get some questions</p> <p>20 from the (indiscernible). The last -- I -- he's -- he's</p> <p>21 pretty squishy on some of these benefit metrics, but</p> <p>22 even more so on Tranche 2.</p> <p>23 So, anyway, was there anything in particular</p> <p>24 about these benefit metrics that raised concern in the</p> <p>25 stakeholder process, Adam?</p> <p>PAGE 11</p>
<p>1 system that enables the meeting of those. They aren't</p> <p>2 meeting them. They're building a system that allows</p> <p>3 their members to meet their IRP goals and, like Adam</p> <p>4 said, 85 percent of the state mandates as a planning --</p> <p>5 that's how they plan. It's their planning protocol.</p> <p>6 So back to this resource additions, this is</p> <p>7 based on what they're seeing in North Dakota IRPs</p> <p>8 mostly?</p> <p>9 ADAM RENFANDT: IRPs. They will put in some</p> <p>10 units that are model built --</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: For reliability? To</p> <p>12 meet reliability standards?</p> <p>13 ADAM RENFANDT: For -- yeah, for -- yeah, for</p> <p>14 reliability standards as well as engineering kind of</p> <p>15 judgment, I guess, if you will.</p> <p>16 You know, you'll notice that there's -- you</p> <p>17 know, on this case, you know, there's actually a</p> <p>18 combined cycle gas being built. You know, that was --</p> <p>19 you know, that's likely the -- the conversion of maybe</p> <p>20 the goal --</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Oh. Oh. They're</p> <p>22 looking at converting that to --</p> <p>23 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- in their</p> <p>25 assumptions?</p> <p>PAGE 10</p>	<p>1 I mean, I know we -- we said that -- we objected</p> <p>2 to the decarbonization benefit being used. And so then,</p> <p>3 in response to that, they took that out and told us what</p> <p>4 our cost-benefit would be without it. And it was still</p> <p>5 higher than the one threshold. Significantly higher.</p> <p>6 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah. And it -- there's very</p> <p>7 little benefit that's derived from this decarbonization</p> <p>8 benefit. The BC, the benefit-cost ratio, goes -- when</p> <p>9 you remove it, goes from 2.8 to 2.6. So that's kind of</p> <p>10 saying if you spend, like, a dollar, you get \$2.06 back.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So the two</p> <p>12 overwhelmingly large factors in the -- in the benefit</p> <p>13 column for Zone 1 are, one, congestion and fuel savings,</p> <p>14 two, avoided capital cost of local resource investment;</p> <p>15 correct?</p> <p>16 ADAM RENFANDT: Correct. Yep.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. For this</p> <p>18 project, not Tranche 1 but this project, and for North</p> <p>19 Dakota, not MISO, what are the avoided capital costs of</p> <p>20 local resource investment that this -- what costs does</p> <p>21 this avoid?</p> <p>22 ADAM RENFANDT: So this avoids the building of</p> <p>23 local generation that would cost more.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Like the gas plant</p> <p>25 that we ordered Xcel to build, for example? That's the</p> <p>PAGE 12</p>

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<p>1 only one I can think of.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Again, it's modeled.</p> <p>3 It's not necessary --</p> <p>4 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah. It's kind -- yeah, it's</p> <p>5 kind of like, you know, when we had the original MVP</p> <p>6 portfolio, we had to -- we could share resources and</p> <p>7 then reduce local overbuild.</p> <p>8 So if we're able to spread that out with</p> <p>9 transmission, then there's a point in which you're</p> <p>10 supposed to hit the sweet spot, and it's called the</p> <p>11 "bathtub curve," right, in which you want to put your</p> <p>12 transmission overlay on your resources such that you're</p> <p>13 all in a sharing pool and you're able to then not build</p> <p>14 something -- not have a grid that's Balkanized such that</p> <p>15 -- or have no wires and we've got to overbuild a ton of</p> <p>16 maybe thermal generation because we couldn't then use a</p> <p>17 renewable source maybe.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So the biggest share</p> <p>19 of our benefits are avoiding costs that we can't</p> <p>20 identify.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, that's not --</p> <p>22 their model costs out to 2039. I mean, you have to look</p> <p>23 at the time frame. So -- and that -- these might be</p> <p>24 good questions for -- because MISO should be able to</p> <p>25 identify those things for this project, for that -- for</p> <p>PAGE 13</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Well, he's kind of</p> <p>2 bringing their case.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: He's been trying so</p> <p>4 that we can, yeah, understand.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And I guess that</p> <p>6 was my question in looking at some of this, is how much</p> <p>7 of this, I mean, gets updated as things go on? Like</p> <p>8 Randy brought up Applied Digital. I mean, how is that</p> <p>9 fed into MISO and updated so we have current -- more</p> <p>10 current information? I mean --</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Once these projects are</p> <p>12 approved, they don't go back and update all this. Like</p> <p>13 this was agreed on and approved by the board a year --</p> <p>14 more than a year ago. So they don't go back --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- and keep changing</p> <p>17 these.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- and re-justifying</p> <p>20 the case or changing the case.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Well, I wouldn't</p> <p>22 have to say "re-justify" but just more accurate data</p> <p>23 that we as PUCs could have. Like when we -- when the --</p> <p>24 when the Tranche 1, when this case comes before us, we</p> <p>25 have more information, but lesson learned.</p> <p>PAGE 15</p>
<p>1 actually this line or those two lines. So that's</p> <p>2 probably a question we could ask them for -- to address.</p> <p>3 And I think it's an important one to understand, you</p> <p>4 know, how all this stuff is pulled together.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: The other one that is</p> <p>6 very significant in that is the congestion and fuel</p> <p>7 savings. And so I think any of us that have, in recent</p> <p>8 years, watched LMP prices have seen the congestion</p> <p>9 that's over in that area; correct?</p> <p>10 ADAM RENFANDT: Yep.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And this study was</p> <p>12 approved in 2022 so it was done well before Applied</p> <p>13 Digital was even discussed. Because the -- my own just</p> <p>14 occasional but pretty frequent viewing of LMP prices,</p> <p>15 I've seen the heat map. I'm seeing a lot less</p> <p>16 congestion problems over there. And we've only got the</p> <p>17 first phase of Applied Digital going. So I don't know</p> <p>18 that these congestion benefits are really there for us</p> <p>19 anymore.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: They might not be.</p> <p>21 It's a fair question. And, also, Adam's not defending</p> <p>22 MISO.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I know.</p> <p>24 (Laughter)</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Adam is not MISO so...</p> <p>PAGE 14</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And we don't ever see</p> <p>2 all of Tranche 1.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Right.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: This is the only line</p> <p>5 we'll see.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Right. But things</p> <p>7 have changed since then. I mean -- point taken.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. We should -- we</p> <p>9 could ask MISO for them to provide us that for this -- I</p> <p>10 don't know if they've got it at that granular level or</p> <p>11 not.</p> <p>12 ADAM RENFANDT: To provide?</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The congestion fuel</p> <p>14 savings, avoided capital costs of local investment --</p> <p>15 well, even all the benefit metrics, if they can, for --</p> <p>16 for Zone 1 for just --</p> <p>17 ADAM RENFANDT: Just --</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- Jamestown to</p> <p>19 Ellendale.</p> <p>20 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, okay.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Or could MDU? I'm</p> <p>22 sorry, but could MDU provide us any of that?</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I doubt it. They don't</p> <p>24 run the models.</p> <p>25 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, they wouldn't have access</p> <p>PAGE 16</p>

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<p>1 to that level of information and detail that MISO --</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I got my answer.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And the thing is, the</p> <p>4 other thing to remember, and this is just a part of the</p> <p>5 reality of MISO, is if you look at the size of our zone,</p> <p>6 I mean there's a lot of what's happening in Minnesota</p> <p>7 and part of Wisconsin driving Zone 1. And that's --</p> <p>8 that's the reality for us in North Dakota and MISO.</p> <p>9 Zone 1 includes all of Minnesota and a chunk of</p> <p>10 Wisconsin.</p> <p>11 VICTOR SCHOCK: So -- especially on the fuel</p> <p>12 cost savings, it's one -- because both RTOs do that kind</p> <p>13 of comparison when they run modeling. And it's one</p> <p>14 thing I've really struggled with in our zone. Usually</p> <p>15 we have trapped generation that can't get out. And when</p> <p>16 they do their model, well, this zone or this area is</p> <p>17 going to benefit by that trap generation getting out.</p> <p>18 Well, I suppose the zone as a whole is going to benefit,</p> <p>19 but our prices go up as a result of it.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Right.</p> <p>21 VICTOR SCHOCK: So that negative -- that</p> <p>22 negative congestion that's happening down there changes</p> <p>23 to even keel with the rest of the system. And primarily</p> <p>24 in this instance, I think Minnesota's prices probably go</p> <p>25 down a slight bit --</p> <p>PAGE 17</p>	<p>1 know how the -- where or how the battle would occur,</p> <p>2 but, okay, if the issue is somebody else out of state's</p> <p>3 need for energy and some developer that wants to come in</p> <p>4 and set up some more wind farms here, fine, pay for it.</p> <p>5 Not our ratepayers all the time.</p> <p>6 And so, yes, the RTO forces this cost allocation</p> <p>7 on us, but if we don't fight for it -- or fight against</p> <p>8 it successfully, guess what? We're going to be paying</p> <p>9 for -- was it three that's all south so maybe not that</p> <p>10 -- maybe not one of them, but we're going to be paying</p> <p>11 for all the rest of them too. And when better than now</p> <p>12 to fight it?</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't disagree. And</p> <p>14 we did fight it. But we --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: MISO.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: At MISO, yeah.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I'm talking about at</p> <p>18 FERC.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So is that how it</p> <p>20 would play out, I mean, going off of that? Tell me --</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah, I don't know.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Can you walk me --</p> <p>23 well, first of all, does anybody have anything else,</p> <p>24 Chris or Adam, to add to these?</p> <p>25 CHRIS HANSON: Just a scale -- sorry. I was</p> <p>PAGE 19</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yep.</p> <p>2 VICTOR SCHOCK: -- while ours go up to what the</p> <p>3 rest of the zone is seeing.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And this is kind of</p> <p>5 one of my concerns here, is so our ratepayers pay to</p> <p>6 build this and the benefits are looked at, well, is this</p> <p>7 investment here some big benefit, but it's mostly to</p> <p>8 whoever the new developer is that comes in and builds</p> <p>9 another wind farm. A few landowners but not to most of</p> <p>10 these Otter Tail and MDU customers. And I'm just -- I'm</p> <p>11 not seeing nearly the benefits or congestion</p> <p>12 improvements as what this seems to want to indicate.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, the other issue</p> <p>14 that I think is -- two other issues that are relevant</p> <p>15 are the reliability savings or reliability impacts and</p> <p>16 are the access for our broader generation to get out. I</p> <p>17 mean, if there's congestion, there's generators in North</p> <p>18 Dakota that are being curtailed. And depending on</p> <p>19 price, you know, that hurts them. And, you know, the</p> <p>20 higher-price ones are the ones probably being curtailed</p> <p>21 first. So that's -- that's another North Dakota issue.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: You know, I guess it's</p> <p>23 a separate argument of whether this is the right time to</p> <p>24 have the battle, but therein lies a lot of the reason</p> <p>25 for me wanting to take on the battle, and I don't even</p> <p>PAGE 18</p>	<p>1 just going to add that the scale of Tranche 1, the</p> <p>2 numbers that we got from MDU and from Otter Tail were</p> <p>3 like 10 and a half billion or somewhere between 10 and</p> <p>4 10 and a half billion, and the cost per megawatt-hour</p> <p>5 that they were estimating in 2031, which was the max</p> <p>6 rate, was about \$2.54 per megawatt. So -- so -- or</p> <p>7 megawatt-hour. So just as kind of a -- as a scale.</p> <p>8 Now that -- how that impacts, say, residential</p> <p>9 customers is going to depend upon the company. Because</p> <p>10 each of the companies has their own allocation</p> <p>11 methodology for transmission costs. But just to kind of</p> <p>12 give you an average on things, the Tranche 1, on</p> <p>13 average, would be about, you know, \$2.54 per</p> <p>14 megawatt-hour.</p> <p>15 So I'll throw -- NSP, as an example, does a</p> <p>16 direct allocation per megawatt-hour so that would affect</p> <p>17 their customers by \$2.54 per month for a thousand</p> <p>18 kilowatts or 1 megawatt of use -- or megawatt-hour of</p> <p>19 usage per month.</p> <p>20 But then we talked about Tranche 2, 3, 4. You</p> <p>21 know, as you're getting up into that 50 billion range,</p> <p>22 then, you know, you're talking 10, \$15 per megawatt-hour</p> <p>23 as a relative scale.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. Then I need to</p> <p>25 be corrected here and find out where I'm wrong. When we</p> <p>PAGE 20</p>

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<p>1 had our --</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Informal?</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- informal on</p> <p>4 July 8th, I didn't write down \$2.54 a month. I wrote</p> <p>5 \$3.15 a month for --</p> <p>6 CHRIS HANSON: Yep.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- MDU and 5.85 for --</p> <p>8 CHRIS HANSON: Correct.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- Otter Tail.</p> <p>10 CHRIS HANSON: Correct. So as I said, MDU and</p> <p>11 Otter Tail have an allocation methodology that's</p> <p>12 different for residential and for commercial,</p> <p>13 industrial. I'll use NSP as an example because they do</p> <p>14 a per-megawatt-hour allocation so it's a straight --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Oh.</p> <p>16 CHRIS HANSON: It's a different methodology but</p> <p>17 it's -- it's, I guess you could say, cleaner. But the</p> <p>18 average that MISO was allocating, their number was \$2.54</p> <p>19 based upon their estimates at the peak in 2031 when all</p> <p>20 the projects are up and running before they start to</p> <p>21 amortize off.</p> <p>22 So, yes, you are correct. Like MDU's number,</p> <p>23 MDU's number was \$3.15. The memo that I had was 5.75.</p> <p>24 And I think Matt Olsen came back and amended that to</p> <p>25 5.85 per megawatt-hour. So that's because they used</p> <p>PAGE 21</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Sure.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I mean if -- if it</p> <p>3 went to court and the courts backed the Commission on a</p> <p>4 denial -- or, no, overturned the Commission on a denial,</p> <p>5 well, then it would move forward unless we appealed.</p> <p>6 But let's say they backed our decision on a denial,</p> <p>7 wouldn't at some point this get to be a FERC thing over</p> <p>8 whether the states can stop -- and this could be SPP</p> <p>9 too -- stop RTO-approved projects through their PC&N</p> <p>10 process? Isn't that something that is going to have to</p> <p>11 get determined at some point? Or are they just all</p> <p>12 going to go to load pays?</p> <p>13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So I'm guessing the issue</p> <p>14 that you're presenting is an interstate commerce issue</p> <p>15 from the discussion that you're providing. And I'd be</p> <p>16 happy to have some additional discussion with that, but</p> <p>17 I probably would not want to be having that in -- in</p> <p>18 open meeting without having an opportunity to review the</p> <p>19 tariffs that we're discussing.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So we've kind of</p> <p>21 touched on these, but I want to re-emphasize two points.</p> <p>22 One is, yes, we can talk about avoiding congestion or</p> <p>23 avoiding additional investment costs. I haven't found</p> <p>24 any basis for those other than someone who likes doing</p> <p>25 projects, putting numbers together, I -- I can't see</p> <p>PAGE 23</p>
<p>1 different methodology for allocating those transmission</p> <p>2 costs. So you are correct.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. So I -- and</p> <p>4 Randy raised a good question about how, if we deny this,</p> <p>5 say, what is the result? Where does it go? Or do the</p> <p>6 companies -- where can the companies protest? Or MISO,</p> <p>7 I guess.</p> <p>8 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I'm still getting</p> <p>9 acquainted with this case. And I know you guys asked me</p> <p>10 to come in here and have some discussion, but if we have</p> <p>11 -- we issue an order with the denial, obviously it</p> <p>12 depends on the basis of the denial and it depends on the</p> <p>13 basis of the challenge. It could either be in Federal</p> <p>14 District Court or it could be in State Court. And so it</p> <p>15 would be up to the issue that really is being appealed.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So the -- Otter Tail or</p> <p>17 MDU would likely then decide to take it -- it could.</p> <p>18 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It would likely be Otter</p> <p>19 Tail or MDU.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Or MISO.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Could MISO? Do they</p> <p>22 have any --</p> <p>23 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Again, depending on the</p> <p>24 issue and where it's at.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Well, let's say --</p> <p>PAGE 22</p>	<p>1 anything.</p> <p>2 I will point out, though, that among the project</p> <p>3 benefits are to accommodate new electric generation</p> <p>4 projects. That, to me, that's who ought to be paying at</p> <p>5 least a good part of this, if not all of it. Because</p> <p>6 that, to me, is the key benefit in this, is to add the</p> <p>7 new generators. And to the extent that's for</p> <p>8 decarbonization or to meet other states' policy goals,</p> <p>9 regardless. The point is to add that generation. And I</p> <p>10 think that is the key benefit that this is looking to</p> <p>11 solve.</p> <p>12 The other, though, has to do with reliability</p> <p>13 and our discussion. This isn't in, like, the</p> <p>14 presentation, I don't think, but I'm using my</p> <p>15 recollection. Correct me if it's wrong. The real</p> <p>16 reliability issue in North Dakota that was highlighted</p> <p>17 as an example that this could take care of was the very</p> <p>18 near miss at Jamestown.</p> <p>19 And I think it's been said before, but kudos</p> <p>20 again to Otter Tail for still hanging on to that old</p> <p>21 generator in town there that almost never gets used and</p> <p>22 being able to keep Jamestown going as they did.</p> <p>23 But as this plays out in my mind, this project,</p> <p>24 what I have heard was, if I were to add all the new</p> <p>25 generation, it generally flows from that -- like the</p> <p>PAGE 24</p>

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<p>1 Ellendale point down through South Dakota and Minnesota</p> <p>2 and out, but if there's problems there, they need this</p> <p>3 alternative route to get it up to Jamestown and then</p> <p>4 from there on it can flow through Fargo and away.</p> <p>5 Okay. If -- as far as to add the new</p> <p>6 generation, I guess that makes sense. It also tells me</p> <p>7 there's plenty of capacity in the transmission lines</p> <p>8 between Jamestown and Fargo for all this to flow that</p> <p>9 way, which tells me when Xcel builds their gas plant</p> <p>10 there, it can flow the other way and that can just as</p> <p>11 easily be used to help solve any potential energy</p> <p>12 shortfalls in Jamestown.</p> <p>13 And so I think the one investment that I can see</p> <p>14 that this is going to eliminate the need for is that</p> <p>15 generation plant. And I guess it's fine as long as</p> <p>16 we're willing to have service when it's windy but not</p> <p>17 when it's not. I don't think most of the people are.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Randy, did you review</p> <p>19 the project benefits identified in the companies'</p> <p>20 application?</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I have, but it's been</p> <p>22 a while and I don't know if I have --</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: How did we -- we had an</p> <p>24 informal, right --</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Yeah.</p> <p>PAGE 25</p>	<p>1 excessive thermal loadings for N-1 contingencies and 70</p> <p>2 elements with excessive loading, and then down below the</p> <p>3 project improves voltages in the Red River Valley by</p> <p>4 relieving 97 voltage violations and 91 voltage</p> <p>5 violations for N-1-1 contingencies, like how many of</p> <p>6 those are North Dakota customers? How much of that is</p> <p>7 -- how much of that is a North Dakota issue?</p> <p>8 I mean, I am -- I want to know -- I would have</p> <p>9 to be reminded of that. I'd have to have a more</p> <p>10 technical discussion, I think, with the company to</p> <p>11 understand the implications for our customers of not</p> <p>12 having this line.</p> <p>13 VICTOR SCHOCK: Isn't N-1 what drives congestion</p> <p>14 pricing?</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't --</p> <p>16 Adam?</p> <p>17 ADAM RENFANDT: If it's overloaded, so if it's</p> <p>18 overloaded, it could be overloaded for a number of</p> <p>19 reasons. You know, an outage definitely is it. I mean,</p> <p>20 that creates congestion such that, if you can't -- if</p> <p>21 you can't have -- if you can't fire up or move electrons</p> <p>22 from point A to point B and then you might have to go</p> <p>23 and fire up a more expensive peaker, for instance, if</p> <p>24 you've got a line outage, for instance.</p> <p>25 VICTOR SCHOCK: Right.</p> <p>PAGE 27</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- on this? That's how</p> <p>2 we --</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Was that presented</p> <p>4 then or was that in the case earlier?</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Well, it's --</p> <p>6 both.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Both.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: It's in their</p> <p>9 application and the --</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What you're looking</p> <p>11 at, though --</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: This is their</p> <p>13 application.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- this.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Right.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: This is the</p> <p>18 application.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What page?</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: 11. And to some extent</p> <p>21 page 9 is the project need.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I just don't know when</p> <p>24 they -- when all these problems, these reliability</p> <p>25 problems, like at 40 transmission elements with</p> <p>PAGE 26</p>	<p>1 ADAM RENFANDT: Or something like that, yeah.</p> <p>2 VICTOR SCHOCK: But congestion pricing -- and</p> <p>3 this is, I think, the case in both RTOs. It isn't</p> <p>4 because the lines that are in operation at that moment</p> <p>5 can't handle the load that's going across them. It's in</p> <p>6 the event of a loss of your biggest element --</p> <p>7 ADAM RENFANDT: Uh-huh.</p> <p>8 VICTOR SCHOCK: -- the remaining system isn't</p> <p>9 able to pick that load up without tripping.</p> <p>10 ADAM RENFANDT: It doesn't have to be -- like</p> <p>11 you can get congestion if it just -- if it -- in the</p> <p>12 event that it would -- if in the event that you had an</p> <p>13 outage.</p> <p>14 VICTOR SCHOCK: Right.</p> <p>15 ADAM RENFANDT: In that case, yeah, then --</p> <p>16 yeah, then you -- but you're not actually in an outage.</p> <p>17 VICTOR SCHOCK: Right. No, I absolutely agree</p> <p>18 that you're not in an outage, but the pricing for</p> <p>19 congestion, I think, is based on that N-1 scenario.</p> <p>20 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, that's how the grid</p> <p>21 operates. Yeah. Yep.</p> <p>22 VICTOR SCHOCK: So all that is to say I think</p> <p>23 that's a good portion of what they're speaking to in the</p> <p>24 40 elements with excessive loading for the first</p> <p>25 transmission element loss.</p> <p>PAGE 28</p>

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<p>1 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah, yeah, that's --</p> <p>2 VICTOR SCHOCK: I think that's largely</p> <p>3 congestion.</p> <p>4 I don't know if that -- does that make some</p> <p>5 sense?</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And so?</p> <p>7 VICTOR SCHOCK: I'm not drawing any conclusions</p> <p>8 from that. It was just that you started to kind of talk</p> <p>9 about it a little bit and I -- I don't know that that's</p> <p>10 the entire answer --</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So the benefits of</p> <p>12 relieving that are -- it's not a reliability concern.</p> <p>13 VICTOR SCHOCK: Not -- I'm not even saying that</p> <p>14 definitively. I think your question was what those 40</p> <p>15 elements are. And I think probably a good chunk of them</p> <p>16 are probably that N-1 scenario where overloading --</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, no. I'll put it</p> <p>18 a lot more simply.</p> <p>19 VICTOR SCHOCK: Okay.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: That's a lot of</p> <p>21 technical mumbo jumbo. What I want to know is how does</p> <p>22 this matter to North Dakota customers?</p> <p>23 VICTOR SCHOCK: Sure.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Does it? Or is it just</p> <p>25 a bunch of sentences to make it seem like, "Jeez, that</p> <p>PAGE 29</p>	<p>1 applied to all of Zone 1, but of that -- of these</p> <p>2 issues, how many -- how much of the issue applied to</p> <p>3 North Dakota specifically?" So we're kind of getting</p> <p>4 lumped in with the whole zone.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Right.</p> <p>6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And this is the issue to</p> <p>7 the whole zone, but how much of it applies specifically</p> <p>8 to us?</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. And what is the</p> <p>10 impact of this? Is it a price issue? Is it -- is it a</p> <p>11 lot -- you know, we can't get power at certain times?</p> <p>12 It's hurting the lines? Like what is the actual -- what</p> <p>13 are the issues that it's causing?</p> <p>14 Yeah, and same -- I mean, the company might have</p> <p>15 a -- probably MISO needs to get us more specifics of the</p> <p>16 impacts of this project on the benefit metrics that</p> <p>17 they've used here. And if they can get those for North</p> <p>18 Dakota versus all of Zone 1, that would be helpful too.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: You know, when -- when</p> <p>20 it's simplified down, when -- and I don't know who was</p> <p>21 speaking at the time, I presume Otter Tail because it</p> <p>22 was about Jamestown, but between the two when we had the</p> <p>23 informal, when they talked about that situation in</p> <p>24 Jamestown that I referenced earlier, okay, yeah, that is</p> <p>25 something that happened, aware of it, it made a good</p> <p>PAGE 31</p>
<p>1 sounds bad, we better approve this"? Right?</p> <p>2 VICTOR SCHOCK: Yeah.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So I don't know.</p> <p>4 Maybe --</p> <p>5 VICTOR SCHOCK: Sure.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- it is a bunch --</p> <p>7 maybe it is a big problem for North Dakota customers,</p> <p>8 maybe it isn't. I don't -- I can't tell by this, and I</p> <p>9 don't recall exploring that deeply in our informal with</p> <p>10 them. So I would want to know that so we don't -- you</p> <p>11 know, so I can have that information --</p> <p>12 VICTOR SCHOCK: Yep.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- in making my</p> <p>14 decision anyway.</p> <p>15 VICTOR SCHOCK: Do you want to know that from</p> <p>16 the company or from MISO?</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: The company.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The company.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: It's in their</p> <p>20 application.</p> <p>21 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: So just for clarification</p> <p>22 on that, they're basically saying when they analyze this</p> <p>23 solution, they're kind of looking at it in conjunction</p> <p>24 with the Big Stone, Alexandria, the other projects on</p> <p>25 Zone 1. So you're saying, "Okay, well, I get that this</p> <p>PAGE 30</p>	<p>1 case in point to me, I was thinking, okay, now I'm</p> <p>2 seeing some benefit here until, like I say, then I</p> <p>3 thought more about it, except for, supposedly, within a</p> <p>4 little over a year or -- things usually run late, but in</p> <p>5 the relatively near term we had a new gas plant go in</p> <p>6 Fargo. That should be able to do it. I guess when they</p> <p>7 just say, "Oh, well, there's all these benefits," it's</p> <p>8 not very persuasive to me.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Uh-huh.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Tell me what they are,</p> <p>11 where the shortages are, what can't we do. And we'll</p> <p>12 see once -- whether it seems it to me that -- or it</p> <p>13 seems to us as a group, as a body, whether those</p> <p>14 benefits then are primarily going to the ratepayers that</p> <p>15 are being asked to pay for this or to somebody else.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yep. Good questions.</p> <p>17 As you said, like, we tried in the cost allocation</p> <p>18 discussion to make these points. They weren't -- they</p> <p>19 didn't win the day. This is our next -- this is our</p> <p>20 next tool to try to address them.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And while we're on</p> <p>22 this, I -- a legal question -- oh, did you have</p> <p>23 something else?</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, I just -- but I'm</p> <p>25 not -- I'm also -- you know, I definitely -- I'm not</p> <p>PAGE 32</p>

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<p>1 sure that this doesn't have just merits for North Dakota</p> <p>2 on -- on a technical side so I'm not, like -- I'm very</p> <p>3 open to hearing what the benefits are to our customers</p> <p>4 because I -- I think that there are -- and to our</p> <p>5 generators, I guess. I'd like to evaluate -- be</p> <p>6 evaluating that along with it. So...</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I think you got it</p> <p>8 covered.</p> <p>9 VICTOR SCHOCK: So to clarify -- clarify what I</p> <p>10 think I heard, so we're going to get a response from</p> <p>11 MISO on the benefit metrics for Zone 1 on this line</p> <p>12 specifically. So I think if Adam can reach out, that's</p> <p>13 probably the most efficient.</p> <p>14 And then whatever response you get, if you want</p> <p>15 to pass that through Chris.</p> <p>16 And then, Chris, if you can work with Otter Tail</p> <p>17 and MDU on a response for what these elements savings</p> <p>18 and benefits are. And then, you know, if it's</p> <p>19 reliability benefit, how and what circumstance?</p> <p>20 And we'll get all of that submitted into a</p> <p>21 couple of docket entries, hopefully, rather than just</p> <p>22 some emails flying around. And --</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And, you know, yes, I</p> <p>24 know these things take time, but there's a reason why</p> <p>25 they take time, so people don't make bad decisions. But</p> <p>PAGE 33</p>	<p>1 there. There's a bunch more -- how many more wind farms</p> <p>2 did they model being developed in the eastern part of</p> <p>3 North Dakota that will drive congestion up again? And</p> <p>4 those were driven by -- probably by Minnesota</p> <p>5 environmental goals and others but -- yeah.</p> <p>6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: That would be helpful</p> <p>8 to know, what kind of generation they modeled in that</p> <p>9 area --</p> <p>10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And where.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- for this.</p> <p>12 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, we can -- we can</p> <p>13 get that.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And I think</p> <p>15 separately, I mean we're going to work with Jack as far</p> <p>16 as maybe some next steps --</p> <p>17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sure.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: -- if denied just</p> <p>19 for an understanding as far as litigation.</p> <p>20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Be happy to have that</p> <p>21 discussion. I would note as well, though, after we</p> <p>22 receive all the documents, all the information that's</p> <p>23 necessary, it may be worth considering appointing</p> <p>24 advocacy staff if we need to flush out certain issues a</p> <p>25 little better and maybe have a formal hearing on it as</p> <p>PAGE 35</p>
<p>1 it seems like as far as the -- anything having to do</p> <p>2 with congestion in that area of the state, this should</p> <p>3 be recalculated based on Applied Digital's second phase</p> <p>4 being in effect. Because I understand they're pretty</p> <p>5 far along with it already and the first phase is already</p> <p>6 going. And, like I say, from my just viewing of heat</p> <p>7 maps, it's having quite an impact. So maybe I'm wrong</p> <p>8 about that, but it doesn't appear that way to me.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: But it's a good</p> <p>10 point to evaluate.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. And then maybe</p> <p>12 they can provide information about what other additional</p> <p>13 generation they've cited there in their long-range</p> <p>14 transmission planning that drove the need for these</p> <p>15 lines. Because it isn't just what exists today. It's</p> <p>16 much more what they modeled to becoming. So, you know,</p> <p>17 that -- that is part of this equation so they should</p> <p>18 explain that.</p> <p>19 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The generation that --</p> <p>20 that showed up?</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Where they -- yeah.</p> <p>22 That's going to -- you know, it isn't just --</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Planning.</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- well, we took care</p> <p>25 of the congestion now because we've got Applied Digital</p> <p>PAGE 34</p>	<p>1 well.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. That's a good</p> <p>3 point. I'd be open to that, because I really do want to</p> <p>4 understand the companies' side of it and the benefits</p> <p>5 that they are seeing.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Anything else?</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: No. I think this</p> <p>8 was -- first of all, I want to say thanks to everyone</p> <p>9 for getting this lined up so quickly on the work</p> <p>10 session. And, no, I have nothing further. I look</p> <p>11 forward to the additional information to receive to</p> <p>12 evaluate.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. With that,</p> <p>14 thanks, everybody, and this work session is concluded.</p> <p>15 -----</p> <p>16</p> <p>17</p> <p>18</p> <p>19</p> <p>20</p> <p>21</p> <p>22</p> <p>23</p> <p>24</p> <p>25</p> <p>PAGE 36</p>

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