

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

October 17, 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 &amp; Necessity</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Case No. PU-24-91</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>TRANSCRIPT OF WORK SESSION</b> <b>October 17, 2024</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPEARANCES</p> <p>Commissioners Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Randy Christmann, and Julie Fedorchak</p> <p>PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: Christopher Hanson, Adam Renfandt</p>	<p>1 last work session, there were inquiries that we as 2 commissioners had, information that we requested, both 3 from MDU and Otter Tail but then also MISO. So I 4 thought it would be best, and I talked to staff, that 5 Chris is going to summarize some of his communication 6 that he's had with the two utilities.</p> <p>7 And then, Adam, I believe I've asked you to go 8 through some of the MISO information that we inquired so 9 we have the foundation of what the inquiries were. And 10 then at any time Randy and I or when Commissioner 11 Fedorchak comes, we might ask for further information. 12 So just to let everybody know how this work session is 13 going to go.</p> <p>14 So, Chris, I'll turn it over to you as far as 15 the communication between MDU, Otter Tail, and yourself 16 and the information that we requested.</p> <p>17 CHRIS HANSON: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. 18 I'm Chris Hanson. I'm Public Utilities Department staff 19 here with the North Dakota Public Service Commission.</p> <p>20 As part of the follow-up, we had some inquiries 21 of Otter Tail and MDU, and Jason Weiers, who's here, was 22 the one that responded on a lot of these. And I have a 23 little bit of follow-up that wasn't in the data request 24 that he followed up with recently that I'll add in here. 25 So there were basically three questions that we</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 3</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Good morning, 2 everyone. This is a Public Service Commission work 3 session so we don't take testimony or anything. We just 4 discuss information that we've received. I'm Randy 5 Christmann, joined by Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart. 6 Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart, this is, of course, 7 your portfolio. 8 Commissioner Fedorchak is tied up on another 9 project, but I believe will be here just very 10 momentarily. 11 I know some -- while this is certainly your 12 portfolio, the OMS portfolio has a big impact on this 13 and I know some of my comments have to do with some OMS 14 things. 15 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Uh-huh. 16 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So I guess I know I 17 would rather maybe get into my thoughts and comments 18 once she is here, but I think it would be fine if you 19 want to -- if you want to kick it off, kind of a roundup 20 of the case that you might have, either you or staff, 21 however you want to proceed, Commissioner. 22 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Thank you, 23 Chair Christmann. 24 Yeah, with this work session, I'm going to frame 25 it up this way as the portfolio holder. Based on the</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 2</p>	<p>1 were asking them specifically coming out of the last 2 work session. The first question was: 3 "What N-1 events were identified as 4 justification for the line and which of 5 these were in North Dakota?" Do you know? 6 So we were -- so I talked about -- I mentioned 7 events versus elements. You know, he's talking about, 8 in the write-up, that there were 40 transmission 9 elements and 97 transmission elements -- or 40 10 transmission elements or relieve -- there were thermal 11 issues and 97 elements during N-1 events. It got a 12 little conflated between elements and events and stuff 13 like that. 14 So Jason did some follow-up on the -- on the 15 question. And I'm going to work off of his follow-up as 16 opposed to the actual response to the question because 17 it's actually more clarifying. 18 He said: Upon our review of the MISO study 19 results from the Tranche 1 studies, we've identified 20 that the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV project in 21 combination with the Big Stone, Alexandria, Cassie's 22 Crossing where Big Oaks 435 kV project relieves thermal 23 loading issues on 56 elements during N-1 events instead 24 of the 40 that was noted in their initial response. Of 25 the 56 events -- or 56 elements that had their thermal</p> <p style="text-align: right;">PAGE 4</p>

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<p>1 issues relieved with these two projects, eight of those</p> <p>2 elements were in North Dakota. So like 14 out of the 56</p> <p>3 were in North Dakota. Based upon the evaluation of the</p> <p>4 thermal issues, we've used engineering judgment to</p> <p>5 conclude that all eight of these transmission elements</p> <p>6 in North Dakota are likely a direct result of adding the</p> <p>7 JETx project to the system.</p> <p>8 Likewise, a review of the MISO study results</p> <p>9 from the Tranche 2 studies have identified that the</p> <p>10 Jamestown to Ellendale and the Big Oaks project -- you</p> <p>11 know, the Big Stone to Big Oaks project -- relieves</p> <p>12 voltage issues on 70 transmission elements during N-1</p> <p>13 events instead of 97. And of the 70 transmission</p> <p>14 elements --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Excuse me, Chris.</p> <p>16 CHRIS HANSON: Sorry?</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Just one quick second.</p> <p>18 Just to bring me up to speed, what are you reading from?</p> <p>19 CHRIS HANSON: Well, so Commissioner</p> <p>20 Haugen-Hoffart asked that I follow up on some of the</p> <p>21 responses to the questions that we had for MDU and Otter</p> <p>22 Tail. And Jason Weiers responded to this about -- and</p> <p>23 the question was what N-1 events were identified as</p> <p>24 justification for the line and which of those were in</p> <p>25 North Dakota.</p> <p>PAGE 5</p>	<p>1 that MISO stuff since --</p> <p>2 CHRIS HANSON: You go over the MISO stuff.</p> <p>3 You're the MISO guy. Sorry.</p> <p>4 (Laughter)</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I will say this,</p> <p>6 though. The previous work session was two months ago.</p> <p>7 CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, right.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So now we're getting</p> <p>9 answers this morning.</p> <p>10 CHRIS HANSON: Yep. So while Victor's making a</p> <p>11 copy of that, just to note too that -- to clarify that</p> <p>12 when they were looking at the N-1 and N-1-1 events, two</p> <p>13 points to clarify, and that is that that's based upon,</p> <p>14 like, 10 and 20-year projections. So they're looking at</p> <p>15 the projected load and they're looking at projected</p> <p>16 generation growth. And then they're looking at</p> <p>17 basically these constraints that will cause congestion.</p> <p>18 So it's a projection of where they think the system will</p> <p>19 be and where transmission needs to be built out going</p> <p>20 forward.</p> <p>21 And so the second point to make is when -- on</p> <p>22 the Ellendale to Jamestown line is that when they're</p> <p>23 looking at these -- at these issues, these N-1s and</p> <p>24 these N-1-1s, that's a combination of both the Jamestown</p> <p>25 to Ellendale line and the Big Stone to Big Oaks line.</p> <p>PAGE 7</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.</p> <p>2 CHRIS HANSON: So we were wondering about how</p> <p>3 much of the N-1 and the N-1-1s were related to North</p> <p>4 Dakota. Because the project was noting -- the project</p> <p>5 was noting the total amount, but it was a combination of</p> <p>6 North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. Is that</p> <p>8 something we can all get a copy of or do we have that?</p> <p>9 CHRIS HANSON: This is docketed.</p> <p>10 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The memo that you're</p> <p>11 reading from?</p> <p>12 CHRIS HANSON: Oh, this one I just got this</p> <p>13 morning.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.</p> <p>15 CHRIS HANSON: So I literally was reading it</p> <p>16 before the meeting so Jason --</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. I think it</p> <p>18 sounds like there's a lot of great information, but it</p> <p>19 might be easier for us to follow if we had copies of it</p> <p>20 while you go through it.</p> <p>21 CHRIS HANSON: Can I take a second to do it?</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah, I think -- I</p> <p>23 mean, is that all right, Randy?</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Sure.</p> <p>25 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Do you want to go over</p> <p>PAGE 6</p>	<p>1 So it's not just the Jamestown to Ellendale --</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Sure.</p> <p>3 CHRIS HANSON: -- in isolation. So it's looking</p> <p>4 at the -- at the complete thing.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which are both part of</p> <p>6 Tranche 1.</p> <p>7 CHRIS HANSON: Right, right. So -- and I guess</p> <p>8 there's a third thing too that is pointed out, that</p> <p>9 there's currently a 345 line that runs from Coyote to, I</p> <p>10 think, Maple -- Maple River that runs through Jamestown.</p> <p>11 If you think of that as leg one, and if you think -- and</p> <p>12 then there's currently a line that was built, like,</p> <p>13 starting, like, in -- or in 2018 that goes from</p> <p>14 Ellendale to Big Stone and you think of that as leg</p> <p>15 three, the Jamestown to Ellendale is leg two, the 345 kV</p> <p>16 circuit, if you want to call it that, and then they're</p> <p>17 extending Big Stone through Alexandria to -- to Big</p> <p>18 Oaks, which is approximately in the St. Cloud area of</p> <p>19 Minnesota. So that -- that's kind of like leg four of</p> <p>20 this whole thing.</p> <p>21 So we have currently leg one and three, and</p> <p>22 they're basically adding legs two and four to this 345</p> <p>23 kV line to get power out of North Dakota and move it</p> <p>24 into the east. Or I guess power can move both</p> <p>25 directions but -- so just a little clarification that</p> <p>PAGE 8</p>

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<p>1 the N-1s and N-1-1s are forward-looking. The congestion</p> <p>2 issues, the N-1s and the N-1-1s are -- those are a</p> <p>3 combination of both the Big Stone to Big Oaks line and</p> <p>4 the Ellendale to Jamestown.</p> <p>5 And the third thing is that part of the -- when</p> <p>6 they looked at this project, it was completing this</p> <p>7 whole, like, loop of lines basically going from -- all</p> <p>8 the way from the, you know, Coyote up in the coal</p> <p>9 country into -- well into Minnesota.</p> <p>10 So getting back to the N-1s and the N-1-1s, they</p> <p>11 updated their numbers, like I stated. So to reiterate</p> <p>12 for Commissioner Fedorchak, you know, instead of -- I</p> <p>13 lost my place here a little bit.</p> <p>14 Instead of 40 transmission elements that were</p> <p>15 related to thermal, there were actually 56, and they</p> <p>16 identified eight of those were specifically in North</p> <p>17 Dakota. So that's 14 percent. So one-seventh. And</p> <p>18 that would be likely relieved by this line.</p> <p>19 And then instead of the 97 that they previously</p> <p>20 identified, there were 70 transmission elements instead</p> <p>21 of the 97 that were previously noted. And of the 70, 21</p> <p>22 of those were in North Dakota, or about 30 percent of</p> <p>23 those. And those were the ones related to the voltage.</p> <p>24 So, anyways, there's 14 percent of one and</p> <p>25 30 percent of the other so there's a representative</p> <p>PAGE 9</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Would have been or --</p> <p>2 CHRIS HANSON: Well, would be.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- would eventually</p> <p>4 be?</p> <p>5 CHRIS HANSON: Okay. Will eventually be.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.</p> <p>7 CHRIS HANSON: Sorry. Yeah, I know. It gets</p> <p>8 confusing because we have current congestion, but there</p> <p>9 is a forward-looking -- the N-1s and N-1-1s are</p> <p>10 forward-looking. So I will try to state that correctly.</p> <p>11 They're projecting that those will be in North Dakota.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So wrap it up as</p> <p>13 in a benefit to North Dakota, this line, on how it</p> <p>14 addresses this as --</p> <p>15 CHRIS HANSON: Well --</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I know it's</p> <p>17 forward-looking.</p> <p>18 CHRIS HANSON: Right.</p> <p>19 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And that's one of</p> <p>20 the things, that this is long-term transmission</p> <p>21 planning. So that will --</p> <p>22 CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, so --</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: -- eliminate the</p> <p>24 "would have beens"? Or what's the projections on the</p> <p>25 future?</p> <p>PAGE 11</p>
<p>1 portion of the total that were involved.</p> <p>2 And in the MISO -- in the MISO response, it</p> <p>3 actually points out some of the substations,</p> <p>4 transformers, and lines that would be affected by that</p> <p>5 specifically where they see the constraints without this</p> <p>6 being constructed.</p> <p>7 So that's kind of in response to the first</p> <p>8 question which came out of the last working session</p> <p>9 which was looking at this project and saying, "Well, how</p> <p>10 much of this was actually within North Dakota</p> <p>11 jurisdictionally?" That was one of the questions that</p> <p>12 we had.</p> <p>13 And the second question that we had was --</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So, Chris,</p> <p>15 summarize that for me. I mean, they talked about the</p> <p>16 project benefits and all these voltage violations and</p> <p>17 all that. So when we narrow it down to North Dakota, we</p> <p>18 had 17 occurrence -- 17 percent and about 30 percent.</p> <p>19 CHRIS HANSON: Right. Of the ones they noted.</p> <p>20 So they -- they specifically stated that just related to</p> <p>21 North Dakota there were -- there would have been eight</p> <p>22 of the thermal and there would have been 21 of the</p> <p>23 voltage N-1s and N-1 -- you know, N-1 events -- or N-1</p> <p>24 elements that would have been located in North Dakota.</p> <p>25 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Go ahead.</p> <p>PAGE 10</p>	<p>1 CHRIS HANSON: Well, I mean -- so it -- these</p> <p>2 are -- these are elements that they're projecting are</p> <p>3 going to be constrained based upon Otter Tail and MDU's</p> <p>4 load growth as well as the projected generation growth.</p> <p>5 So essentially it's saying, if we grow the generation</p> <p>6 and we grow the load, where are the constraints going to</p> <p>7 fall on the transmission side?</p> <p>8 So if you look at the 345 kV line, a couple</p> <p>9 quick items to note on that is that -- based upon how</p> <p>10 that's circuited, that can relieve about -- about</p> <p>11 2,000 megawatts of -- I don't know, capacity or -- or</p> <p>12 production. It can carry about 2,000 megawatts on the</p> <p>13 line.</p> <p>14 And as I recall, and Adam can clarify on this,</p> <p>15 but MISO also builds their system to be double</p> <p>16 circuited. So, presumably, then it could carry another</p> <p>17 set of 2,000-megawatt line. So it, presumably, has</p> <p>18 about 4,000 megawatts of capacity potential on the line,</p> <p>19 2,000 initially and four -- I mean, if they decided down</p> <p>20 the road to double circuit it, they have that option to</p> <p>21 do that.</p> <p>22 So we create a significant amount of capacity.</p> <p>23 I mean, I think the analogy we always use is the</p> <p>24 interstate highway system. This would create really an</p> <p>25 enormous amount of capacity, you know, coming in and out</p> <p>PAGE 12</p>

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<p>1 of North Dakota. So then these points of the 115 and</p> <p>2 the 230 line, 230 lines where a lot of this is going</p> <p>3 over now, it would relieve a lot of those -- would</p> <p>4 relieve those lines and would avoid these constraints</p> <p>5 going forward.</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>7 CHRIS HANSON: So does that answer your</p> <p>8 question?</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Yep. It did.</p> <p>10 CHRIS HANSON: Okay. The second question was:</p> <p>11 "Exclusive of the need to get power out of</p> <p>12 North Dakota and to feed Ellendale-Big Stone</p> <p>13 and the future Big Stone-Sherburne lines,</p> <p>14 what other alternatives identified would</p> <p>15 have addressed the previously identified</p> <p>16 issues for less cost?"</p> <p>17 And when -- when they came back -- and basically</p> <p>18 the way MISO evaluated this is they had six different</p> <p>19 options, but every single one of these options included</p> <p>20 Jamestown to Ellendale. So there were six different</p> <p>21 ways that they tried to get the power from Big Stone</p> <p>22 into Minnesota and stuff. But as I pointed out, the way</p> <p>23 you can kind of look at this is Jamestown -- Jamestown</p> <p>24 to Ellendale is the -- is the missing link between the</p> <p>25 Coyote to Maple River and the Ellendale to Big Stone.</p> <p>PAGE 13</p>	<p>1 they also kind of look at the whole Tranche 1 as kind of</p> <p>2 one big project. So if -- they point out specifically</p> <p>3 that if you take one part of the project or one of the</p> <p>4 projects out, it actually affects the whole -- the whole</p> <p>5 tranche for the project. So they don't look at these</p> <p>6 things necessarily in isolation.</p> <p>7 So in this case they obviously felt that</p> <p>8 Jamestown to Ellendale was a critical piece because they</p> <p>9 didn't actually have an option where it didn't include</p> <p>10 Jamestown to Ellendale.</p> <p>11 So that was my second question.</p> <p>12 The third question was:</p> <p>13 "Did MISO include the impact of Applied</p> <p>14 Digital's operation and future plans as well</p> <p>15 as the prospect of generation west of Fargo</p> <p>16 in their calculations? If not, have either</p> <p>17 of your companies attempted to do this?"</p> <p>18 So when they did the studies for Tranche 1, they</p> <p>19 did not include Applied Digital in those because they --</p> <p>20 and the other thing is that -- so they did not</p> <p>21 include -- the Future 1 models which was used for</p> <p>22 Tranche 1 was before Applied Digital got up and running</p> <p>23 and -- but they did -- they did actually include -- they</p> <p>24 did actually include the 200 megawatts of natural gas</p> <p>25 generation west of Fargo. So we had the question</p> <p>PAGE 15</p>
<p>1 So every one of these options they looked at included</p> <p>2 building this line.</p> <p>3 So they didn't look at -- they didn't have --</p> <p>4 they obviously thought this was such a critical part of</p> <p>5 the infrastructure that -- that all of their options</p> <p>6 included this. So they didn't really -- they didn't</p> <p>7 look at other options. This -- I think this was</p> <p>8 basically something that they felt was pretty</p> <p>9 self-evident. And they did actually point out different</p> <p>10 options on, like, the Minnesota side about how to get</p> <p>11 the power into Minnesota and how to move it around</p> <p>12 Minnesota, but every one of the options included</p> <p>13 Jamestown to Ellendale. So they didn't really look at</p> <p>14 -- I guess you could say they didn't look at other</p> <p>15 options because I think they felt this was such a</p> <p>16 critical part of the infrastructure.</p> <p>17 The other thing that I would note going to the</p> <p>18 MISO report is that -- or the MISO response is that they</p> <p>19 look at these tranches as a whole. And Adam deals with</p> <p>20 MISO more than I can, but they look at these as a whole.</p> <p>21 So they don't look at necessarily one project in</p> <p>22 isolation of the other projects.</p> <p>23 As I noted, when they evaluated this project,</p> <p>24 they evaluated it with the Big Stone to Big Oaks, both</p> <p>25 of those together, and looked at the constraints, but</p> <p>PAGE 14</p>	<p>1 specifically about whether it included that in the</p> <p>2 model. It does.</p> <p>3 They also pointed it out that it includes</p> <p>4 800 megawatts of solar generation in the mix as well.</p> <p>5 So they do actually take future generation plans into</p> <p>6 account on this, but Applied Digital was not included in</p> <p>7 the initial Tranche 1 analysis.</p> <p>8 They did point out, however, that -- that when</p> <p>9 they did the LRTP Tranche 2 portfolio, which I think</p> <p>10 we've been having some conversations on lately, that</p> <p>11 does actually include the impacts of Applied Digital's</p> <p>12 load and -- and then doesn't say specifically if it's</p> <p>13 including their -- let's see here. That includes</p> <p>14 Applied Digital's operation and future plans in those</p> <p>15 subsequent models in the 2.1.</p> <p>16 So they're playing catch-up. You know, they</p> <p>17 didn't include it in the -- in the study -- in the</p> <p>18 Future 1 Model which was used for Tranche 1, but it is</p> <p>19 -- as they go along, it's being included in the future</p> <p>20 tranches. So the -- I guess the answer to that is that</p> <p>21 Applied Digital wasn't included, future generation was</p> <p>22 included.</p> <p>23 I would note that, in my memo, that one of --</p> <p>24 Leif Clark, the engineer on our staff, actually did an</p> <p>25 analysis of the 12 months prior to ramp-up of the first</p> <p>PAGE 16</p>

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<p>1 phase of Applied Digital and then looked at the 12</p> <p>2 months after it was ramped-up, and he did actually see</p> <p>3 that it did -- did relieve a significant amount of the</p> <p>4 congestion on the system as it occurred at that time.</p> <p>5 So what that did is it reduced the congestion and raised</p> <p>6 the LMP prices.</p> <p>7 And we have the numbers right here. So he found</p> <p>8 that it reduced the Ellendale 1 and 2, it reduced the</p> <p>9 MCC, which is the marginal congestion, by 69 percent and</p> <p>10 56 percent from before to after. And then he showed</p> <p>11 that the LMP prices actually increased by 12 percent and</p> <p>12 46 percent. So as you relieve congestion, it allows the</p> <p>13 power to flow more freely over the -- over and it -- and</p> <p>14 it levelizes the LMP prices.</p> <p>15 So if you look at a map -- like Victor was</p> <p>16 showing me yesterday, if you look at a map of North</p> <p>17 Dakota, when it's constrained we have excess production</p> <p>18 on windy days so the prices are sometimes zero or even</p> <p>19 -- maybe even negative and -- but that gets constrained</p> <p>20 so that it can't -- and then you look east of that</p> <p>21 constraint into Minnesota and the prices are higher. So</p> <p>22 as you remove the constraint, it levelizes the prices.</p> <p>23 So the -- so as you remove the congestion, the LMP</p> <p>24 prices should -- will probably, on average, come up.</p> <p>25 That's the expectation.</p> <p>PAGE 17</p>	<p>1 would mean that it should provide a more incentive for</p> <p>2 our thermal to produce as well. You know, when the</p> <p>3 prices get depressed to the point where the coal gets</p> <p>4 interrupted or the gas gets interrupted, if those prices</p> <p>5 levelize more, it should provide a better environment</p> <p>6 for them to operate on a more consistent basis as well</p> <p>7 too. So it's a trade-off on things so...</p> <p>8 So that's -- those are the basic questions that</p> <p>9 we had.</p> <p>10 We also had the MISO response. I think I'd read</p> <p>11 my summary of that so then I don't have to go through</p> <p>12 the --</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Are you going to</p> <p>14 go through that or is Adam?</p> <p>15 CHRIS HANSON: Adam --</p> <p>16 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).</p> <p>17 CHRIS HANSON: Adam would prefer I did that.</p> <p>18 So the MISO response, I'll just kind of read</p> <p>19 from the memo. And I apologize, we just got this the</p> <p>20 day before yesterday, and late in the day or something</p> <p>21 like that. So this is a pretty quick turnaround on</p> <p>22 things.</p> <p>23 So I said, as a result of this session, we sent</p> <p>24 a request to MISO to explain the benefits to address the</p> <p>25 key reliability and economic benefits of the project.</p> <p>PAGE 19</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: For North Dakotans.</p> <p>2 CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So --</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Another great benefit</p> <p>4 of transmission for us.</p> <p>5 CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, for customers. But then --</p> <p>6 yeah. So that was the three responses that we had from</p> <p>7 them.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: On that, though, when</p> <p>9 those LMP prices go so low, negative, or even if it's 5</p> <p>10 or \$10, when those come up, it's because energy is</p> <p>11 flowing, meaning it's getting somewhere else and lower</p> <p>12 there and so --</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yes.</p> <p>14 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- it somewhat</p> <p>15 balances out.</p> <p>16 CHRIS HANSON: Correct.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So that's the goal.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Yeah.</p> <p>19 CHRIS HANSON: Well, and it's pointed out too</p> <p>20 that, yeah, for a consumer, then it means they're not</p> <p>21 getting super-uber low prices, which is like what</p> <p>22 Applied Digital is saying why they located where they're</p> <p>23 at, is because they're getting this super low energy</p> <p>24 price, but the other thing it does as it levelizes</p> <p>25 prices is that it, theoretically, but I think logically,</p> <p>PAGE 18</p>	<p>1 In response, we received a letter from Jeremiah</p> <p>2 Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on</p> <p>3 October 14 addressing the justification and benefits of</p> <p>4 the project. He states that this project will remedy</p> <p>5 the N-1 and N-1-1 issues noted in the previous memo and</p> <p>6 he identifies the elements that are projected to be</p> <p>7 affected by thermal overload and voltage issues. As I</p> <p>8 noted, these N-1 and N-1-1 events and elements are</p> <p>9 projected -- oh, the MISO report? Sorry -- are</p> <p>10 projected based on each company's long-term forecasts of</p> <p>11 load and generation growth. Essentially, they're</p> <p>12 projected overloading the lines, transformers, and</p> <p>13 substations that could result in customer outages. So</p> <p>14 they're reliability issues.</p> <p>15 Mr. Doner further notes that in not constructing</p> <p>16 that -- this -- or, sorry, I did not write this right --</p> <p>17 that not constructing this project -- I got a double</p> <p>18 negative here, but essentially he noted that -- that --</p> <p>19 sorry, I apologize for that -- that not constructing</p> <p>20 this project would affect the entire Tranche 1 because</p> <p>21 it's a critical element of it.</p> <p>22 Obviously, we're moving power out of North</p> <p>23 Dakota. So, you know, you could probably argue that</p> <p>24 this was one of the more critical elements of the whole</p> <p>25 Tranche 1, is the ability to move -- to not have this</p> <p>PAGE 20</p>

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<p>1 power get constrained into North Dakota. I also point 2 out that he was the one that pointed out about how this 3 is kind of basically a leg in the line of the Coyote to 4 Maple River and the Ellendale to Big Stone lines. So 5 this connects up those lines. 6 I pointed out how they looked at five 7 alternatives to this but all six -- all proposals 8 included the Jamestown to Ellendale line. So he does 9 say too -- Mr. Doner identifies that these projects will 10 provide more reliable and efficient delivery of energy 11 from low-cost, regionally sited generators. He further 12 notes that this build-out will, quote, "allow for the 13 continued interconnection of new generation resources in 14 areas that offer higher capacity factors for 15 intermittent resources, such as wind generation." 16 So he basically called out that -- that they see 17 that this is an opportunity to connect up more wind 18 generation. In other words, it creates additional 19 capacity for the wind to be transmitted from North 20 Dakota eastward. 21 I said additionally -- oh, no. Then I got into 22 basically the response I just talked about. So, you 23 know, essentially he's saying it's critical, it -- it's 24 critical to the Tranche 1. They see it as an 25 opportunity to get more generation resources out of</p> <p>PAGE 21</p>	<p>1 influence what type of resource is preferred. 2 So the question is then "What kind of resources 3 hook up into this line" is somewhat dependent on 4 Commission preference as well. And I would say that 5 will become even more important for Tranche 2.1 and 2.2. 6 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Whose IRP has that 7 800 megawatts of solar in North Dakota that this was 8 based on? 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'd have to take a 10 look -- 11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It wouldn't just be one 12 IRP. 13 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. 14 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's collective. They 15 look at all the company plans. So some of it might have 16 been specific but -- and they try to argue that there 17 are sort of specific locations, but I think it's -- I 18 don't know. In our analysis, we think MISO's 19 overstating that, how much specificity they're seeing in 20 the IRPs and using some judgment as to what resources 21 are going to end up where in their modeling. 22 CHRIS HANSON: So these are placeholders. And a 23 lot of times these placeholders are a generic technology 24 or technology that doesn't even exist so there's room to 25 pivot.</p> <p>PAGE 23</p>
<p>1 North Dakota, but they specifically did call out more 2 wind -- intermittent wind resources as part of that. 3 And that was basically his response. 4 And then also in there, in the MISO letter, he 5 talks about the specific elements that are being 6 affected and lines. Like I said, the transformers, 7 substations, and lines that are being affected by the 8 forecasted N-1 and N-1-1s. So that's -- that's kind of 9 the MISO letter in a nutshell. 10 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Adam, do you have 11 anything else to add? 12 ADAM RENFANDT: Just to say that I think we have 13 to realize that this is -- we're dealing with generation 14 futures that are projected in what, 2042? So this was 15 based on Future 1. Each year we up -- or each tranche 16 prior to the LRTP process, MISO updates that generation 17 profile based on member plans and IRPs and such. So now 18 we have Future 1-A in which MISO then reassesses what 19 benefits come out of connecting both Tranche 1 as well 20 as, in this case, Tranche 2.1. 21 So I would say that an advantage of what we have 22 in terms of how the Commission can influence that 23 decision, when we look at the type of resources that are 24 assumed in North Dakota, because it's in 2042, this 25 Commission now has the tool, which is an IRP, to</p> <p>PAGE 22</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so how effective 2 is our IRP process if they don't really go by them, they 3 go by whatever placeholders they make up? 4 CHRIS HANSON: Well, the placeholder, let's say, 5 for a CT would be -- it would be dispatchable. So they 6 might consider that in one IRP, based on their carbon 7 preference, they might consider it powered by hydrogen. 8 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I think what Randy's 9 getting at is a little broader. They look at the IRPs. 10 And to the extent that IRPs say where stuff is going to 11 be and when, they use that. 12 The problem is a lot of the IRPs aren't that 13 specific. It might be a more general goal. And so they 14 then have to use judgment as to where they think those 15 are going to end up. And so that's step number one. 16 And step number two, we don't have them yet so 17 they haven't been able to use any direction from what 18 we've said because we don't have it. 19 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But the companies have 20 them. 21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The companies -- they 22 use the company plans, yep. 23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so that's what I 24 was wondering -- 25 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And anything that</p> <p>PAGE 24</p>

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<p>1 they've announced from the company.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- whose companies'</p> <p>3 IRP would have contained that.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, Otter Tail has</p> <p>5 solar. So does Xcel has quite a lot of solar so...</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: In North Dakota.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, wherever. It may</p> <p>8 or may not be in North Dakota.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So just for</p> <p>10 clarification, everyone that's in the MISO, all the</p> <p>11 companies have submitted an IRP to MISO?</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: No.</p> <p>13 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So then how do</p> <p>14 they base it on -- is it load growth?</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: They base it on</p> <p>16 whatever IRPs are available.</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Because not every state</p> <p>19 does them.</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: There's a broad</p> <p>22 difference between states. Some states have them, some</p> <p>23 states don't have them. Some companies use them,</p> <p>24 provide them to us like they have over years and they've</p> <p>25 just kind of received them. So whatever IRPs they have,</p> <p>PAGE 25</p>	<p>1 aren't specific locations identified yet, the models</p> <p>2 pick where they think those are going to be.</p> <p>3 And so there's a ton of judgment going into</p> <p>4 these futures. But at the same time transmission</p> <p>5 planning takes a long time and you can't -- you --</p> <p>6 there's no planning for it if you don't do that because</p> <p>7 it takes so long to develop it and site it and build it</p> <p>8 that you're always going to be making it based on what</p> <p>9 you think the future is going to be. So this is the</p> <p>10 models that they've used for their futures.</p> <p>11 And then they have -- you hear them talk about</p> <p>12 low and -- like the Future 1, Future 2, Future 3.</p> <p>13 Future 1 is the most conservative. So that looks at,</p> <p>14 like, as closely to the state laws, the existing plans</p> <p>15 of the companies and their IRPs as much as, like, they</p> <p>16 know to be happening, as close to that as they can</p> <p>17 predict. So it's the most conservative, the least</p> <p>18 amount of judgment.</p> <p>19 Future 3 is the most amount of judgment. It</p> <p>20 looks at trends. It looks at, like, okay, the maximum</p> <p>21 amount of decarbonization, the maximum amount or, you</p> <p>22 know, a -- not maximum but a larger amount of</p> <p>23 decarbonization, of EV adaption, higher-demand growth,</p> <p>24 all of those sorts of things. That's Future 3.</p> <p>25 And then Future 2 is kind of right in the</p> <p>PAGE 27</p>
<p>1 they use.</p> <p>2 And then they look at -- it's a -- it's not like</p> <p>3 a one-set plan. You have to get over this idea that</p> <p>4 there's, like, one formula for this. It's a bunch of</p> <p>5 information that they're collecting to try to build this</p> <p>6 vision of the future as close as they can imagine it to</p> <p>7 be. So they pull in the IRPs, they pull in any</p> <p>8 announcements that the companies have made.</p> <p>9 Like Xcel has said, "We're shutting down the</p> <p>10 Sherco units." That's an announcement. They consider</p> <p>11 that to be firm. They use that. They put that into</p> <p>12 their -- into their model. And any other company</p> <p>13 announcement that they have, they plug those in. And</p> <p>14 then they look at state -- state directives. Minnesota</p> <p>15 has a law so they assume that the companies in Minnesota</p> <p>16 have to meet that law and they bake that into their</p> <p>17 plans. But maybe the companies haven't said how they're</p> <p>18 going to do it yet so that's where they use some of</p> <p>19 these placement resources, to make a judgment for, well,</p> <p>20 Minnesota has to have -- you know, all the companies</p> <p>21 have to have 30 percent whatever, 30 percent --</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Sure.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- solar by whatever</p> <p>24 date. And so they plug that into their models. And</p> <p>25 then the models have to pick -- in the cases where there</p> <p>PAGE 26</p>	<p>1 middle.</p> <p>2 And so there's this -- all of this discussion on</p> <p>3 which future you're using for which tranches. And</p> <p>4 they're constantly looking at, okay --</p> <p>5 When we started Future 1, it was like how many</p> <p>6 years ago, Adam, did we start with Future 1? And --</p> <p>7 ADAM RENFANDT: Four. Three, four years.</p> <p>8 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. Now we've got</p> <p>9 actuals to plug in to see, like, how are we -- how are</p> <p>10 we trending? Are we close to Future 1? They're seeing</p> <p>11 actually that it's trending closer to some of the more</p> <p>12 aggressive futures. So that's why you see them adopting</p> <p>13 more aggressive plans for the transmission system.</p> <p>14 And that might pivot back because, you know,</p> <p>15 with demand growth and the reality of the system and the</p> <p>16 excessive retirements, you might see -- I hope we see</p> <p>17 companies pulling back and slowing down. And so you</p> <p>18 might see it going the other way in the next couple of</p> <p>19 years.</p> <p>20 So it's a very iterative approach, but also</p> <p>21 recognize that, you know, you got to pull the trigger on</p> <p>22 some things along the way. You can't just constantly</p> <p>23 plan so...</p> <p>24 When I look at this memo from MISO, the one</p> <p>25 piece that I think is worth pulling out -- well, there's</p> <p>PAGE 28</p>

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<p>1 a few -- there's a few kind of conclusions that I reach, 2 but one piece that I think is worth pointing to is on 3 the bottom of page 2 of the Jeremiah Doner letter, which 4 is the second one back. I don't know if I have the same 5 -- is this a copy that everybody got? 6 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh. 7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. So page 2, under 8 "Reliability Benefits." 9 And, Randy, I see you've highlighted it. 10 With the second to last paragraph, the last 11 sentence: "Without the JETx project, these reliability 12 issues would still be present on the local area 13 transmission systems in the future and will need to be 14 mitigated by local reliability projects with the costs 15 borne by the local transmission pricing zones." 16 That's a fancy way of saying one of the benefits 17 of this project is it takes care of these local issues, 18 that if we don't have this bigger project cost allocated 19 to the entire MISO north footprint, we'll be paying for 20 it ourselves, these fixes. Now, they might be smaller, 21 it's not going to be as big of a project, but there 22 still wouldn't be any cost share on those sorts of 23 things. 24 And I think that that's an important 25 consideration for these. That, and the fact that, you</p> <p>PAGE 29</p>	<p>1 allocation. Because there's this, over \$10 billion, and 2 then the second tranche and the third tranche and the 3 fourth tranche. This is almost -- this tranche is 4 almost \$6 a month for those Otter Tail customers. And I 5 don't know what their customer in Garrison or Fessenden 6 gets out of this. And I don't know what MDU's customer 7 in Williston or Bismarck gets out of this. Theirs is 8 less. It's a little over three, I think. But a FERC 9 case is really expensive too. 10 And I really feel like what MISO is doing here 11 -- and I kind of relate back to my old co-op board days, 12 and I know, a big difference between co-ops and IOUs, 13 but, you know, if somebody wanted to build a house 10 14 miles from any of our old facilities, it's some old 15 copper line that hadn't been used in 40 years, there 16 would have been some aid to construction. Now when our 17 -- our team came in over the winter and said, like, 18 "Okay, here's the area where we're having problems," we 19 would plan for construction for that summer and maybe 20 rebuild that area because it was having problems. 21 But when we asked for what the reliability 22 issues here are, it's not like they're saying, "Oh, 23 well, down there in Enderlin there's just these 24 frequently -- frequent voltage issues and things like 25 that" or "Over at Valley City we've had power shortages</p> <p>PAGE 31</p>
<p>1 know, as we see the shrinking capacity availability of 2 dispatchable capacity in the entire MISO footprint right 3 now and the increased demand, is our -- the capacity 4 that North Dakota has is extremely valuable. And this 5 is an outlet for that capacity to places that are going 6 to need it. So it's -- you know, it's a highway for it. 7 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so I'm so 8 frustrated I don't know what to do with this case. 9 Because it's like two things merged. And there's never 10 a right place to start to draw a line on something. 11 My frustration is with the allocation of the 12 costs. We go through these things, and whether it was 13 from way back, the Otter Tail and MDU filings that 14 talked about benefits including distribution of 15 renewable energy, reduced carbon emissions, and 16 landowner payments or what MISO just got into, which 17 benefits is basically getting more renewables on the 18 system so just not going quite as far, it's -- the 19 benefits is largely to the developers, not to North 20 Dakota ratepayers. And to challenge MISO's allocation 21 once we've already approved this CPCN seems backwards 22 and -- so I sort of feel like -- almost that in one 23 effort this should be denied and we should be initiating 24 a FERC case or something. 25 I don't know how you really fight that</p> <p>PAGE 30</p>	<p>1 time and time again." We had one in Jamestown that, the 2 way we often work through our evaluations of reliability 3 would probably just fall as major event days on some 4 lines. I don't know that this would have helped that 5 either. 6 But this isn't really solving any problems that 7 exist. It's solving problems that some developers want 8 to add to the system and that will exist once they add 9 their developments to the system. 10 And I really view this as MISO eliminating the 11 interconnection charges. We will build this way in 12 advance -- just like my example of the guy that wants to 13 build way out on the old copper line and then our 14 construction crew come in and say, "We can't afford to 15 do that. The aid to construction would be too much. 16 We'll build the fiber out there, and then when he comes, 17 it won't cost so much for him to hook up." Well, but it 18 costs everybody else. 19 And, to me, that's all we're doing here with -- 20 with these -- with this Tranche 1, is eliminating 21 interconnection charge to developers. And like I say, 22 we approve this, I don't know how we fight this 23 allocation at MISO. Because that is really the problem. 24 If the -- if the developers were paying for 25 this, I don't think I'd have any objection. But I also</p> <p>PAGE 32</p>



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<p>1 -- It's a big battle to initiate a case at FERC. And so</p> <p>2 some thoughts.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, I certainly</p> <p>4 understand your frustration and share a lot of it.</p> <p>5 Maybe I've been beat down because I've been at this</p> <p>6 longer on this particular tranche.</p> <p>7 So I have two thoughts. First of all, I think</p> <p>8 we should -- I would like to talk with our counsel about</p> <p>9 -- and get a more clear -- clear advice and just</p> <p>10 discussion of options for our legal paths kind of moving</p> <p>11 forward. Because I think you raise a good point about</p> <p>12 what we do here and how it affects future issues.</p> <p>13 My real concerns are with Tranche 2. I think</p> <p>14 that there's more legitimate benefits to -- which I just</p> <p>15 talked about, on this project and everything in Tranche</p> <p>16 1, which is much more focused on future -- on the Future</p> <p>17 1 growth scenario, change scenario, which is pretty</p> <p>18 realistic, I think. So I'm -- I'm more comfortable with</p> <p>19 Tranche 1. I'm not -- I don't love it and I still would</p> <p>20 have liked a generate pays component in the cost</p> <p>21 allocation, but that would have, again, not given them a</p> <p>22 hundred percent of the cost but a higher share going to</p> <p>23 the people who are demanding it, but that didn't happen.</p> <p>24 So that said, I think there's much more benefits</p> <p>25 on this -- on this project and these two projects -- or</p> <p>PAGE 33</p>	<p>1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, I mean, in their</p> <p>2 defense, those models -- that modeling was occurring</p> <p>3 probably three or four years before that came online.</p> <p>4 And those models are -- they are massive.</p> <p>5 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But this morning we</p> <p>6 had adjustments to the (indiscernible) --</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Well, but those were</p> <p>8 already done. Those models were -- those had already</p> <p>9 been run and they were just pulling from stuff. I'm</p> <p>10 assuming. I don't know but --</p> <p>11 CHRIS HANSON: But I think they did note that</p> <p>12 the 2.1 on the current tranche, that they had taken into</p> <p>13 account the current Ellendale and the projected plans</p> <p>14 from Ellendale into the 2.1 so --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.</p> <p>16 CHRIS HANSON: So they do -- they do update</p> <p>17 them. But as we've noted before, they don't go</p> <p>18 retroactive on these. They don't go back to Tranche</p> <p>19 1 --</p> <p>20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.</p> <p>21 CHRIS HANSON: -- and say, "Relook at it" so...</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.</p> <p>23 ADAM RENFANDT: And you also have to realize</p> <p>24 that those contracts could be renegotiated after five</p> <p>25 years.</p> <p>PAGE 35</p>
<p>1 this project and the whole Tranche 1 for North Dakota.</p> <p>2 So I separate them a little bit.</p> <p>3 But I would like to have a discussion with Jack</p> <p>4 and Brian and probably our FERC advisors on our -- what</p> <p>5 our paths forward are, because I think we're seeing more</p> <p>6 and more concerns on Tranche 2 and want to do whatever</p> <p>7 we can to preserve maximum rights for -- for fighting</p> <p>8 that one. So that's where I'm at.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And I just want to add</p> <p>10 one more thing I forgot on my tirade. It also bothers</p> <p>11 me on this planning, the modeling, now we can see way</p> <p>12 out into the future all this stuff, within two months --</p> <p>13 I'll go right to the hour, we can recalculate and come</p> <p>14 up with even more N-1 and N-1-1 benefits involved here,</p> <p>15 we can do all that, we can envision 800 megawatts of</p> <p>16 solar in North Dakota, most of which has never been</p> <p>17 applied for, we can envision 200 megawatts of natural</p> <p>18 gas, the company for which is -- has an incentive in</p> <p>19 place and they're trying to get out of it so -- and not</p> <p>20 (indiscernible) that is real, real likely at the moment,</p> <p>21 anytime soon, but it's just too much of a -- too much of</p> <p>22 a burden to calculate in what already exists. A big</p> <p>23 user down at Ellendale or -- I mean, that's only been</p> <p>24 there a year. It would be overwhelming to try to</p> <p>25 calculate that in.</p> <p>PAGE 34</p>	<p>1 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: True.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Good point.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So, Adam or Julie,</p> <p>4 have you talked within MISO that looking at Tranche 1,</p> <p>5 if one of the legs is not approved, what that means?</p> <p>6 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Unh-unh.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Can you --</p> <p>8 ADAM RENFANDT: I haven't.</p> <p>9 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's a package.</p> <p>10 ADAM RENFANDT: Yeah.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>12 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: They put it through as</p> <p>13 a package and that's the risk of all of these, you know,</p> <p>14 projects, is they go to the states then.</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.</p> <p>16 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And the states --</p> <p>17 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I was just --</p> <p>18 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- where they're --</p> <p>19 where they're being built. Now we won't have any say on</p> <p>20 any of the other --</p> <p>21 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Correct.</p> <p>22 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- ones, but this one</p> <p>23 is in our territory and with our utilities so yeah. And</p> <p>24 it's happened before. It happened. It's -- there's a</p> <p>25 line in -- what's the first? I lost the acronym for the</p> <p>PAGE 36</p>

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<p>1 first build-out. What was it?</p> <p>2 ADAM RENFANDT: The MVP.</p> <p>3 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: MVPs. MVP, the first</p> <p>4 one or -- I don't -- anyway, one of those MVP lines is</p> <p>5 still in court in Wisconsin. So it's not unprecedented</p> <p>6 that these projects get tangled up.</p> <p>7 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Did we</p> <p>8 receive the information that was requested from MDU?</p> <p>9 CHRIS HANSON: Otter Tail responded for both</p> <p>10 Otter Tail and MDU on the questions.</p> <p>11 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Thank you.</p> <p>12 Anybody have anything else? Our legal counsel</p> <p>13 has been prepped for the questions that have been asked</p> <p>14 so... I know that with certainty. So --</p> <p>15 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So in terms of next</p> <p>16 steps, maybe we can look at getting -- well, we can --</p> <p>17 I'll do what I need to do and talk to you guys about my</p> <p>18 thoughts on next steps. And then we can all do the same</p> <p>19 and you guys can decide what the next steps are, I</p> <p>20 guess. I do think we should try to get this moving,</p> <p>21 though, and not dilly-dally too much longer. So I will</p> <p>22 try to do my part to make that happen.</p> <p>23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Anything else?</p> <p>24 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: No. I think I've</p> <p>25 already directed staff.</p> <p>PAGE 37</p>	<p><u>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST</u></p> <p>STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA ) ss.</p> <p>I, Lisa A. Hulm, CET-783, a certified electronic transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, to the best of my professional skills and abilities. I further state that I was not present during these recorded proceedings, and I am only the transcriber of the recorded proceedings.</p> <p>I further certify that I am not a relative or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties hereto, nor a relative or employee of such attorney or counsel; nor do I have any interest in the outcome or events of the action.</p> <p>Dated this date of September 8, 2025.</p> <p>_____ LISA A. HULM, CET-783</p> <p>The foregoing certification of this transcript does not apply to the reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or direction of the certifying transcriber.</p> <p>PAGE 39</p>
<p>1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.</p> <p>2 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And I've talked to</p> <p>3 legal counsel. So we're moving forward.</p> <p>4 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Anything else from</p> <p>5 staff?</p> <p>6 Okay. This work session is closed. Thanks,</p> <p>7 everyone.</p> <p>8 -----</p> <p>9</p> <p>10</p> <p>11</p> <p>12</p> <p>13</p> <p>14</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 38</p>	

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

## October 17, 2024, Work session ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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