October 17, 2024, Work session ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

last work session, there were inquiries that we as 2 commissioners had, information that we requested, both 3 from MDII and Otter Tail but then also MISO. So I STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION 4 thought it would be best, and I talked to staff, that 5 Chris is going to summarize some of his communication Otter Tail Power Company/Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. 345kV Transmission Line -Jamestown to Ellendale Public Convenience & Necessity 6 that he's had with the two utilities. 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 TRANSCRIPT OF WORK SESSION 11 Fedorchak comes, we might ask for further information. October 17, 2024 12 So just to let everybody know how this work session is 13 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 17 CHRIS HANSON: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner. APPEARANCES 18 I'm Chris Hanson. I'm Public Utilities Department staff Commissioners Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Randy Christmann, and Julie Fedorchak 19 here with the North Dakota Public Service Commission. 20 As part of the follow-up, we had some inquiries PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION: Christopher Hanson, Adam Renfandt 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 PAGE 3 1 1 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Good morning. were asking them specifically coming out of the last 2 everyone. This is a Public Service Commission work 2 work session. The first question was: "What N-1 events were identified as 3 session so we don't take testimony or anything. We just 3 discuss information that we've received. I'm Randy justification for the line and which of 5 5 Christmann, joined by Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart. these were in North Dakota?" Do you know? 6 6 Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart, this is, of course, So we were -- so I talked about -- I mentioned 7 events versus elements. You know, he's talking about, 8 Commissioner Fedorchak is tied up on another 8 in the write-up, that there were 40 transmission 9 project, but I believe will be here just very 9 elements and 97 transmission elements -- or 40 10 momentarily 10 transmission elements or relieve -- there were thermal 11 I know some -- while this is certainly your 11 issues and 97 elements during N-1 events. It got a 12 12 portfolio, the OMS portfolio has a big impact on this little conflated between elements and events and stuff 13 13 and I know some of my comments have to do with some OMS like that 14 things. 14 So Jason did some follow-up on the -- on the 15 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Uh-huh. 15 question. And I'm going to work off of his follow-up as 16 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So I guess I know I 16 opposed to the actual response to the question because 17 would rather maybe get into my thoughts and comments 17 it's actually more clarifying 18 18 once she is here, but I think it would be fine if you He said: Upon our review of the MISO study 19 want to -- if you want to kick it off, kind of a roundup 19 results from the Tranche 1 studies, we've identified 20 20 of the case that you might have, either you or staff, that the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV project in 21 however you want to proceed, Commissioner. 21 combination with the Big Stone, Alexandria, Cassie's 22 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Thank you, 22 Crossing where Big Oaks 435 kV project relieves thermal 23 Chair Christmann. 23 loading issues on 56 elements during N-1 events instead 24 Yeah, with this work session, I'm going to frame 24 of the 40 that was noted in their initial response. Of 25 25 it up this way as the portfolio holder. Based on the the 56 events -- or 56 elements that had their thermal PAGE 4

1 that MSO stuff since — 2 olements were in North Dakota. Based upon the coelustion of the 3 were in North Dakota. Based upon the coelustion of the 4 thermal bases, which used organic high patients to conclude that all eight of these transmission elements 5 in North Dakota are likely a direct result of adding the 7 IETR projects to the system. 7 IETR projects to the system. 8 Illienders, and the stuff of	1			
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1	the N-1s and N-1-1s are forward-looking. The congestion	1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Would have been or
2	issues, the N-1s and the N-1-1s are those are a	2	CHRIS HANSON: Well, would be.
3	combination of both the Big Stone to Big Oaks line and	3	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: would eventually
4	the Ellendale to Jamestown.	4	be?
5	And the third thing is that part of the when	5	CHRIS HANSON: Okay. Will eventually be.
6	they looked at this project, it was completing this	6	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.
7	whole, like, loop of lines basically going from all	7	CHRIS HANSON: Sorry. Yeah, I know. It gets
8	the way from the, you know, Coyote up in the coal	8	confusing because we have current congestion, but there
9	country into well into Minnesota.	9	is a forward-looking the N-1s and N-1-1s are
10	So getting back to the N-1s and the N-1-1s, they	10	forward-looking. So I will try to state that correctly.
11	updated their numbers, like I stated. So to reiterate	11	They're projecting that those will be in North Dakota.
12	for Commissioner Fedorchak, you know, instead of I	12	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So wrap it up as
13	lost my place here a little bit.	13	in a benefit to North Dakota, this line, on how it
14	Instead of 40 transmission elements that were	14	addresses this as
15	related to thermal, there were actually 56, and they	15	CHRIS HANSON: Well
16	identified eight of those were specifically in North	16	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I know it's
17	Dakota. So that's 14 percent. So one-seventh. And	17	forward-looking.
18	that would be likely relieved by this line.	18	CHRIS HANSON: Right.
19	And then instead of the 97 that they previously	19	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And that's one of
20	identified, there were 70 transmission elements instead	20	the things, that this is long-term transmission
21	of the 97 that were previously noted. And of the 70, 21	21	planning. So that will
22	of those were in North Dakota, or about 30 percent of	22	CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, so
23	those. And those were the ones related to the voltage.	23	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: eliminate the
24	So, anyways, there's 14 percent of one and	24	"would have beens"? Or what's the projections on the
25	30 percent of the other so there's a representative	25	future?
	PAGE 9		PAGE 11
1	portion of the total that were involved.	1	CHRIS HANSON: Well, I mean so it these
2	And in the MISO in the MISO response, it	2	are these are elements that they're projecting are
3	actually points out some of the substations,	3	going to be constrained based upon Otter Tail and MDU's
4	transformers, and lines that would be affected by that	4	load growth as well as the projected generation growth.
5	specifically where they see the constraints without this	5	So essentially it's saying, if we grow the generation
6	being constructed.	6	and we grow the load, where are the constraints going to
7	So that's kind of in response to the first	7	fall on the transmission side?
8	question which came out of the last working session	8	So if you look at the 345 kV line, a couple
9	which was looking at this project and saying, "Well, how	9	quick items to note on that is that based upon how
10	much of this was actually within North Dakota	10	that's circuited, that can relieve about about
11	jurisdictionally?" That was one of the questions that	11	2,000 megawatts of I don't know, capacity or or
12	we had.	12	production. It can carry about 2,000 megawatts on the
13	And the second question that we had was	13	line.
14	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So, Chris,	14	And as I recall, and Adam can clarify on this,
15	summarize that for me. I mean, they talked about the	15	but MISO also builds their system to be double
16	project benefits and all these voltage violations and	16	circuited. So, presumably, then it could carry another
17 18	all that. So when we narrow it down to North Dakota, we	17	set of 2,000-megawatt line. So it, presumably, has
19	had 17 occurrence 17 percent and about 30 percent.	18 19	about 4,000 megawatts of capacity potential on the line,
20	CHRIS HANSON: Right. Of the ones they noted.	20	2,000 initially and four I mean, if they decided down
21	So they they specifically stated that just related to	21	the road to double circuit it, they have that option to
21	North Dakota there were there would have been eight	22	do that.
23	of the thermal and there would have been 21 of the	23	So we create a significant amount of capacity.
24	voltage N-1s and N-1 you know, N-1 events or N-1 elements that would have been located in North Dakota.	24	I mean, I think the analogy we always use is the interstate highway system. This would create really an
25	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Go ahead.	25	enormous amount of capacity, you know, coming in and out
23	PAGE 10		PAGE 12
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1	of North Dakota. So then these points of the 115 and	1	they also kind of look at the whole Tranche 1 as kind of
2	the 230 line, 230 lines where a lot of this is going	2	one big project. So if they point out specifically
3	over now, it would relieve a lot of those would	3	that if you take one part of the project or one of the
4	relieve those lines and would avoid these constraints	4	projects out, it actually affects the whole the whole
5	going forward.	5	tranche for the project. So they don't look at these
6	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.	6	things necessarily in isolation.
7	CHRIS HANSON: So does that answer your	7	So in this case they obviously felt that
8	question?	8	Jamestown to Ellendale was a critical piece because they
9	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Yep. It did.	9	didn't actually have an option where it didn't include
10	CHRIS HANSON: Okay. The second question was:	10	Jamestown to Ellendale.
11	"Exclusive of the need to get power out of	11	So that was my second question.
12	North Dakota and to feed Ellendale-Big Stone	12	The third question was:
13	and the future Big Stone-Sherburne lines,	13	"Did MISO include the impact of Applied
14	what other alternatives identified would	14	Digital's operation and future plans as well
15	have addressed the previously identified	15	as the prospect of generation west of Fargo
16	issues for less cost?"	16	in their calculations? If not, have either
17	And when when they came back and basically	17	of your companies attempted to do this?"
18	the way MISO evaluated this is they had six different	18	So when they did the studies for Tranche 1, they
19	options, but every single one of these options included	19	did not include Applied Digital in those because they
20	Jamestown to Ellendale. So there were six different	20	and the other thing is that so they did not
21	ways that they tried to get the power from Big Stone	21	include the Future 1 models which was used for
22	into Minnesota and stuff. But as I pointed out, the way	22	Tranche 1 was before Applied Digital got up and running
23	you can kind of look at this is Jamestown Jamestown	23	and but they did they did actually include they
24	to Ellendale is the is the missing link between the	24	did actually include the 200 megawatts of natural gas
25	Coyote to Maple River and the Ellendale to Big Stone.	25	generation west of Fargo. So we had the question
	PAGE 13		PAGE 15
1	So every one of these options they looked at included	1	specifically about whether it included that in the
1 2	So every one of these options they looked at included building this line.	1 2	specifically about whether it included that in the model. It does.
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2	building this line.	2	model. It does.
3	building this line. So they didn't look at they didn't have	3	model. It does. They also pointed it out that it includes
2 3 4	building this line. So they didn't look at they didn't have they obviously thought this was such a critical part of	2 3 4	model. It does. They also pointed it out that it includes 800 megawatts of solar generation in the mix as well.
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1	phase of Applied Digital and then looked at the 12	1	would mean that it should provide a more incentive for
2	months after it was ramped-up, and he did actually see	2	our thermal to produce as well. You know, when the
3	that it did did relieve a significant amount of the	3	prices get depressed to the point where the coal gets
4	congestion on the system as it occurred at that time.	4	interrupted or the gas gets interrupted, if those prices
5	So what that did is it reduced the congestion and raised	5	levelize more, it should provide a better environment
6	the LMP prices.	6	for them to operate on a more consistent basis as well
7	And we have the numbers right here. So he found	7	too. So it's a trade-off on things so
8	that it reduced the Ellendale 1 and 2, it reduced the	8	So that's those are the basic questions that
9	MCC, which is the marginal congestion, by 69 percent and	9	we had.
10	56 percent from before to after. And then he showed	10	We also had the MISO response. I think I'd read
11	that the LMP prices actually increased by 12 percent and	11	my summary of that so then I don't have to go through
12	46 percent. So as you relieve congestion, it allows the	12	the
13	power to flow more freely over the over and it and	13	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Are you going to
14	it levelizes the LMP prices.	14	go through that or is Adam?
15	So if you look at a map like Victor was	15	CHRIS HANSON: Adam
16	showing me yesterday, if you look at a map of North	16	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible).
17	Dakota, when it's constrained we have excess production	17	CHRIS HANSON: Adam would prefer I did that.
18	on windy days so the prices are sometimes zero or even	18	So the MISO response, I'll just kind of read
19	maybe even negative and but that gets constrained	19	from the memo. And I apologize, we just got this the
20	so that it can't and then you look east of that	20	day before yesterday, and late in the day or something
21	constraint into Minnesota and the prices are higher. So	21	like that. So this is a pretty quick turnaround on
22	as you remove the constraint, it levelizes the prices.	22	things.
23	So the so as you remove the congestion, the LMP	23	So I said, as a result of this session, we sent
24	prices should will probably, on average, come up.	24	a request to MISO to explain the benefits to address the
25	That's the expectation.	25	key reliability and economic benefits of the project.
23	PAGE 17	23	PAGE 19
<u> </u>		4	
4			
1	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: For North Dakotans.	1	In response, we received a letter from Jeremiah
2	CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So	2	Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on
2	CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Another great benefit	3	Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on October 14 addressing the justification and benefits of
2 3 4	CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Another great benefit of transmission for us.	2 3 4	Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on October 14 addressing the justification and benefits of the project. He states that this project will remedy
2 3 4 5	CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Another great benefit of transmission for us. CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, for customers. But then	2 3 4 5	Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on October 14 addressing the justification and benefits of the project. He states that this project will remedy the N-1 and N-1-1 issues noted in the previous memo and
2 3 4 5 6	CHRIS HANSON: For North Dakotans, right. So COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Another great benefit of transmission for us. CHRIS HANSON: Yeah, for customers. But then yeah. So that was the three responses that we had from	2 3 4 5 6	Doner, the director of cost allocation with MISO, on October 14 addressing the justification and benefits of the project. He states that this project will remedy the N-1 and N-1-1 issues noted in the previous memo and he identifies the elements that are projected to be
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40		they haven't been able to use any direction from what	17	profile based on member plans and IRPs and such. So now	17
we have Future 1-A in which MISO then reassesses what 18 we've said because we don't have it.		we've said because we don't have it.	18	we have Future 1-A in which MISO then reassesses what	18
19 benefits come out of connecting both Tranche 1 as well 19 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But the companies has	ave	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But the companies have	19	benefits come out of connecting both Tranche 1 as well	19
20 as, in this case, Tranche 2.1. 20 them.		them.	20	as, in this case, Tranche 2.1.	20
21 So I would say that an advantage of what we have 21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The companies they	y	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: The companies they	21	So I would say that an advantage of what we have	21
22 in terms of how the Commission can influence that 22 use the company plans, yep.		use the company plans, yep.	22	in terms of how the Commission can influence that	22
23 decision, when we look at the type of resources that are 23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so that's what I		COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so that's what I	23	decision, when we look at the type of resources that are	23
24 assumed in North Dakota, because it's in 2042, this 24 was wondering		was wondering	24	assumed in North Dakota, because it's in 2042, this	24
25 Commission now has the tool, which is an IRP, to 25 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And anything that		COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And anything that	25	Commission now has the tool, which is an IRP, to	25
PAGE 22 PAGE	E 24	PAGE 2		PAGE 22	

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

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

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

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1	first build-out. What was it?	<u>CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST</u>
2	ADAM RENFANDT: The MVP.	
3	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: MVPs. MVP, the first	STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA) ss.
4	one or I don't anyway, one of those MVP lines is	
5	still in court in Wisconsin. So it's not unprecedented	I, Lisa A. Hulm, CET-783, a certified
6	that these projects get tangled up.	electronic transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic
7	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Did we	sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, to the best of my professional
8	receive the information that was requested from MDU?	skills and abilities. I further state that I was not present during these recorded proceedings, and I am
9	CHRIS HANSON: Otter Tail responded for both	only the transcriber of the recorded proceedings.
10	Otter Tail and MDU on the questions.	I further certify that I am not a relative
11	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Thank you.	or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties hereto, nor a relative or employee of such
12	Anybody have anything else? Our legal counsel	attorney or counsel; nor do I have any interest in the outcome or events of the action.
13	has been prepped for the questions that have been asked	Dated this date of September 8, 2025.
14	so I know that with certainty. So	ballod tills date of coptoniber of 2020.
15	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So in terms of next	
16	steps, maybe we can look at getting well, we can	
17	I'll do what I need to do and talk to you guys about my	LISA A. HULM, CET-783
18	thoughts on next steps. And then we can all do the same	
19	and you guys can decide what the next steps are, I	
20	guess. I do think we should try to get this moving,	
21	though, and not dilly-dally too much longer. So I will	
22	try to do my part to make that happen.	
23	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Anything else?	The foregoing certification of this transcript does
24	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: No. I think I've	not apply to the reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or
25	already directed staff.	direction of the certifying transcriber.
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1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.	I NOL 35
2	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And I've talked to	
3	legal counsel. So we're moving forward.	
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Anything else from	
5	staff?	
6	Okay. This work session is closed. Thanks,	
7	everyone.	
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