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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Otter Tail Power Company/Montana-Dakota Case No. Utilities Co. 345kV Transmission Line - PU-24-91 Jamestown to Ellendale Public Convenience & Necessity

TRANSCRIPT OF INFORMAL HEARING July 8, 2024

APPEARANCES

Commissioners Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Randy Christmann, and Julie Fedorchak

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY:

Robert Endris, Jason Weiers, Todd Langston, JoAnn Thompson, Matthew Olsen

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.:

Allison Waldon, Robert Frank, Travis Jacobson, Darcy Neigum, Mark Hanson

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:

Brian Johnson, Christopher Hanson, Adam Renfandt, Victor Schock, Claire Vigesaa

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Good afternoon.
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                                                         This
2
     is an informal hearing on a case that is a combinational
     case, Otter Tail Power and MDU, and it's a Certificate
3
     of Public Convenience and Necessity request regarding
4
     the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line. It is
5
     Case No. PU-24-91.
6
7
             It's August (sic) 8th, 2024, at 1:32 p.m. I'm
8
     Randy Christmann, chair of the Commission, joined by
9
     Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart here in the room with
10
     me and Commissioner Fedorchak is on the phone and, I
11
     believe, in transit.
12
             I didn't have any opening comments.
             Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart, did --
13
14
             Well, Commissioner Fedorchak, did you have any
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     opening comments?
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             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't, no. Thank
17
     you.
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             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save
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     yours and combine.
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             I want to emphasize this is an informal hearing
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     so it involves only undisputed facts. If there are any
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     -- if anything comes up that is disputed, we will have
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     to stop the informal and proceed to scheduling a formal
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     case.
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             The Applicant goes first, but I will first turn
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it over to Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart who is the
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2
     portfolio holder for any opening comments and then we'll
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     listen to the case.
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Well,
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5
     thanks, everyone. I think this is going to be an
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     interesting, like, overview and questions regarding a
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     joint filing. So it's so good to see so many people
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     here.
9
             And because Julie is on the phone, before we
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     turn it over to you guys to present, why don't we go
11
     around the room and introduce -- introduce everyone so
12
     Julie knows who's going to be presenting but who is also
     in the room.
13
14
             So I'll go to Brian.
15
             MR. JOHNSON: Brian Johnson, PSC staff.
16
             MR. HANSON: Chris Hanson, PSC staff.
17
             MR. FRANK: Robert Frank, Montana-Dakota.
18
             MS. WALDON: Allison Waldon representing
19
     Montana-Dakota.
20
             MR. WEIERS: Jason Weiers, Otter Tail Power
21
     Company.
22
             MR. ENDRIS: Robert Endris, Otter Tail Power
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     Company.
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             MR. LANGSTON: Todd Langston, Otter Tail Power
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     Company.
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COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Do we want -- in
1
2
     the back.
3
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Yeah, please pass the
     mic back.
4
5
             MS. THOMPSON: JoAnn Thompson, Otter Tail Power
6
     Company.
7
             MR. OLSEN: Matt Olsen, Otter Tail Power
8
     Company.
9
             MR. JACOBSON: Travis Jacobson, Montana-Dakota.
10
             MR. NEIGUM: Darcy Neigum, Montana-Dakota.
11
             MR. HANSON: Mark Hanson, Montana-Dakota.
12
             MR. RENFANDT: Adam Renfandt, staff.
13
             MR. SCHOCK: Victor Schock, PSC staff.
14
             MR. VIGESAA: Claire Vigesaa, North Dakota
15
     Transmission Authority.
16
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Well, thank you
17
     everyone for the introductions.
18
             My only question is, as you go through the
     PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time
19
20
     or do you want questions held until the end?
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             MR. WEIERS: Please interrupt with questions
22
     along the way.
23
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. So we will
24
     turn it over to you guys for your presentation.
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            MR. WEIERS: All right.
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MR. ENDRIS: Thank you, Commissioner. Robert Endris appearing on behalf of Otter Tail Power Company.

Today Jason Weiers will be our main presenter and main responder to questions, but, of course, we have the full Otter Tail and MDU compliment here to help with answers.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: All right. Well, good afternoon, everybody and thanks again for the opportunity to be here today to talk about Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota's joint petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV project.

Today's presentation is going to start with a brief overview of the Applicants. We'll then cover the project description, the need for the project, benefits of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project. We will then explain how the project fits into MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan and why it was classified as a Multi-Value Project. We'll next review the project schedule and wrap up with a review of the CPCN requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and our conclusions that support granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the JETx project.

So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this

case are Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota
Utilities. Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota will co-own
the Jamestown to Ellendale project.

As you look back on Otter Tail and

Montana-Dakota's history, you'll note that we have over

200 years of a combined experience in serving customers
in North Dakota. Over this time frame we've built an

extensive network of transmission and generation
facilities, and currently Otter Tail owns about

6,000 miles of transmission and about 1,100 megawatts of
generation while Montana-Dakota Utilities owns about

3,400 miles of transmission and about 700 miles -
700 megawatts of generation.

Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota have been long-standing business partners for many, many years, dating back to the 1970s when we first partnered in building the Big Stone Plant. In the 1980s, that partnership continued in partnering to build the Coyote Station. And most recently we partnered in building the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV transmission project between 2011 and 2019. These past successes on these previous projects, along with our articles of incorporation and our continued certificates of good standing that are on file with the Commission, prove that we are fit, willing, and able to construct, own,

and operate the Jamestown to Ellendale project.

MISO approved the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV project with five distinct facilities. These five distinct facilities are shown here on the slide.

The first facility is the new 345 kV double circuit transmission line. The project is expected to be between 85 and 95 miles in length and traverse the counties of Stutsman County, LaMoure County, and Dickey County. The line will be co-owned between Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities.

The next facility approved by MISO was the Jamestown Substation expansion. This is needed to accommodate the new 345 kV line termination as well as an Ellendale Substation expansion that will be needed, again, to accommodate the new 345 line. The Jamestown Substation is currently owned and will continue to be solely owned by Otter Tail while the Ellendale Substation is currently owned and will continue to be solely owned by Montana-Dakota.

In addition to those core project components, there's also upgrades required at the Maple River Substation. This substation is located north of Fargo. And an expansion is needed there, as approved by MISO, to accommodate the replacement of two existing 345/230 kV transformers.

And, lastly, there's also a Twin Brooks

Substation expansion that's been approved by MISO as part of the project. This is located down in South

Dakota just west of Big Stone. And we'll be expanding this substation to accommodate new 345 kV reactors.

The Maple River Substation is currently solely owned by Otter Tail and the Twin Brooks Substation is jointly owned by Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota

Utilities.

The anticipated structures for the project will look very similar to the picture you see on this particular slide and they will be constructed with steel monopole, self-supporting structures. They will be double circuit capable structures and we will be installing one circuit initially, but we'll have space for that second circuit in the future when the need arises.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: When you talk about joint ownership of the transmission line part, is it equal or is it a percentage one and a percentage the other?

MR. WEIERS: Equal ownership rights so 50 percent ownership rights. Yep.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I mean, while we're on the joint ownership, so if something goes down,

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is there, like, a primary contact, secondary contact?
1
2
     mean, how does that work as far as doing the expansion
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     work, recovery, whatever?
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             MR. WEIERS: Very good question, Commissioner.
             We do have a series of agreements that we have
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6
     executed and are continuing to work on that will
7
     actually designate the lead responder in the case of a
8
     maintenance need. So those arrangements will be
9
     memorialized and documented as part of the ownership
10
     arrangements between Otter Tail and MDU.
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             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.
12
             MR. WEIERS: Yep.
13
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So from the onset
14
     of doing the expansion work all the way through on
15
     maintaining it?
             MR. WEIERS:
16
                          Correct, yep.
17
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okav.
18
             MR. WEIERS:
                          Yep.
19
             Just continuing down this slide here, the
20
     average structure heighth is expected to be 150 feet
21
     tall and the structures will be installed on concrete
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     foundations with between four to six structures per
23
     mile.
24
             The estimated cost for the overall project is
25
     $440 million as we've included in our application.
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The need for the project is driven by reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota.

I've included a graphic here that shows the existing transmission facilities in this part of the region.

The existing 230 kV system from Ellendale all the way over to Wahpeton plays an important part today in exporting generation from North Dakota. Today what happens on the system is an outage of the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV line results in excessive loadings on the existing 230 kV line. This excessive loading also leads to some voltage depressions.

After completion of the new 345 kV line from Jamestown to Ellendale, the generation that is forced to flow in that 230 kV system during that Big Stone South to Ellendale outage will now have an alternative path to head north from Ellendale up to Jamestown where it can then jump on the existing 345 kV facilities and make its way towards Fargo.

The green dots and the green lines on this map actually represent the facilities that no longer have excessive loadings after we complete the Jamestown to Ellendale project as identified in the studies that have

1 been completed by MISO. 2 And I did get this real handy-dandy laser 3 pointer so I could actually show that on the map if I had been thinking ahead of time, but I can -- I can 4 5 certainly show it now. 6 So the Big Stone South to Ellendale project is 7 this gray line through this part of the system here. 8 And then the existing 230 kV system is here from Ellendale heading east to Forman or to Hankinson and 9 10 then up to Wahpeton. 11 So as I was mentioning earlier, in today's 12 system a loss of the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV 13 line forces the generation coming from North Dakota to 14 have to go down the 230 kV system which is constrained 15 today. As we look at the future condition of the system 16 and the addition of Jamestown to Ellendale, an outage of 17 Big Stone South to Ellendale will now allow for an 18 alternative transmission path for the generation to flow 19 from Ellendale up to Jamestown where it will then be 20 able to jump onto the 345 kV line from Jamestown towards 21 Fargo and make its way to the rest of the region. 22 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I just want to repeat 23 that back --24 Okay. MR. WEIERS:

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- to make sure I

25

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understand what we're trying to fix. It's the worry
1
2
     that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down --
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             MR. WEIERS: Yep.
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- forcing everything
4
5
     to go from Ellendale to Hankinson?
 6
             MR. WEIERS: On the existing 230 kV system,
7
     correct.
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: That's inadequate?
8
9
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah.
10
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so now if this
11
     were constructed, if that Big Stone to Ellendale goes
12
     down, it can divert up to Jamestown and go east?
             MR. WEIERS: Correct, yeah.
13
14
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: And there's plenty
15
     of capacity from Jamestown to Fargo to take that on?
16
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah. So MISO is studying the
17
     system out in 2030. And as they've done the contingency
18
     analysis looking at the various combination of outages
19
     that are possible, there were no additional overloads
20
     identified as you go from Jamestown towards Fargo.
21
     That's correct.
22
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What is the flow of
23
     most of the energy? You know, when we say Big Stone to
24
     Ellendale, I think of energy that is being created at
25
     the Big Stone Plant and coming north. But when you were
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talking, you said the energy produced in North Dakota
1
2
     that's flowing down to Ellendale.
3
             MR. WEIERS: Yep.
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so which is the
4
5
     predominant --
 6
             MR. WEIERS: That's a great question,
7
     Commissioner.
8
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- of energy that
     we're dealing with here?
9
10
             MR. WEIERS: Yep, great question, Commissioner
11
     Christmann.
12
             Most times during the course of the year as you
13
     look at the generation patterns on the system, there is
14
     a predominant flow of energy in this region from west to
15
     east. So we are seeing flows from Ellendale to Big
16
     Stone South most of the year. And this is especially
17
     predominant when we have the off -- off-peak or
18
     light-load conditions, where we have high generation and
19
     low load, we see the bias of flow in the system from
20
     west to east, most of the time from Ellendale to Big
21
     Stone South.
22
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so when we always
23
     refer to it out of habit as Big Stone to Ellendale, it's
24
     really more the other way around?
25
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah. And the line can flow either
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way as an AC transmission line but, generally speaking, the historical flows have been from Ellendale to Big Stone South, yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: All right. The Jamestown to Ellendale project will bring several benefits to the local and regional area as we think about adding a new transmission line like this.

We've already talked about the enhanced reliability that the project will bring to the -- to the area. Through the course of the MISO analysis, they've identified that this project will relieve excessive loadings on 70 transmission facilities and address 97 voltage violations as they've done their contingency analysis of this future condition.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Repeat that again.

MR. WEIERS: The analysis performed by MISO, looking at the various contingencies on the system, has identified that this project will help relieve excessive loadings on 70 different transmission elements and address 97 voltage violations in those future, out-year conditions.

The project will also increase transmission capacity that will have the ability to enable new commercial and industrial loads.

And when you think about a 345 kV line of this 1 2 magnitude, we're talking about load additions that are 3 possible in the magnitude of what we've already seen happening out in this area. As folks are aware, Applied 4 5 Digital has added some load at Jamestown and Ellendale. 6 A project like this is going to help serve that load and 7 also result in the ability to add more larger-scale 8 loads like that, not only at the end points but also 9 anywhere along the line through the course of a future 10 interconnection. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I just got to go back 11 12 to what I was talking about before with the Ellendale to 13 Big Stone flow. So really this is more about Ellendale to Jamestown than it is Jamestown to Ellendale. 14 15 MR. WEIERS: Yeah. 16 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But we need the vowel 17 in the middle for the really cool acronym; right? 18 (Laughter) 19 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But the flow will 20 generally be when it's needed going north? 21 MR. WEIERS: That's my -- that's my 22 understanding. As you look at the system as an 23 integrated system, interconnected on all those different 24 places, really the Jamestown to Ellendale line will 25 provide relief on that existing 230 system for an outage

of the Big Stone South to Ellendale line.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: Yep, yep.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Thank you.

MR. WEIERS: All right. The JETx project will also accommodate new generation in North Dakota. I'll just mention as a part of MISO's studies of these future conditions, they added about 4,500 megawatts of new generation in North Dakota, and this line will help accommodate that future generation development.

It's also going to help reduce transmission congestion. That's going to help allow existing North Dakota generation to operate more often to get their product to the market.

In addition, the project will also increase resilience to extreme weather events. I believe Otter Tail was in front of the Commission in the past talking about the 2023 Christmas ice storm and the conditions that we experienced out at Jamestown. We had a situation this past Christmas season where we had lost both 345 kV lines into the Jamestown load pocket, and that forced us to have to operate the Jamestown pocket as an island for the matter of about one and a half days. We supported that entire load pocket through the use of our existing peaking plants that run off diesel

fuel.

As we look at adding the Jamestown to Ellendale project, we'll now have a third source into the Jamestown load pocket and this will help reliably support that load in the event that we lose both of those 345 kV lines into Jamestown again. So tremendous reliability benefits for the Jamestown area.

As we look at the southern end of this project at Ellendale, there's also going to be benefits to that area as we think about the current line from Big Stone South to Ellendale really ends at Ellendale as a 345 kV line. Connecting Jamestown down to Ellendale will now create a looped 345 kV system and help address some of those voltage stability concerns that are present today at Ellendale.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What are the two 345 lines that are currently going into Jamestown?

MR. WEIERS: There's two lines today. One comes from Center and goes over to Jamestown and then it continues east to Buffalo, North Dakota, and then ultimately over to Bison Substation and then Maple River, which is just outside of Fargo.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: Yep. All right.

Going down the benefits here, the next benefit

is support to local landowners. As we think about boosting the local economy, Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities estimate that we'll be paying over \$10 million to local landowners in this area as a result of the easement payments that we'll be paying for the project. It's also going to generate tax revenues for many of those governmental entities that support -- or that collect taxes, primarily in the form of property taxes.

And also, as you think about the work needed to construct a project of this magnitude, we'll also be looking to lever some of the local service providers in the area. It could be tree-clearing companies. It could be local contractors to help with road improvements; collecting or, you know, getting gravel, getting aggregate concrete. Those are all things that we hope to be able to leverage the local businesses for.

And, lastly, as you think about the workforce needed to build a project like this, many of the local businesses will also benefit by purchasing fuel, meals, and lodging during the construction phase of the project.

Speaking of construction, we do expect between 100 and 150 employees on-site during the construction phase of the project, and we're hoping to be able to

leverage some of the local skilled laborers for performing some of this work.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Regarding the landowner payments, have you started easement acquisition yet and how enthusiastic have the landowners been to have that opportunity?

MR. WEIERS: We have started land acquisition efforts. Last August we started asking for survey permission along a proposed route, and then in February of this year we started asking for options to get easements on property.

Through the course of this interaction, we've actually been taking landowner feedback in the form of suggested revisions to our route, and at this point in time we've looked at over 30 different reroutes for the line. And negotiations with landowners continue to go well. As of last week, we reached about a 33 percent volunteer easement status. And we're continuing to work on that and will continue to work on that throughout the development phase of the project.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: You said you've looked at -- I don't remember how many reroutes. Have you rerouted it or are you looking at it? I'm just curious on that.

MR. WEIERS: So over the course of landowner

discussions, oftentimes we hear alternative ideas on where to reroute the transmission line. So to date I would say that we've experienced -- or we've processed over 30 different reroute requests from landowners.

(Commissioner Fedorchak enters room.)

MR. WEIERS: So of the over 30 reroute requests we've gotten from landowners, I don't have an exact number on how many we were able to grant, but it has been most of them.

And I don't know if anybody else has any additional color on that on the project team, but I'll open it up if there's any additional feedback.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. We continue to -as we engage with landowners, we continue to see more
and more reroutes, but they're small reroutes, primarily
on their property. They just want it moved to one side
or the other.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Sure.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And when you said "about 33 percent of easements acquired," are you talking about the number of landowners that would need to be dealt with or about the linear miles of the line?

MR. WEIERS: It's based on the number of landowners. At this point we have about 170 unique landowners along the proposed route, and we've acquired

about 33 percent of the easements that we need for the line so far.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I have a question about the voltage and the voltage violations that you talked about a little bit ago. Could you give me those numbers again, Jason, and then kind of explain, give us some examples of what's happening there? I think you called it loading and voltage violation?

MR. WEIERS: Yep. Sure. Commissioner

Fedorchak, if you don't mind, I'll maybe go back to this

previous slide --

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Sure.

MR. WEIERS: -- so I can use the map to explain this in a little more detail.

So each transmission facility has a rating associated with it, and that rating is set by the owner to avoid any damage to the facility and to avoid any safety concerns. And as you think about excessive loadings on the transmission system, this is a condition where the loading on the facility has exceeded the safe operating limit of the line. So in those situations, the market may have to redispatch to avoid that overload issue or may have to pursue underlying upgrades to fix those loading issues.

And on the map again, just to illustrate this,

it's this 230 kV path from Ellendale to Forman to Hankinson up to Wahpeton that's experiencing some excessive loadings and then also from Hankinson as we head down towards Big Stone. You'll see this is a -- the system that's exporting this generation from North Dakota to the neighboring states.

So as we look at the addition of the Jamestown to Ellendale 345 kV project, we have found that the additional line will relieve excessive loadings on 70 different transmission elements during this contingency analysis performed for that future condition.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And is that, like, how often? Is it a constant thing or, like, how often are these excessive loadings happening?

MR. WEIERS: I don't have an exact count of how many hours per year, but, generally speaking, these are typically times of the year when we're seeing a large amount of generation and lower amounts of load so we have higher flows throughout the system. We also see some of these same challenges during winter peak conditions when the load in this area is higher than it is in the summer.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: And if I may, Commissioner Fedorchak, just one other quick comment on these

excessive loadings.

Along with excessive loadings comes depressed voltages. What you'll see on these transmission facilities is the higher you load them, the lower the voltages will be on the system. So, generally speaking, we're going to see excessive loadings and depressed voltages accompany one another in these same areas, and that's exactly what's happening here. As this 230 kV system is loading up to its maximum rating, the voltages are dipping to a point where it's violating the criteria set by the owner and we need to do something to fix those issues.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So when it's -- when the demand is lower than the generation, which you said is one of the drivers, is there demand out of the state that wants that power? Or what's stopping it from just being curtailed and how will that -- I guess if there's a demand, how will more transmission help if there's no demand, or maybe the demand is just out, someplace else? So explain that.

MR. WEIERS: Sure. This would all be basically determined through MISO's dispatch in the energy market. And to the extent that there is demand outside of the state, the MISO Market Dispatch would try to get that generation out of North Dakota and to those neighboring

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states as long as we had sufficient transmission
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2
     capacity available to export that generation. To the
3
     extent that that transmission capacity is constrained,
     then they'd have to curtail generation so that it would
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5
     be bottled up within North Dakota.
 6
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So is what's happening
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     now is there's this constraint so it can't get out,
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     there's demand outside but it's constrained or -- I'm a
9
     little confused by your comment that one of the cause of
10
     the voltage violations is it occurs at a time when
11
     there's low demand and excessive generation.
12
             MR. WEIERS: Yep. Yeah. And that's a situation
13
     where the flow on the transmission system is at its
14
     maximum rating so that -- that we can't get any more
15
     generation out of -- out of the state in those
     situations.
16
17
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: But it's wanted outside
18
     of the state. Somebody wants it. It just can't get
19
     there.
20
             MR. WEIERS: Correct.
21
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.
22
             MR. WEIERS: Yep.
23
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So the demand just
24
     isn't local.
25
            MR. WEIERS: Correct.
```

1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Got it. All right. 2 That makes more sense now. Thank you. 3 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But what about when 4 it's not wanted? Then by doing this, we've just added 5 more generation into the mix that has to curtail; correct? 7 MR. WEIERS: Can you repeat that, please? 8 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. You seem to be 9 alluding to times when the energy is needed somewhere 10 and this would open more avenues to get it there. 11 what about the times in the middle of the night and the 12 nice spring and autumn evenings when it's not needed 13 anywhere and we're curtailing and curtailing? If you're 14 right that this will add opportunities for more 15 generation in North Dakota, doesn't it just mean more 16 generation facilities that need to curtail and lose 17 money? 18 MR. WEIERS: It's possible that could be a 19 situation, but I'm assuming most generation developers 20 would be doing their homework before they would be 21 interconnecting with the grid to make sure that they 22 have a viable business opportunity before proceeding. 23 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I -- I agree with 24 that, the developers do, because they get subsidized. 25 It's the existing ones that are left hanging out to do

the curtailing.

MR. WEIERS: Yeah. And that comes down to how they set their market prices as they enter the market and MISO chooses which resources to dispatch.

Okay. I think we're on slide 7.

So as MISO performed their studies of the area here, they did evaluate five different alternatives to determine if any feasible alternative was out there that more effectively addressed the reliability concerns that were appearing on that 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, northeastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota.

This particular slide has a table that shows all of the various combination alternatives that MISO considered. And as you'll notice, the list of alternatives here, you'll note that the Jamestown to Ellendale project is part of every different alternative that was tested by MISO, which further reinforces the importance and the benefits of the project to not only the region but also this local area.

The Jamestown to Ellendale project was identified as part of the Tranche 1 Portfolio for MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan. This long-range transmission planning effort started back in 2020 and is planning to be broken into four different phases or four

```
different tranches of transmission projects.
1
2
             As shown on the slide here, Tranches 1 and 2 are
3
     focused on the Midwest subregion of MISO while Tranche 3
     will then turn its focus to MISO's South region, and
4
5
     then Tranche 4 will look at focusing on intraregional
6
     projects to help strengthen the connections between the
7
     Midwest subregion and the South subregion.
8
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's really five
9
     tranches.
10
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah. You consider Tranche 2.1 and
     2.2 --
11
12
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I'm not buying the
13
     marketing. Sorry.
14
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah. Understood.
15
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So do you mean there's
     a fifth one that's not mentioned here --
16
17
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: No.
18
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- or you mean 2.1 and
     2.2 are two different tranches?
19
20
             MR. WEIERS: Yes.
21
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah. They really are.
22
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So you mentioned this
23
     one being $440 million. No. This project being $440
24
     million. What was the total price tag of --
25
            COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Ten billion.
```

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COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: -- Tranche 1? Ten?
1
2
             MR. WEIERS: Yep. Ten point -- $10.3 billion
3
     was the approved cost of the Tranche 1 Portfolio.
4
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And go through 2, 3,
5
     and 4. You can divide 2 or put them together.
 6
             MR. WEIERS: Are you talking about the --
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Estimated costs.
7
8
             MR. WEIERS: At this point in time the other
     tranches aren't known. They're not finalized yet so
9
     it's hard to put a price tag on them.
10
11
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Just estimates out
12
     there.
13
             MR. WEIERS: Yeah, I -- I'm not comfortable
14
     stating a specific estimate because I don't believe that
15
     the portfolios are finalized yet.
16
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Tranche 2 is looking
17
     like -- if you combine them, 30 to 50 billion. Probably
18
     a lot closer to 50.
19
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: For just --
20
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Because Tranche 1 --
21
     2.1 is almost 30. Actually, Tranche 2.1 is almost 30
     billion.
22
23
             Right, Adam? Yeah.
24
             So they haven't really put a price tag on 2.2
25
     that I've seen but --
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1
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So 2.1 you said is
2
     about 30?
3
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Uh-huh.
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And 2.2?
4
5
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: They haven't really
6
     said. And I don't know, what did -- is Tranche 3's at
7
     all -- price tag range?
8
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a range (inaudible).
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.
9
10
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.
11
             MR. WEIERS: Okay. Moving on to slide 9, again
12
     refocusing our discussion here on Tranche 1, MISO did
13
     take about two and a half years to perform the studies
14
     to support the Tranche 1 Portfolio through the course of
15
     several different stakeholder meetings and workshops.
16
     And as a result of all that study work, they did approve
17
     18 new transmission projects in July of 2022, and they
18
     call that the Tranche 1 Portfolio.
19
             As you'll notice on the map here, the Jamestown
20
     to Ellendale project is project number 1 on the map.
21
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I was just
22
     curious, how did you prioritize the difference between
23
     Tranche 1 to Tranche 4? What were the key components on
24
     that? I mean --
25
            MR. WEIERS: Yeah.
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COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: -- north versus 1 2 south? 3 MR. WEIERS: Sure. Thanks, Commissioner, for 4 the question. The actual prioritization of looking at which 5 6 parts of MISO was performed by MISO. And the reason 7 that they focused on the Midwest subregion first is 8 because they're seeing the amount of generation being 9 built in this region is far outpacing what's happening 10 in other parts of MISO. So they're attempting to try to 11 get ahead of the transmission needs because of the 12 faster development of generation up in this region. 13 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Getting it out 14 more? 15 MR. WEIERS: Yeah. 16 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. 17 MR. WEIERS: So as Commissioner Christmann had 18 just asked about here, this slide actually indicates 19 that Tranche 1 represents over 2,000 miles of new and 20 upgraded high-voltage transmission. And the price tag 21 that was associated with the Tranche 1 was \$10.3 22 billion. 23 As you think about these Tranche 1 projects, 24 they do offer multiple benefits. And because of those 25 multiple benefits, all these projects as part of the

Tranche 1 Portfolio were approved as Multi-Value Projects, or MVPs, under MISO's tariff.

So under MISO's tariff, a transmission project can be approved as an MVP if it meets one of three criteria: It needs to address a reliability issue that's in violation of a NERC reliability standard; it needs to provide economic value across a broad area with a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.0 or higher; or it needs to support the reliable and economic delivery of energy.

Because the benefits of the Tranche 1 Portfolio are spread broadly across the entire Midwest subregion, the cost of the Tranche 1 Portfolio is shared on a pro rata basis to all loads in that Midwest subregion based on energy usage. So what this means for Otter Tail's North Dakota customers is that they'll be paying for .61 percent of the projects and Montana-Dakota's North Dakota customers will be paying for about four -- 0.47 percent of the projects.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So does the southern region pay anything for these?

MR. WEIERS: In this case, the benefits were limited to just the Midwest subregion. So that's the only load area that (indiscernible) allocated costs from the Tranche 1 Portfolio.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And based on a couple

1 slides ago, Tranche 3 will be just about the opposite. 2 MR. WEIERS: Based on the focus for Tranche 3, 3 we expect that the cost allocation would be limited to 4 the MISO South subregion. 5 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What about that big Tranche 2? That's north? 6 7 MR. WEIERS: The intent is to focus on the 8 Midwest subregion, yep. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. 9 10 MR. WEIERS: All right. The next slide has just 11 an overview of the project schedule. 12 As I mentioned earlier, we started outreach to 13 landowners back in 2023. We actually held some public 14 meetings to get input on the routing process back in 15 early to mid-2023 and then began defining a proposed route in late 2023. 16 17 And we started securing land rights for the 18 route in early 2024; in February, in fact. We do plan to file a combined Certificate of Corridor Compatibility 19 20 and Route Permit Application late in Q3 of this year. 21 And we're hoping for a PSC decision on the 22 combined route permit filing in the early -- early in 23 the second half of 2025. 24 Assuming all this goes as planned, we would plan 25 to start pre-construction activities in the fall

of 2025. And some of those pre-construction activities would include tree clearing. We'd be working on laydown yards and getting road improvements ready to start construction in the spring of 2026.

We'd start first, of course, with foundation drilling, and then that would be followed up with setting structures, and then finally stringing conductor.

And as the current schedule stands, we would have two to two and a half years construction and wrap the project up and have it in service by the end of 2028.

All right. We have reviewed Chapter 49-03 of the North Dakota Century Code and believe that we are in compliance with the requirements needed to obtain a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. As you review our application, you'll note that the Jamestown to Ellendale project will not interfere with the service provided by any of the other utilities in the area.

Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota have articles of incorporation on file with the Commission. And Otter Tail and MDU are committed to obtain all the applicable permits from federal, state, and local authorities prior to starting construction.

So, in conclusion, we believe that public

1 convenience and necessity will be served by Otter Tail 2 and MDU's construction, ownership, and operation of the 3 project because of the reliability and economic benefits 4 provided to customers. The project is part of the 5 MISO's long-range plan and was approved as part of their 6 2021 Transmission Expansion Plan because of the 7 reliability and economic benefits that it enables as 8 part of the overall Tranche 1 Portfolio. And Otter Tail and MDU are fit, willing, and 9 10 able to construct, own, and operate the Jamestown to 11 Ellendale project as proven by their articles of 12 incorporation, their certificates of good standing, and 13 their success in past projects. 14 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Jason, did you -- was 15 this project a standalone on the cost-benefit analysis 16 or did it -- I forget how it works. Was it all the MVPs 17 were done together? 18 MR. WEIERS: That's -- the latter is correct, Commissioner Fedorchak. All MVPs were done together. 19 20 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. Have you guys 21 done a cost-benefit of just this project? 22 MR. WEIERS: We have not. In fact, Otter Tail 23 doesn't have the necessary software to perform that 24 calculation. 25 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. And the benefits

1 that you mentioned in your discussion about benefits 2 including, like, landowner payments and tax -- tax 3 revenue, etcetera, those aren't part of the MISO 4 business case, are they? 5 MR. WEIERS: They are not actually --COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: 6 Okav. 7 MR. WEIERS: -- part of the MISO business case. 8 I will mention to the commissioners here today that Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota have commissioned a 9 10 study with North Dakota State University to help better 11 quantify the benefits of the project to the local area, 12 and we do include -- we do plan to include that study as 13 part of our upcoming combined Certificate of Corridor 14 Compatibility and Route Permit Application. 15 Commission will get a chance to see that coming up as we 16 finalize that and better quantify those local benefits. 17 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Who's doing that 18 study? 19 MR. WEIERS: We've commissioned North Dakota 20 State University, NDSU. 21 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: You mentioned that this 22 will accommodate 4,500 megawatts of new generation. Do 23 you know where MISO got that figure? Or did you guys 24 give that to them? Where's that come from? And is that 25 generation in the queue? You know, how do we -- do we

have confidence that that's actually probably going to materialize?

MR. WEIERS: The 4,500 megawatts was determined through MISO's stakeholder process when they built the futures to analyze as part of the other TP study. And it's my understanding that the 4,500-megawatt assumption of generation in North Dakota was based on a variety of inputs including stakeholder input from utility integrative resource plans. If there was an announced project, they made sure they included that in their assumptions. And then they also did look at the queue and they tried to determine where there's been recent activity and used some of those locations as well for the future generation siting assumptions.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.

And then you probably covered this and I missed it, but the O&M for this line, how is that handled in terms of covering the cost?

MR. WEIERS: Yeah. The -- the O&M costs for the MVP projects are recovered as part of the overall MISO tariff.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.

MR. WEIERS: So we will calculate O&M charges and pass those through as MVP charges under Attachment MM of Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota's respective

attachments in MISO.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. So is it safe to, kind of just in a simple manner, assume that this is a decently-size investment in both your systems that you'll pay only a fraction of the cost for it?

MR. WEIERS: Yeah, that's correct, Commissioner Fedorchak. The calculations that have been performed by Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities indicate that North Dakota customers will be paying, roughly,

.61 percent -- I'm sorry, let me back up a minute there.
Otter Tail's North Dakota customers will be paying

.61 percent of this project cost and Montana-Dakota customers in North Dakota will be paying 0.47 percent of the overall project cost.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.

COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: But what's the impact to the maintenance of it? How does that affect the -- you know, the ongoing costs? Because you have -- maintain a hundred percent ownership on one and joint, but that's got to be some ongoing costs and which repairs will pay for.

MR. WEIERS: The MVP costs for O&M are treated the very same way they are for the investment needed to get the projects constructed. So if it's a capital cost upfront for part of the construction costs or an O&M

1 cost after the project goes in service, those costs are 2 allocated similarly across the MISO Midwest subregion. 3 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okav. 4 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I want to go back to 5 that allocation. It's one thing to talk about that on 6 \$440 million. And it was wonderful because we're only 7 paying this small part of the costs of this. But this 8 is the thing with socialization. In agreeing to that, 9 we're paying that same part of the costs of the other 10 more than \$9 and a half billion involved here and the 30 11 billion on Tranche 2 and all of that; correct? 12 MR. WEIERS: That's correct, Commissioner 13 Christmann. 14 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So what's the rate 15 impact? In rate cases, we often talk about typical 16 residential customers as an example so that the people 17 that you serve and that we serve understand how they're 18 going to be impacted. What is the impact of this 19 project or Tranche 1 for each company? 20 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You got number two? 21 MR. WEIERS: Okay. So Otter Tail and 22 Montana-Dakota Utilities has performed calculations to 23 determine the rate impact to an average North Dakota 24 residential customer using a thousand kilowatt-hours per 25 month. And as you look at the cost of just the

Jamestown to Ellendale project, Otter Tail residential customers are going to see a rate impact of 18 cents per month, MDU customers will see an impact of 12 cents per month for just the Jamestown to Ellendale project.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Doesn't really --

MR. WEIERS: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Doesn't really interest me because we're talking about a package deal.

MR. WEIERS: So I have those numbers handy here as well.

As you look at Otter Tail's impact for North Dakota customers from the full Tranche 1 Portfolio, again, an average residential customer for Otter Tail using a thousand KW-hours per month, the rate impact is estimated to be \$5.85 per month.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Montana-Dakota's additional cost for the entire Tranche 1 would be about \$3.15 a month.

MR. HANSON: Would it be safe to say that if you're considering that's about, roughly, \$10 billion, we're talking another 30 to 40 billion. So if you take that number times four and add to that, I mean, you get an idea of what the cost of Tranche 1, Tranche 2 would be. So it would be somewhere in the mid-30s per month probably per customer once Tranche 2 and 3 are through?

Is that fair to say?

MR. WEIERS: From a rate impact perspective, I think that's a fair statement. I just don't want people to lose sight of the benefits that these projects also offer to the local area and the region in general.

So, yeah, if you look at it just purely on a rate impact basis, that's a reasonable assumption,

Chris, but we also need to look at the full package and there are other benefits these future projects will bring to the region and the local area.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So when we do that, I completely understand the impact to government with taxes collected. I can completely understand the benefits to potential -- potential new energy generation that is looking all over the country for places to get in on a transmission system to take advantage of federal subsidies. So I see that as a benefit to them.

I'm wondering about the benefit to Otter Tail and especially to MDU. We talk about the occasional inability to get their power out. Tells me that we have plenty to serve our people. And so we're entering into these compacts for all these socialized projects at a great cost to the system that benefits government and renewable generators, but I'm not getting quite the enormous benefits to the customers of these two

companies.

And I'll just add this to the question because I'd like both companies' responses. I sort of get Otter Tail's because I understand the push from Minnesota to stop using the Coyote Plant power and have all renewal, renewable. I don't really see the pressure on MDU.

MR. WEIERS: Thanks, Commissioner Christmann.

If I could maybe start from Otter Tail's perspective and then I'll hand it over to MDU to respond on their behalf.

As you look at the Jamestown to Ellendale project, one of the huge benefits for Otter Tail, as I mentioned earlier, is the benefits that we're going to see in the local Jamestown area. As you think about the current load pocket and the existing sources into that load pocket, we were in a very difficult position last Christmas with the ice storm that took down both 345 kV lines that serve Jamestown. As a result, we had to run that diesel peaking generation for almost one and a half days that consumed nearly 90,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

If we add this new source from Ellendale up to Jamestown, this additional 345 delivery will result in a very much more -- or a much more resilient and robust transmission system that can serve that Jamestown load pocket, which, by the way, is Otter Tail's largest

community as you think about our service territory across our entire 70,000-square-mile service territory.

So we see tremendous benefits of this project. And over time we knew something was going to be needed to be done to that Jamestown load pocket. This project is going to be a huge benefit because of the fact that we can share the cost of the project with all of the MISO Midwest customers and get the huge benefit to our customers in the Jamestown area, and anywhere along the line as we look to Otter Tail communities even down as far south as Edgeley.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Does that happen very often where both those 345 lines were out?

MR. WEIERS: I'll mention that because both -last Christmas was certainly a unique situation with an
extreme weather event. But I will also mention that
even when it comes to performing maintenance at the
substation, when we have the entire load pocket sourced
from a single substation, we do get into some very
difficult situations when we try to schedule outages and
be ready to survive that next contingency so we don't
have a contingency that takes down the entire load
pocket. So now this third source will also help ease
some flexibility and be -- and being able to perform
maintenance more often during the year.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And was that always an issue on maintenance or is that just since the addition of the data processing center at Jamestown?

MR. WEIERS: It certainly has gotten more challenging as we've experienced load growth in the

area. Even before the addition of the Applied Digital load, we did see some of the residential loads and commercial loads around the Jamestown loop increase over time.

As you think about the Spiritwood Energy Park, there's a lot of activity going on there with the soybean facility going on. We have Aviko Cavendish, a lot of those commercial customers in that area.

And at some point we have reached a load level where the local peaking generation can no longer reliably serve all of that load during certain times of the year. So it's become even more important now to have that third delivery into Jamestown to help serve that area when we have an outage to the existing facilities.

MR. SCHOCK: When both of those 345 lines went down coming into Jamestown, where did they fail at? Was it in that local area or was it somewhere else?

MR. WEIERS: I don't know the exact answer to that. It was outside of the Jamestown Substation.

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Actually, Todd, do you have any --
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2
             MR. LANGSTON: I know the line between Jamestown
3
     and Buffalo failed east of Spiritwood. I'm not sure
     where the line failed from Jamestown to Center.
4
             MR. SCHOCK: And both failures were directly
5
     related to the ice storm?
6
7
             MR. LANGSTON: Yes.
8
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. How is this line resistant
     to ice storms and failure like the other two lines?
9
10
             MR. LANGSTON: The conductor on this proposed
11
     line, JETx line, is going to be T-2. That -- that type
12
     of wire, it's a twisted pair, sheds ice. Ice does not
13
     form on there and get the galloping that a normal
     conductor would.
14
15
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. Thank you.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Before we go to any
17
     more, I'd like to get MDU's perspective on the -- unless
18
     you had a question and follow-up of Otter Tail's
19
     perspective.
20
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't. I just have
21
     some commentary on --
22
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.
23
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: -- Tranche 1 and
24
     Tranche 2.
25
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: This was sort of a
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double question. I'd like to get MDU's response.

MR. FRANK: Yeah, I think I'll start and then Darcy probably has some comments to add as well for Montana-Dakota.

There's some -- we definitely see some reliability benefits as well from this increased transmission in the area. I think there's also some opportunities for us from a load-serving perspective as well because we've seen some interest in the area where our transmission has been growing like Ellendale where we can realize some -- some benefits as a company and customers in North Dakota for these increased load opportunities that we have to serve, like data centers.

And I think that Jamestown to Ellendale also gives us an opportunity to increase the transmission investment in North Dakota and allow a maybe future expansion of MISO's transmission system further west more into our system. And I think Jamestown to Ellendale gives -- Jamestown to Ellendale line gives us that opportunity to continue that transmission further west into -- more into MDU's system, I think, in the future.

MR. NEIGUM: I would agree with what Rob says.

And the other one that we're looking at too is this looking for a need for additional generation to

come into the state, whether it's for ourselves or other developers. So, you know, without projects like this, it's hard to develop additional generation within the state. And so it does provide those opportunities as well. You know, one, for our own utilities to be able to supply the needs for our customers and also at least for additional development to happen in the state that otherwise wouldn't happen.

COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So kind of stepping off of those comments, when Tranche 1 was being discussed and the cost allocation — this is more background for my colleagues — when the cost allocation was being discussed, our office and Darcy, so MDU, tried really hard to get a generator-pays component to the formula. I mean, we took many, many runs at it and were starting to get some traction. And then people got nervous that we're taking too long and had to get going and, you know, it takes so long to build, etcetera, etcetera, so they move forward with this postage stamp approach.

And so we ultimately went along with it for the reasons, you know, both the reliability reasons and recognizing, like, North Dakota is an exporting state and we have potential to export more both from the gas side, gas generator side, perhaps through coal with

carbon capture and storage if -- if that's proven out, or if the science changes, you know, there might be more hope for the -- our coal fleet and through wind -- you know, wind and renewables. So this Tranche 1 seemed like much more of backbone-type investments to bring this system up to speed.

I will say Tranche 2 is much more about helping the states -- and they even state this, MISO even states this -- Tranche 2 is much more about helping the states meet their goals.

So in my opinion, I don't think that -- and I'm not prepared to just have North Dakota, as long as I'm here, go along with Tranche 2 depending on how it all shakes out, but I mean that's -- that's a play that we need to be looking at down the road, but there should be a generator-pays component to that and there isn't. And they fought it tooth and nail.

And the benefits to our state of that, especially 2.1 where we basically aren't even connected and they've left MDU high and dry in that there's no investments -- they don't even have in this system west of Jamestown on the map on their Tranche 2 stuff.

So that one is an area where North Dakota needs to be very engaged in watching how the costs come forward and how those -- what the benefits are of those

1 projects, how they address the cost-benefit analysis and 2 -- and be prepared to not go along with it. 3 Anyway, commentary, not for today's case. COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So there's a lot 4 5 of flexibility on the difference between the different tranches and the cost allocation or is it --6 7 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: No, no. 8 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: -- are you saying we did this for 1, it's got to be this way for 2, 3, 4, 9 10 whatever? 11 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: There's no flexibility. 12 The cost allocation is set and it would have to be 13 fought at FERC if we wanted to not go along with it. 14 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A quick question on cost. 16 You know, I don't think I'd be the only one who was a 17 little shocked by the cost of the project. I would 18 imagine you guys were probably maybe not surprised by 19 it. But looking back at the cost of industrial 20 materials and things like that, you'd be at like 21 85 miles, and when you do the breakdown between the 22 substations and the lines, you've got somewhere in the 23 ballpark of \$4 million a mile for four structures per 24 mile. 25 I mean, how does that compare to more recent

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1
     projects that you guys have done and what kind of an
2
     inflation? Is it twice the cost of what you did ten
3
     years ago? Any sense of that?
             MR. WEIERS: Yes. It's basically doubled as
4
5
     what we had done on BSSE. BSSE, we hit the steel prices
6
     at an all-time low. Right now these steel prices, the
7
     indices are twice that what we had paid for BSSE. Along
8
     with concrete prices also.
9
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what year was that?
10
             MR. WEIERS: It was in service in 2019.
11
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Julie, you missed
     the brand?
12
13
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's very intriguing.
14
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Otter Tail --
15
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: JETx, is that how we
16
     say it? JETx? Good job.
17
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Are there other
18
     questions?
19
             MR. SCHOCK: I thought I could just sit quietly
20
     back there and I can't. I tried.
21
             Okay. So cost recovery of a line such as this.
22
     You wouldn't be coming in and asking for cost recovery
23
     in your transmission rider as rate base; correct?
24
     would be coming in through a MISO charge in the
     transmission rider. Is that accurate?
25
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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Different skills.
1
2
                 (Laughter)
3
             MR. SCHOCK: Matt wanted to talk anyways.
4
             MR. OLSEN: Yeah, thanks, Victor. Matt Olsen
5
     here.
6
             Most of it. I think you're -- you're accurate
7
     about that. There's a small portion that's rate base.
8
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So what portion would be
9
     rate base?
10
             MR. OLSEN: The small portion that represents
11
     North Dakota customers of Otter Tail.
12
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So this .6 -- .6 percent,
13
     roughly.
14
             MR. OLSEN: Yeah.
15
             MR. SCHOCK: That portion you would be adding to
16
     rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of
17
     return or your FERC approved rate of return?
18
             MR. OLSEN: Yeah, this is where I probably need
19
     help from others. Probably may be better if we work
20
     this out in --
21
             MR. SCHOCK: It's just curiosity.
22
             MR. OLSEN: Yeah.
23
             MR. SCHOCK: So you could file something just to
24
     kind of clarify those points of the cost recovery.
25
             MR. OLSEN: And it may be there already, but we
```

can spell it out for you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, Matt, maybe speak to the FERC jurisdiction a little bit. I know MDU and Otter Tail have a little bit of a difference between -- you have a small jurisdictional portion but maybe -- I think -- and Victor can correct me if I'm wrong, but I had a misconception at first that this would be a rate base, rate recovery item.

And maybe kind of speak a little bit to the mechanism that -- how that gets recovered through -- or how that gets charged back to customers as opposed to being rate base with a recovery and base rates and how it flows from MISO instead.

MR. OLSEN: Yeah, I -- I think I'll probably add confusion by trying to explain it myself and I'd rather not introduce that here but certainly --

MR. SCHOCK: That's perfectly fine if you're willing to make a subsequent filing just to kind of lay out the cost recovery of what -- what I think would be interesting to demonstrate for -- for this project, for the Jamestown to Ellendale line and for the rest of Tranche 1, how that would pass through to North Dakota customers, because I would assume it's slightly different.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we do have some of

```
1
     this in data requests so --
2
             MR. OLSEN: Yeah.
3
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- we can just do a
     little addendum.
4
5
             MR. OLSEN: I think we'll point there and spell
6
     it out for you there.
7
             MR. SCHOCK: Yeah. Okay. Sure.
8
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Would it be different
     for MDU or Otter Tail?
9
10
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
11
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Maybe --
12
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Next.
13
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it's different.
14
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Slightly. I do know
15
     that.
16
             MR. JACOBSON: Travis Jacobson with MDU.
             Montana-Dakota would only see in our
17
18
     transmission cost adjustment where we would see the
19
     Schedule 26, the MVP piece of that. And that would be
20
     the same for Montana-Dakota's JETx project as well as
21
     the rest of Tranche 2. That's just going to come
22
     through our Schedule 26-A, I think.
23
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So -- so then that would be
24
     based upon your FERC approved rate of return?
25
             MR. JACOBSON: That's true.
```

```
MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So there's other stuff in
1
2
     there other than rate of return but that's --
3
             MR. JACOBSON: Same as BSSE and all the other --
             MR. SCHOCK: Yep, yep.
4
             MR. JACOBSON: -- ones today.
5
 6
             MR. SCHOCK: Absolutely.
7
             MR. JACOBSON: That's true.
8
             MR. SCHOCK: Yep. Okay.
             MR. JACOBSON: And there is nothing that we
9
10
     would put in rate base at Montana-Dakota.
11
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. And then -- and that would
12
     flow through, you would be charged by the MISO 26?
             MR. JACOBSON: I think it's 26-A.
13
14
             MR. SCHOCK: For how many years?
15
             MR. JACOBSON: Well, until it's gone. So 40.
16
            MR. SCHOCK: 40? 40 years? Okay.
17
             I think that's all I have. I can go down other
18
     rabbit holes, but that one seemed most fun.
19
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I'll be 95 when that's
20
     done.
21
             COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: What's that?
22
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I'll be 95 years old
23
     when they quit paying for it.
24
                            (Laughter)
25
            UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll be pretty old too.
```

1 (Laughter) 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But the electrons will 3 still be flowing. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: When it's windy. 4 5 Did that cover your questions? So I don't know if this is more for staff or 6 7 what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU 8 because you're owners of the line and (indiscernible) 9 certificate, but this rate impact is going to go to Xcel 10 customers too; right? 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Uh-huh. 12 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Do you know how much that is? 13 14 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can speak to that since 15 Alex -- I spoke to Alex Nisbet. 16 As far as the allocation of cost per 17 megawatt-hour, it's exactly the same for all of the 18 companies. The difference is, as you see the difference 19 between MDU and Otter Tail's rate for residential 20 customer, theirs is going to be in that ballpark of what 21 they have -- he hasn't gotten back to me on the actual 22 thing, but it has to go through the jurisdictional 23 allocation and the -- and the -- you know, the customer -- or the class allocations to kind of get at 24 25 the customer rate, but it's going to be in the same

ballpark. So the bottom line --1 2 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: The ballpark is so 3 much different. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it -- it --4 5 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: A little over three to almost six. 6 7 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. And I've asked 8 them to expand upon -- upon that, but the point that I'd 9 make, though, is when you look at the allocation, the 10 cost per megawatt-hour is essentially the same for --11 for each company. 12 So if you think about it like a -- the way I 13 looked at it on a short basis is, if you jump through 14 all the math, is one customer uses about one 15 megawatt-hour per month and the cost was like -- for 16 Tranche 1 was like \$2.51 in 2031 per month. So you 17 think it would be 2.51, but it has to go through all the 18 allocations. So it all kind of starts from the same 19 place. So I'm still waiting to get what that exact 20 21 number will be, but they all start with the same charges 22 from -- for the same amount of energy from -- from the 23 MISO cross charges through the Transmission 26 or 24 whatever you call it. So I'm waiting to hear what that

25

number is exactly.

```
1
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And the cooperatives
2
     are also going to be paying on this.
3
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if they're on --
             MR. SCHOCK: MISO --
4
5
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: MISO co-ops.
 6
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right.
7
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which is Minco --
8
     Minnkota. No, they have their own deal, don't they?
9
     Yeah, they're not members. They got some other tariff.
10
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But an answer will get --
11
     as soon as Alex gets back to -- I'll get you that
12
     information.
13
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Is Cass -- Cass County
14
     -- no. They're SPP. All right.
15
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. Anything else?
16
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't think so.
17
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Well, we'll just say
18
     I'm going to continue a lot of discussions with staff.
19
     Like I said, the N in this whole thing is "necessity,"
20
     and I get the need -- I get the benefit that -- that
21
     comes through government to renewable developers and to
22
     anyone who really wants to meet Minnesota's policy --
23
     policy goals, but I'm not convinced of the rest quite
24
     yet, but I'll certainly be doing a lot of discussing and
25
     thinking.
```

```
MR. SCHOCK: I have one other one. I forgot
1
2
     about this from earlier.
3
             So I just want to clarify. So this line is not
     needed because of Applied Digital's load at either
4
     Ellendale or Jamestown?
5
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speaking specifically for
6
7
     Ellendale, no.
8
             UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And for Otter Tail, no,
9
     it's not needed for Applied Digital at Jamestown.
10
             MR. SCHOCK: Okay. We've got a couple of
11
     concerned landowners who had made that claim. And I was
12
     fairly certain that was the answer. I just wanted to
     confirm it. So if neither of those loads showed up, you
13
14
     would still be here requesting this same certificate.
15
     Okay.
16
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. One more time,
17
     any other questions? Staff? Commissioners?
18
             COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Unh-unh.
19
             COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. Is there any
20
     objection to the evidence produced today becoming part
21
     of the official record? And by "the evidence," I'm
22
     talking about the recording of the discussion as well as
23
     the slides.
24
             MR. ENDRIS: No, Your Honor -- or Commissioner.
25
                            (Laughter)
```

1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: MDU?
2	MS. WALDON: No objection.
3	MR. JOHNSON: No
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Staff?
5	MR. JOHNSON: objection from staff.
6	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So the evidence
7	will become part of the record upon which a decision
8	will be made.
9	Are there any other matters to come before the
10	Commission?
11	Hearing none, this informal hearing is
12	concluded. Thank you, everyone.
13	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Thanks, everybody.
14	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Thank you.
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	

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Dated this date of September 8, 2025.

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

July 8, 2024, Informal hearing ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

	ND FODEIC SEIV	1	
		1	it over to Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart who is the
	1	2	portfolio holder for any opening comments and then we'll
	STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA	3	listen to the case.
	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION	4	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. Well,
		5	thanks, everyone. I think this is going to be an
	Otter Tail Power Company/Montana-Dakota Case No. Utilities Co. 345kV Transmission Line - PU-24-91	6	interesting, like, overview and questions regarding a
	Jamestown to Ellendale Public Convenience & Necessity	7	joint filing. So it's so good to see so many people
		8	here.
		9	And because Julie is on the phone, before we
	TRANSCRIPT OF INFORMAL HEARING	10	turn it over to you guys to present, why don't we go
	July 8, 2024	11	around the room and introduce introduce everyone so
		12	
			Julie knows who's going to be presenting but who is also
		13	in the room.
		14	So I'll go to Brian.
	APPEARANCES	15	MR. JOHNSON: Brian Johnson, PSC staff.
	Commissioners Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Randy Christmann, and Julie Fedorchak	16	MR. HANSON: Chris Hanson, PSC staff.
		17	MR. FRANK: Robert Frank, Montana-Dakota.
	OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY: Robert Endris, Jason Weiers, Todd Langston,	18	MS. WALDON: Allison Waldon representing
	JoAnn Thompson, Matthew Olsen MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.:	19	Montana-Dakota.
	Allison Waldon, Robert Frank, Travis Jacobson, Darcy Neigum, Mark Hanson	20	MR. WEIERS: Jason Weiers, Otter Tail Power
	PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION:	21	Company.
	Brian Johnson, Christopher Hanson, Adam Renfandt, Victor Schock, Claire Vigesaa	22	MR. ENDRIS: Robert Endris, Otter Tail Power
		23	Company.
		24	MR. LANGSTON: Todd Langston, Otter Tail Power
		25	Company.
			PAGE 3
1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Good afternoon. This	1	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Do we want in
2	is an informal hearing on a case that is a combinational	2	the back.
3	case, Otter Tail Power and MDU, and it's a Certificate	3	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Yeah, please pass the
4	of Public Convenience and Necessity request regarding	4	mic back.
5	the Jamestown to Ellendale transmission line. It is	5	MS. THOMPSON: JoAnn Thompson, Otter Tail Power
6	Case No. PU-24-91.	6	
			Company.
7	It's August (sic) 8th, 2024, at 1:32 p.m. I'm	7	MR. OLSEN: Matt Olsen, Otter Tail Power
8	Randy Christmann, chair of the Commission, joined by	8	Company.
9	Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart here in the room with	9	MR. JACOBSON: Travis Jacobson, Montana-Dakota.
10	me and Commissioner Fedorchak is on the phone and, I	10	MR. NEIGUM: Darcy Neigum, Montana-Dakota.
11	believe, in transit.	11	MR. HANSON: Mark Hanson, Montana-Dakota.
12	I didn't have any opening comments.	12	MR. RENFANDT: Adam Renfandt, staff.
13	Commissioner Haugen-Hoffart, did	13	MR. SCHOCK: Victor Schock, PSC staff.
14	Well, Commissioner Fedorchak, did you have any	14	MR. VIGESAA: Claire Vigesaa, North Dakota
15	opening comments?	15	Transmission Authority.
	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't, no. Thank	16	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Well, thank you
16		17	everyone for the introductions.
16 17	you.		
	you. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save	18	My only question is, as you go through the
17			My only question is, as you go through the PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time
17 18	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save	18	
17 18 19	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save yours and combine.	18 19	PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time
17 18 19 20	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save yours and combine. I want to emphasize this is an informal hearing	18 19 20	PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time or do you want questions held until the end?
17 18 19 20 21	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save yours and combine. I want to emphasize this is an informal hearing so it involves only undisputed facts. If there are any if anything comes up that is disputed, we will have	18 19 20 21	PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time or do you want questions held until the end? MR. WEIERS: Please interrupt with questions along the way.
17 18 19 20 21 22 23	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save yours and combine. I want to emphasize this is an informal hearing so it involves only undisputed facts. If there are any if anything comes up that is disputed, we will have to stop the informal and proceed to scheduling a formal	18 19 20 21 22 23	PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time or do you want questions held until the end? MR. WEIERS: Please interrupt with questions along the way. COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay. So we will
17 18 19 20 21 22	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So I'll save yours and combine. I want to emphasize this is an informal hearing so it involves only undisputed facts. If there are any if anything comes up that is disputed, we will have	18 19 20 21 22	PowerPoint, do you want us to ask questions at that time or do you want questions held until the end? MR. WEIERS: Please interrupt with questions along the way.

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

July 8, 2024, Informal hearing ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

1 MR. ENDRIS: Thank you, Commissioner. Robert 2 Endris appearing to helder of Other Tail Power Company. 3 Today Jason Wieres will be our mean presenter 4 and main responder to questions, but, of course, we have 5 the full Other Tail and MUL compliment here to help with 6 answers. 7 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN HOFFART: Okay. 8 MR. WEIGRS: All right. Well, good aftermon, 9 everytodry and thanks again for the apportunity to be 10 here today to talk about Otter Tail and Montane-Dakota's 11 joint petition for a Certificate of Public Commenters 12 and Necosity for the Jamesbout to Ellendale 345 kV 13 project. 14 Today's presentation is going to start with a 15 brief overview of the Applicants. Well then cover the 16 project. We will then explain how the project, shereffs 17 of the project, and the alternatives considered to the 18 project. We will then explain how the project fits into 18 project. We will then explain how the project fits into 19 millos Stang Finager Transmission Rian and why it was 20 classified as a Multi-Value Project. Well mext review of the 20 CPCN requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and 21 our conclusions that support granting a Certificate of 22 Public Commence and Necessity for the 2Th synthesis of transmission and about 20 millos and the support granting a Certificate of 24 Public Commence and Necessity for the 2Th synthesis of transmission and about 1,100 magawatts of 25 generation while Montane-Dakota builtin as 26 extensive network of transmission and about 1,100 magawatts of 27 generation while Montane-Dakota builtin as 28 extensive network of transmission and about 1,100 magawatts of 29 generation while Montane-Dakota have been 29 previous or transmission and about 1,100 magawatts of 29 generation while Montane-Dakota have been 29 previous or transmission and about 1,100 magawatts of 20 generation or the more of the project. Well in the Spids, that 20 generation while Montane-Dakota history, voy under the project. This is flooted north of Fargo. 21 Jadon Tiles Bostone Plant in the 199				
Today Jason Weiers will be our main presenter the full Otter Tail and MDU compliment here to the plot with and main responder to questions, but, of course, we have the full otter Tail and mount compliment here to the plot with answers. COMMISSIONER HAUGEN HOFFART: Okay. MR, WEIERS: All right. Weil, good afternoon, everybody and thanks again for the opportunity to be the ret today to talk about Otter Tail and Montane-Dekota's project. It is project, discounted to the project, significant with a project, discounter of the Applicants. We'll then cover the project description, the need for the project, benefits of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and wrap up with a review of the discountered and wrap up with a review of the project, discountered and	1	MR. ENDRIS: Thank you, Commissioner. Robert	1	and operate the Jamestown to Ellendale project.
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6 answers. 7 COMMISSIONER HAUGEN+HOFFART: Okay. 8 MR. WEIRRS: All right. Well, good aftermon, 9 everybody and thanks again for the opportunity to be 10 here today to talk about Cter Tail and Montana-Dokota's 11 joint petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience 12 and Necessity for the Jamestrown to Ellendale 345 kV 13 project. 14 Today's presentation is going to start with a 15 brief overwiew of the Applicants. We'll then over the 16 project description, the need for the project, benefits 17 of the project, and the alternatives considered to the 18 project. We will then explain how the project fits into 19 MISO's Long-Range Transmission Plan and withy it was 10 classified as Multi-Value Poject. We'll next review 11 the project schedule and wrap up with a review of the 12 are are Otter Tail and whortana-Dakota to the IET'x project. 12 case are Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota to will be a perinal project. 14 As you look back on Otter Tail and 15 Montana-Dakota blistics. Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota blistics own as accurative project. Well next membrane and Necessity for the IET'x project. 12 College of College and Weight of College and Schedule and was pure with a review of the 19 Montana-Dakota have been 10 facilities, and currently Otter Tail owns about 10 facilities, and currently Otter Tail owns about 11 generation while Mintana-Dakota blisties owns about 12 and Montana-Dakota blisties owns about 13 and Montana-Dakota blisties owns about 14 accommodate the new 345 kM line termination as well as 15 accommodate the new 345 kM line termination as well as 16 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 17 of the project, and the alternatives considered to the 18 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 19 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 19 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 20 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 21 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 22 substation is currently owned and will continue to be 23 su	4	and main responder to questions, but, of course, we have	4	distinct facilities are shown here on the slide.
mr. WEIRST. All right. Well, good aftermoon, everybody and thanks again for the opportunity to be between 85 and 95 miles in length and traverse the counter of Stutsman County, Lañoure County, and Dickey everybody and thanks again for the opportunity to be counter of Stutsman County, Lañoure County, and Dickey out to kill shout Otter Tail and Montane-Dakota's joint petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience 11 joint petition for a Certificate of Public Convenience 12 and Necessity for the Jamestown to Eliendale 345 kV 12 jamestown Substation expansion. This is needed to accommodate the new 345 kV line termination as well as a more of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, description, the need for the project, benefits of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, well then explain how the project fits into of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, well then explain how the project fits into of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, well then explain how the project fits into of the project, and the alternatives considered to the project, well next review 13 project. We will then explain how the project fits into of the project, schedule and wrap up with a review of the 14 project schedule and wrap up with a review of the 15 project. So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this 20 CPCON requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and 23 our conclusions that support granting a Certificate of 24 Public Convenience and Necessity for the JETx project. 25 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this 20 CPCON requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and 14 As you look back on Otter Tail and Montane-Dakota will co-own 15 project. Well then cover 15 project. 15 project. 15 project. 25 you look back on Otter Tail and 16 project. 16 project will 16 project. 16 project will 16 project. 16 project will 16 project. 17 project. 17 project. 18 project project will 16 project. 18 project project will 16 project. 18 project pr	5	the full Otter Tail and MDU compliment here to help with	5	The first facility is the new 345 kV double
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20 classified as a Multi-Value Project. We'll next review the project schedule and wrap up with a review of the 22 CPCN requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and 23 our conclusions that support granting a Certificate of 24 Public Convenience and Necessity for the JETx project. 25 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 7 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 So and to Editation PAGE 5 So Substation Introduced	18	project. We will then explain how the project fits into	18	Substation is currently owned and will continue to be
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22 CPN requirements in the North Dakota Century Code and 23 our conclusions that support granting a Certificate of 24 Public Convenience and Necessity for the JETx project. 25 So as mentioned earlier, the Applicants in this PAGE 5 1 case are Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota 2 Utilities. Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota will co-own 3 the Jamestown to Ellendale project. 4 As you look back on Otter Tail and 4 Dakota just west of Big Stone. And we'll be expanding 5 this substation is corrently solely 7 owned by Otter Tail and 4 Dakota just west of Big Stone. And we'll be expanding 5 this substation is currently solely 6 world by Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota will co-own 1 Station. And most partners for many, many years, 16 dating back to the 1970s when we first partnered in 5 big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV transmission project between 2011 and 2019. These past successes on these 22 previous projects, along with our articles of incorporation and our continued certificates of good 1 state was refit, willing, and able to construct, own, 1 Station. And most recently we partnered in 5 incorporation and our continued certificates of good 1 state was refit, willing, and able to construct, own, 1 Substation. This substation is in exeded there, as approved by MISO 2 to accommodate the replacement of two existing 345/230 2th accommodate the replacement of two existing 345/230 2to accommodate the replacement of two accommodate the replacement of two accommodate t	20	classified as a Multi-Value Project. We'll next review	20	In addition to those core project components,
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	TID I ODLIO OLIV		
1	is there, like, a primary contact, secondary contact? I	1	been completed by MISO.
2	mean, how does that work as far as doing the expansion	2	And I did get this real handy-dandy laser
3	work, recovery, whatever?	3	pointer so I could actually show that on the map if I $$
4	MR. WEIERS: Very good question, Commissioner.	4	had been thinking ahead of time, but I can I can
5	We do have a series of agreements that we have	5	certainly show it now.
6	executed and are continuing to work on that will	6	So the Big Stone South to Ellendale project is
7	actually designate the lead responder in the case of a	7	this gray line through this part of the system here.
8	maintenance need. So those arrangements will be	8	And then the existing 230 kV system is here from
9	memorialized and documented as part of the ownership	9	Ellendale heading east to Forman or to Hankinson and
10	arrangements between Otter Tail and MDU.	10	then up to Wahpeton.
11	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.	11	So as I was mentioning earlier, in today's
12	MR. WEIERS: Yep.	12	system a loss of the Big Stone South to Ellendale 345 kV
13	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So from the onset	13	line forces the generation coming from North Dakota to
14	of doing the expansion work all the way through on	14	have to go down the 230 kV system which is constrained
15	maintaining it?	15	today. As we look at the future condition of the system
16	MR. WEIERS: Correct, yep.	16	and the addition of Jamestown to Ellendale, an outage of
17	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.	17	Big Stone South to Ellendale will now allow for an
18	MR. WEIERS: Yep.	18	alternative transmission path for the generation to flow
19	Just continuing down this slide here, the	19	from Ellendale up to Jamestown where it will then be
20	average structure heighth is expected to be 150 feet	20	able to jump onto the 345 kV line from Jamestown towards
21	tall and the structures will be installed on concrete	21	Fargo and make its way to the rest of the region.
22	foundations with between four to six structures per	22	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I just want to repeat
23	mile.	23	that back
24	The estimated cost for the overall project is	24	MR. WEIERS: Okay.
25	\$440 million as we've included in our application.	25	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: to make sure I
	PAGE 9		PAGE 11
1	The need for the project is driven by	1	understand what we're trying to fix. It's the worry
2	The need for the project is driven by reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV	2	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down
2	i i	2	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down MR. WEIERS: Yep.
2 3 4	reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota.	2 3 4	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down MR. WEIERS: Yep. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: forcing everything
2 3 4 5	reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota. I've included a graphic here that shows the	2 3 4 5	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down MR. WEIERS: Yep. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: forcing everything to go from Ellendale to Hankinson?
2 3 4 5 6	reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota. I've included a graphic here that shows the existing transmission facilities in this part of the	2 3 4 5 6	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down MR. WEIERS: Yep. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: forcing everything to go from Ellendale to Hankinson? MR. WEIERS: On the existing 230 kV system,
2 3 4 5 6 7	reliability concerns that are existing on the 230 kV system in southeastern North Dakota, eastern South Dakota, and west-central Minnesota. I've included a graphic here that shows the existing transmission facilities in this part of the region.	2 3 4 5 6 7	that the Ellendale to Big Stone goes down MR. WEIERS: Yep. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: forcing everything to go from Ellendale to Hankinson? MR. WEIERS: On the existing 230 kV system, correct.
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1	talking, you said the energy produced in North Dakota	1	And when you think about a 345 kV line of this
2	that's flowing down to Ellendale.	2	magnitude, we're talking about load additions that are
3	MR. WEIERS: Yep.	3	possible in the magnitude of what we've already seen
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so which is the	4	happening out in this area. As folks are aware, Applied
5	predominant	5	Digital has added some load at Jamestown and Ellendale.
6	MR. WEIERS: That's a great question,	6	A project like this is going to help serve that load and
7	Commissioner.	7	also result in the ability to add more larger-scale
8	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: of energy that	8	loads like that, not only at the end points but also
9	we're dealing with here?	9	anywhere along the line through the course of a future
10	MR. WEIERS: Yep, great question, Commissioner	10	interconnection.
11	Christmann.	11	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I just got to go back
12	Most times during the course of the year as you	12	to what I was talking about before with the Ellendale to
13	look at the generation patterns on the system, there is	13	Big Stone flow. So really this is more about Ellendale
14	a predominant flow of energy in this region from west to	14	to Jamestown than it is Jamestown to Ellendale.
15	east. So we are seeing flows from Ellendale to Big	15	MR. WEIERS: Yeah.
16	Stone South most of the year. And this is especially	16	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But we need the vowel
17	predominant when we have the off off-peak or	17	in the middle for the really cool acronym; right?
18	light-load conditions, where we have high generation and	18	(Laughter)
19	low load, we see the bias of flow in the system from	19	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But the flow will
20	west to east, most of the time from Ellendale to Big	20	generally be when it's needed going north?
21	Stone South.	21	MR. WEIERS: That's my that's my
22	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And so when we always	22	understanding. As you look at the system as an
23	refer to it out of habit as Big Stone to Ellendale, it's	23	integrated system, interconnected on all those different
24	really more the other way around?	24	places, really the Jamestown to Ellendale line will
25	MR. WEIERS: Yeah. And the line can flow either	25	provide relief on that existing 230 system for an outage
	PAGE 13		PAGE 15
1	way as an AC transmission line but, generally speaking,	1	of the Big Stone South to Ellendale line.
1 2	way as an AC transmission line but, generally speaking, the historical flows have been from Ellendale to Big	1 2	of the Big Stone South to Ellendale line. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.
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		1	
1	fuel.	1	leverage some of the local skilled laborers for
2	As we look at adding the Jamestown to Ellendale	2	performing some of this work.
3	project, we'll now have a third source into the	3	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Regarding the
4	Jamestown load pocket and this will help reliably	4	landowner payments, have you started easement
5	support that load in the event that we lose both of	5	acquisition yet and how enthusiastic have the landowners
6	those 345 kV lines into Jamestown again. So tremendous	6	been to have that opportunity?
7	reliability benefits for the Jamestown area.	7	MR. WEIERS: We have started land acquisition
8	As we look at the southern end of this project	8	efforts. Last August we started asking for survey
9	at Ellendale, there's also going to be benefits to that	9	permission along a proposed route, and then in February
10	area as we think about the current line from Big Stone	10	of this year we started asking for options to get
11	South to Ellendale really ends at Ellendale as a 345 kV	11	easements on property.
12	line. Connecting Jamestown down to Ellendale will now	12	Through the course of this interaction, we've
13	create a looped 345 kV system and help address some of	13	actually been taking landowner feedback in the form of
14	those voltage stability concerns that are present today	14	suggested revisions to our route, and at this point in
15	at Ellendale.	15	time we've looked at over 30 different reroutes for the
16	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What are the two 345	16	line. And negotiations with landowners continue to go
17	lines that are currently going into Jamestown?	17	well. As of last week, we reached about a 33 percent
18	MR. WEIERS: There's two lines today. One comes	18	volunteer easement status. And we're continuing to work
19	from Center and goes over to Jamestown and then it	19	on that and will continue to work on that throughout the
20	continues east to Buffalo, North Dakota, and then	20	development phase of the project.
21	ultimately over to Bison Substation and then Maple	21	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: You said you've
22	River, which is just outside of Fargo.	22	looked at I don't remember how many reroutes. Have
23	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.	23	you rerouted it or are you looking at it? I'm just
24	MR. WEIERS: Yep. All right.	24	curious on that.
25	Going down the benefits here, the next benefit	25	MR. WEIERS: So over the course of landowner
	PAGE 17		PAGE 19
1	is support to local landowners. As we think about	1	discussions, oftentimes we hear alternative ideas on
2	boosting the local economy, Otter Tail and	2	where to reroute the transmission line. So to date I
2 3	boosting the local economy, Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities estimate that we'll be paying	2	where to reroute the transmission line. So to date I would say that we've experienced or we've processed
2 3 4	boosting the local economy, Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities estimate that we'll be paying over \$10 million to local landowners in this area as a	2 3 4	where to reroute the transmission line. So to date I would say that we've experienced or we've processed over 30 different reroute requests from landowners.
2 3 4 5	boosting the local economy, Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities estimate that we'll be paying over \$10 million to local landowners in this area as a result of the easement payments that we'll be paying for	2 3 4 5	where to reroute the transmission line. So to date I would say that we've experienced or we've processed over 30 different reroute requests from landowners. (Commissioner Fedorchak enters room.)
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		1	
1	about 33 percent of the easements that we need for the	1	excessive loadings.
2	line so far.	2	Along with excessive loadings comes depressed
3	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I have a question about	3	voltages. What you'll see on these transmission
4	the voltage and the voltage violations that you talked	4	facilities is the higher you load them, the lower the
5	about a little bit ago. Could you give me those numbers	5	voltages will be on the system. So, generally speaking,
6	again, Jason, and then kind of explain, give us some	6	we're going to see excessive loadings and depressed
7	examples of what's happening there? I think you called	7	voltages accompany one another in these same areas, and
8	it loading and voltage violation?	8	that's exactly what's happening here. As this 230 kV
9	MR. WEIERS: Yep. Sure. Commissioner	9	system is loading up to its maximum rating, the voltages
10	Fedorchak, if you don't mind, I'll maybe go back to this	10	are dipping to a point where it's violating the criteria
11	previous slide	11	set by the owner and we need to do something to fix
12	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Sure.	12	those issues.
13	MR. WEIERS: so I can use the map to explain	13	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So when it's when
14	this in a little more detail.	14	the demand is lower than the generation, which you said
15	So each transmission facility has a rating	15	is one of the drivers, is there demand out of the state
16	associated with it, and that rating is set by the owner	16	that wants that power? Or what's stopping it from just
17	to avoid any damage to the facility and to avoid any	17	being curtailed and how will that I guess if there's
18	safety concerns. And as you think about excessive	18	a demand, how will more transmission help if there's no
19	loadings on the transmission system, this is a condition	19	demand, or maybe the demand is just out, someplace else?
20	where the loading on the facility has exceeded the safe	20	So explain that.
21	operating limit of the line. So in those situations,	21	MR. WEIERS: Sure. This would all be basically
22	the market may have to redispatch to avoid that overload	22	determined through MISO's dispatch in the energy market.
23	issue or may have to pursue underlying upgrades to fix	23	And to the extent that there is demand outside of the
24	those loading issues.	24	state, the MISO Market Dispatch would try to get that
25	And on the map again, just to illustrate this,	25	generation out of North Dakota and to those neighboring
	PAGE 21		PAGE 23
1	it's this 230 kV path from Ellendale to Forman to	1	states as long as we had sufficient transmission
2	Hankinson up to Wahpeton that's experiencing some	2	capacity available to export that generation. To the
3	excessive loadings and then also from Hankinson as we	3	extent that that transmission capacity is constrained,
4	head down towards Big Stone. You'll see this is a	4	then they'd have to curtail generation so that it would
5	the system that's exporting this generation from North	5	be bottled up within North Dakota.
6	Dakota to the neighboring states.	6	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So is what's happening
7	So as we look at the addition of the Jamestown	7	now is there's this constraint so it can't get out,
8	to Ellendale 345 kV project, we have found that the	8	there's demand outside but it's constrained or I'm a
9	additional line will relieve excessive loadings on 70	9	little confused by your comment that one of the cause of
10	different transmission elements during this contingency	10	the voltage violations is it occurs at a time when
11	analysis performed for that future condition.	11	there's low demand and excessive generation.
12	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: And is that, like, how	12	MR. WEIERS: Yep. Yeah. And that's a situation
13	often? Is it a constant thing or, like, how often are	13	where the flow on the transmission system is at its
14	these excessive loadings happening?	14	maximum rating so that that we can't get any more
15	MR. WEIERS: I don't have an exact count of how	15	generation out of out of the state in those
16	many hours per year, but, generally speaking, these are	16	situations.
17	typically times of the year when we're seeing a large	17	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: But it's wanted outside
18	amount of generation and lower amounts of load so we	18	of the state. Somebody wants it. It just can't get
19	have higher flows throughout the system. We also see	19	there.
20	some of these same challenges during winter peak	20	MR. WEIERS: Correct.
21	conditions when the load in this area is higher than it	21	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.
22	is in the summer.	22	MR. WEIERS: Yep.
23	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.	23	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So the demand just
24	MR. WEIERS: And if I may, Commissioner	24	isn't local.
25	Fedorchak, just one other quick comment on these	25	MR. WEIERS: Correct.
	PAGE 22	2.24	PAGE 24

1 COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAKC (Sort. All right. 2 That makes more sense now. The make you. 3 COMMISSIONER CHISTMANN: But what about when 4 it's not wanted? Then by doing this, me've just added 5 more generation into the mix that has to curtail; 6 correct? 7 MR. WEIERS: Can you repeat that, please? 8 COMMISSIONER CHISTMANN: Ciday. You seem to be a alluding to times when the empty is needed somewhere 10 and this would open more avenues to get it there. But what about the imms in the middle of the night and the videous properties of the properties of th		14D 1 ODEIO GERAV		
2 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: But what about when the first outwerted? Then by doing this, we've just added more operated into the mix that has to actual; correct? MR. WEIERS: Can you repeat that, please? COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okey. You seem to be alluding to times when the enemy is needed somewhere and of the would pen more avenues to get it there. But not about the times when the enemy is needed somewhere and with about the times in the middle of the night and the nice spring and auturn eventings when it's needed anywhere and we're curtailing and curtailing? If you're inpit that this will add apportunities for more progress to be partneyther. You consider Transhe 2.1 and when we're planning when it's needed anywhere and we're curtailing and curtailing? If you're inpit that this will add apportunities for more progress to the first will add apportunity before proceeding. MR. WEIERS: It's possible that could be a shauld be suitable population in North Dakota, doesn't it just mean more generation developers would be doing their homework before they would be submiss opertunity before proceeding. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I'- I agree with they into the proceeding. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I'- I agree with they into the market price as they enter the market price as they enter the market and MISO chooses which resources to dispatch. The the curtailing. The curtailing. MR. WEIERS: Yeah. And that comes down to how they shall be a table that shows all of the various combination alternatives to the remarket price as they enter the market price as they enter to the market price as they enter the market was a particular side has a table that shows all of the various combination alternatives to the profit to few face and the price of the price to the market was a particular side has a table that shows a	1	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Got it. All right.	1	different tranches of transmission projects.
4 It's not wanted? Then by doing this, we've just added for more generation into the mix that has to curtal; 5 then Tranche 4 all look at focusing on intraregional programs of the south subregion. 7 MR. WEIERS: Can you repeat that, please? 8 COMMISSIONER CHISTMANN: Okay, You seem to be alluding to times when the energy is needed semewhere all of this work out one more avenues to get it chere. But what about the times in the middle of the night and the incise pring and auturn evenings when it's not needed any anywhere and were curtaling and cutraling? If you're right that this will add papertunities for media of generation facilities that need to curtail and lose generation facilities that need to curtail and lose would be doing their homework before they would be all shabon, but I'm assuming most generation developers would be doing their homework before they would be all interconnecting with the gift to make sure that they are a visible business opportunity before proceeding. 21 MR. WEIERS: It's possible that could be a line transplant of the report of the results of the various combination alternatives to a determine if any feasible alternative was out there that a more effectively addressed the reliability concurres that were explained in the project to not only the region but also this local area. 11 North Diskota, north-residen South Diskota, and west explained in the project to not only the region but also this local area. 12 The Jamestown to Ellendale project was clarify and the project to not only the region but also this local area. 13 The Jamestown to Ellendale project to not only the region but also this local area. 14 The Jamestown to Ellendale project to not only the region but also this local area. 15 Commission planning effort started back in 2020 and is planning to be troken into four different phases or four the project to n	2	That makes more sense now. Thank you.	2	As shown on the slide here, Tranches 1 and 2 are
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6 projects to help strengthen the connections between the Midwest subrogion and the South subrogion an	4	it's not wanted? Then by doing this, we've just added	4	will then turn its focus to MISO's South region, and
7	5	more generation into the mix that has to curtail;	5	then Tranche 4 will look at focusing on intraregional
8 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. You seem to be 3 alluding to times when the energy is needed somewhere and what about the times in the middle of the night and the 11 what about the times in the middle of the night and the 12 nice spring and autumn evenings when it's not needed 12 nice spring and autumn evenings when it's not needed 13 anywhere and we're cutriding and curtailing? If you're 14 right that this will add opportunities for more 14 generation in North Dekkra, deem't it, just mean more 15 generation in North Dekkra, deem't it, just mean more 16 generation in North Dekkra, deem't it, just mean more 16 generation in North Dekkra, deem't it, just mean more 17 maney? 17 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: 50 do you mean there's 18 a fifth one that's not mentioned here - 18 interconnecting with the grid to make sure that they would be 20 interconnecting with the grid to make sure that they 21 interconnecting with the grid to make sure that they 22 have a vable business opportunity before proceeding. 22 interconnecting with the grid to make sure that they 21 that, the developers do, because they get subsidized. 25 its the existing ones that are lieft henging out to do 25 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: 1 - I agree with 24 that, the developers do, because they get subsidized. 25 its the existing ones that are lieft henging out to do 26 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: 50 you mentioned this one being \$440 million. What was the total price tag of 22 COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: - or you mean 2.1 and 25 commissioners (PRISTMANN: 1 - I agree with 24 that, the developers do, because they get subsidized. 24 million. What was the total price tag of 22 commissioners CHRISTMANN: - or you mean 2.1 and 25 commissioners controlled this one being \$440 million. Nor. This project being \$440 million. What was the total price tag of 2 commissioners (PRISTMANN: - or you mentioned this one being \$440 million. What was the total price tag of 2 commissioners (PRISTMANN: - or you mentioned this one being \$440 million. What was the total price tag of 2 commiss	6	correct?	6	projects to help strengthen the connections between the
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1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So 2.1 you said is	1	Tranche 1 Portfolio were approved as Multi-Value
2	about 30?	2	Projects, or MVPs, under MISO's tariff.
3	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Uh-huh.	3	So under MISO's tariff, a transmission project
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And 2.2?	4	can be approved as an MVP if it meets one of three
5	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: They haven't really	5	criteria: It needs to address a reliability issue
6	said. And I don't know, what did is Tranche 3's at	6	that's in violation of a NERC reliability standard; it
7	all price tag range?	7	needs to provide economic value across a broad area with
8	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just a range (inaudible).	8	a benefit-to-cost ratio of 1.0 or higher; or it needs to
9	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Yeah.	9	support the reliable and economic delivery of energy.
10	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay.	10	Because the benefits of the Tranche 1 Portfolio
11	MR. WEIERS: Okay. Moving on to slide 9, again	11	are spread broadly across the entire Midwest subregion,
12	refocusing our discussion here on Tranche 1, MISO did	12	the cost of the Tranche 1 Portfolio is shared on a pro
13	take about two and a half years to perform the studies	13	rata basis to all loads in that Midwest subregion based
14	to support the Tranche 1 Portfolio through the course of	14	on energy usage. So what this means for Otter Tail's
15	several different stakeholder meetings and workshops.	15	North Dakota customers is that they'll be paying for
16	And as a result of all that study work, they did approve	16	.61 percent of the projects and Montana-Dakota's North
17	18 new transmission projects in July of 2022, and they	17	Dakota customers will be paying for about four
18	call that the Tranche 1 Portfolio.	18	0.47 percent of the projects.
19	As you'll notice on the map here, the Jamestown	19	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: So does the southern
20	to Ellendale project is project number 1 on the map.	20	region pay anything for these?
21	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: I was just	21	MR. WEIERS: In this case, the benefits were
22	curious, how did you prioritize the difference between	22	limited to just the Midwest subregion. So that's the
23	Tranche 1 to Tranche 4? What were the key components on	23	only load area that (indiscernible) allocated costs from
24	that? I mean	24	the Tranche 1 Portfolio.
25	MR. WEIERS: Yeah.	25	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And based on a couple
	PAGE 29		PAGE 31
	COMMICCIONED HALICEN HOFFART, porth vorcus	4	alidas and Turnales 2 will be installed as a consiste
1	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: north versus	1	slides ago, Tranche 3 will be just about the opposite.
2	south?	2	MR. WEIERS: Based on the focus for Tranche 3,
	south? MR. WEIERS: Sure. Thanks, Commissioner, for		MR. WEIERS: Based on the focus for Tranche 3, we expect that the cost allocation would be limited to
2 3 4	south? MR. WEIERS: Sure. Thanks, Commissioner, for the question.	2 3 4	MR. WEIERS: Based on the focus for Tranche 3,
2 3 4 5	south? MR. WEIERS: Sure. Thanks, Commissioner, for the question. The actual prioritization of looking at which	2	MR. WEIERS: Based on the focus for Tranche 3, we expect that the cost allocation would be limited to the MISO South subregion. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: What about that big
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1	of 2025. And some of those pre-construction activities	1	that you mentioned in your discussion about benefits
2	would include tree clearing. We'd be working on laydown	2	including, like, landowner payments and tax tax
3	yards and getting road improvements ready to start	3	revenue, etcetera, those aren't part of the MISO
4	construction in the spring of 2026.	4	business case, are they?
5	We'd start first, of course, with foundation	5	MR. WEIERS: They are not actually
6	drilling, and then that would be followed up with	6	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.
7	setting structures, and then finally stringing	7	MR. WEIERS: part of the MISO business case.
8	conductor.	8	I will mention to the commissioners here today
9	And as the current schedule stands, we would	9	that Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota have commissioned a
10	have two to two and a half years construction and wrap	10	study with North Dakota State University to help better
11	the project up and have it in service by the end	11	quantify the benefits of the project to the local area,
12	of 2028.	12	and we do include we do plan to include that study as
13	All right. We have reviewed Chapter 49-03 of	13	part of our upcoming combined Certificate of Corridor
14	the North Dakota Century Code and believe that we are in	14	Compatibility and Route Permit Application. So the
15	compliance with the requirements needed to obtain a	15	Commission will get a chance to see that coming up as we
16	Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. As you	16	finalize that and better quantify those local benefits.
17	review our application, you'll note that the Jamestown	17	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Who's doing that
18	to Ellendale project will not interfere with the service	18	study?
19	provided by any of the other utilities in the area.	19	MR. WEIERS: We've commissioned North Dakota
20	Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota have articles of	20	State University, NDSU.
21	incorporation on file with the Commission. And Otter	21	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: You mentioned that this
22	Tail and MDU are committed to obtain all the applicable	22	will accommodate 4,500 megawatts of new generation. Do
23	permits from federal, state, and local authorities prior	23	you know where MISO got that figure? Or did you guys
24	to starting construction.	24	give that to them? Where's that come from? And is that
25	So, in conclusion, we believe that public	25	generation in the queue? You know, how do we do we
	PAGE 33		PAGE 35
1	convenience and necessity will be served by Otter Tail	1	have confidence that that's actually probably going to
2	and MDU's construction, ownership, and operation of the	2	materialize?
3	project because of the reliability and economic benefits	3	MR. WEIERS: The 4,500 megawatts was determined
4	provided to customers. The project is part of the	4	through MISO's stakeholder process when they built the
5	MISO's long-range plan and was approved as part of their	5	futures to analyze as part of the other TP study. And
6	2021 Transmission Expansion Plan because of the	6	it's my understanding that the 4,500-megawatt assumption
7	reliability and economic benefits that it enables as	7	of generation in North Dakota was based on a variety of
8	part of the overall Tranche 1 Portfolio.	8	inputs including stakeholder input from utility
9	And Otter Tail and MDU are fit, willing, and	9	integrative resource plans. If there was an announced
10	able to construct, own, and operate the Jamestown to	10	project, they made sure they included that in their
11	Ellendale project as proven by their articles of	11	assumptions. And then they also did look at the queue
12	incorporation, their certificates of good standing, and	12	and they tried to determine where there's been recent
13	their success in past projects.	13	activity and used some of those locations as well for
14	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Jason, did you was	14	the future generation siting assumptions.
15	this project a standalone on the cost-benefit analysis	15	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.
16	or did it I forget how it works. Was it all the MVPs	16	And then you probably covered this and I missed
17	were done together?	17	it, but the O&M for this line, how is that handled in
		18	terms of covering the cost?
18	MR. WEIERS: That's the latter is correct,		MD WEIEDG, Voob Tho the OSM costs for the
19	Commissioner Fedorchak. All MVPs were done together.	19	MR. WEIERS: Yeah. The the O&M costs for the
19 20	Commissioner Fedorchak. All MVPs were done together. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. Have you guys	20	MVP projects are recovered as part of the overall MISO
19 20 21	Commissioner Fedorchak. All MVPs were done together. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. Have you guys done a cost-benefit of just this project?	20 21	MVP projects are recovered as part of the overall MISO tariff.
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19 20 21 22 23	Commissioner Fedorchak. All MVPs were done together. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. Have you guys done a cost-benefit of just this project? MR. WEIERS: We have not. In fact, Otter Tail doesn't have the necessary software to perform that	20 21 22 23	MVP projects are recovered as part of the overall MISO tariff. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. MR. WEIERS: So we will calculate O&M charges

1	attachments in MISO.	1	Jamestown to Ellendale project, Otter Tail residential
2	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay. So is it safe	2	customers are going to see a rate impact of 18 cents per
3	to, kind of just in a simple manner, assume that this is	3	month, MDU customers will see an impact of 12 cents per
4	a decently-size investment in both your systems that	4	month for just the Jamestown to Ellendale project.
5	you'll pay only a fraction of the cost for it?	5	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Doesn't really
6	MR. WEIERS: Yeah, that's correct, Commissioner	6	MR. WEIERS: Yeah.
7	Fedorchak. The calculations that have been performed by	7	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Doesn't really
8	Otter Tail and Montana-Dakota Utilities indicate that	8	interest me because we're talking about a package deal.
9	North Dakota customers will be paying, roughly,	9	MR. WEIERS: So I have those numbers handy here
10	.61 percent I'm sorry, let me back up a minute there.	10	as well.
11	Otter Tail's North Dakota customers will be paying	11	As you look at Otter Tail's impact for North
12	.61 percent of this project cost and Montana-Dakota	12	Dakota customers from the full Tranche 1 Portfolio,
13	customers in North Dakota will be paying 0.47 percent of	13	again, an average residential customer for Otter Tail
14	the overall project cost.	14	using a thousand KW-hours per month, the rate impact is
15	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Okay.	15	estimated to be \$5.85 per month.
16	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: But what's the	16	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Montana-Dakota's
17	impact to the maintenance of it? How does that affect	17	additional cost for the entire Tranche 1 would be about
18	the you know, the ongoing costs? Because you have	18	\$3.15 a month.
19	maintain a hundred percent ownership on one and joint,	19	MR. HANSON: Would it be safe to say that if
20	but that's got to be some ongoing costs and which	20	you're considering that's about, roughly, \$10 billion,
21	repairs will pay for.	21	we're talking another 30 to 40 billion. So if you take
22	MR. WEIERS: The MVP costs for O&M are treated	22	that number times four and add to that, I mean, you get
23	the very same way they are for the investment needed to	23	an idea of what the cost of Tranche 1, Tranche 2 would
24	get the projects constructed. So if it's a capital cost	24	be. So it would be somewhere in the mid-30s per month
25	upfront for part of the construction costs or an O&M	25	probably per customer once Tranche 2 and 3 are through?
	PAGE 37	<u> </u>	PAGE 39
1	cost after the project goes in service, those costs are	1	Is that fair to say?
2	allocated similarly across the MISO Midwest subregion.	2	MR. WEIERS: From a rate impact perspective, I
3	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.	3	think that's a fair statement. I just don't want people
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: I want to go back to	4	to lose sight of the benefits that these projects also
5	that allocation. It's one thing to talk about that on	5	
	-		offer to the local area and the region in general.
6	\$440 million. And it was wonderful because we're only	6	So, yeah, if you look at it just purely on a
6 7	\$440 million. And it was wonderful because we're only paying this small part of the costs of this. But this	6 7	So, yeah, if you look at it just purely on a rate impact basis, that's a reasonable assumption,
6 7 8	\$440 million. And it was wonderful because we're only paying this small part of the costs of this. But this is the thing with socialization. In agreeing to that,	6 7 8	So, yeah, if you look at it just purely on a rate impact basis, that's a reasonable assumption, Chris, but we also need to look at the full package and
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1	companies.	1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And was that always an
2	And I'll just add this to the question because	2	issue on maintenance or is that just since the addition
3	I'd like both companies' responses. I sort of get Otter	3	of the data processing center at Jamestown?
4	Tail's because I understand the push from Minnesota to	4	MR. WEIERS: It certainly has gotten more
5	stop using the Coyote Plant power and have all renewal,	5	challenging as we've experienced load growth in the
6	renewable. I don't really see the pressure on MDU.	6	area. Even before the addition of the Applied Digital
7	MR. WEIERS: Thanks, Commissioner Christmann.	7	load, we did see some of the residential loads and
8	If I could maybe start from Otter Tail's	8	commercial loads around the Jamestown loop increase over
9	perspective and then I'll hand it over to MDU to respond	9	time.
10	on their behalf.	10	As you think about the Spiritwood Energy Park,
11	As you look at the Jamestown to Ellendale	11	there's a lot of activity going on there with the
12	project, one of the huge benefits for Otter Tail, as I	12	soybean facility going on. We have Aviko Cavendish, a
13	mentioned earlier, is the benefits that we're going to	13	lot of those commercial customers in that area.
14	see in the local Jamestown area. As you think about the	14	And at some point we have reached a load level
15	current load pocket and the existing sources into that	15	where the local peaking generation can no longer
16	load pocket, we were in a very difficult position last	16	reliably serve all of that load during certain times of
17	Christmas with the ice storm that took down both 345 kV	17	the year. So it's become even more important now to
18	lines that serve Jamestown. As a result, we had to run	18	have that third delivery into Jamestown to help serve
19	that diesel peaking generation for almost one and a half	19	that area when we have an outage to the existing
20	days that consumed nearly 90,000 gallons of diesel fuel.	20	facilities.
21	If we add this new source from Ellendale up to	21	MR. SCHOCK: When both of those 345 lines went
22	Jamestown, this additional 345 delivery will result in a	22	down coming into Jamestown, where did they fail at? Was
23	very much more or a much more resilient and robust	23	it in that local area or was it somewhere else?
24	transmission system that can serve that Jamestown load	24	MR. WEIERS: I don't know the exact answer to
25	pocket, which, by the way, is Otter Tail's largest	25	that. It was outside of the Jamestown Substation.
	PAGE 41		PAGE 43
1	community as you think about our service territory	1	Actually, Todd, do you have any
2	across our entire 70,000-square-mile service territory.	2	MR. LANGSTON: I know the line between Jamestown
3	So we see tremendous benefits of this project.	3	and Buffalo failed east of Spiritwood. I'm not sure
4	And over time we knew something was going to be needed	4	where the line failed from Jamestown to Center.
5	to be done to that Ismastown load posket. This project	5	MD CCHOCK, And both failures were directly
	to be done to that Jamestown load pocket. This project	"	MR. SCHOCK: And both failures were directly
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7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	is going to be a huge benefit because of the fact that we can share the cost of the project with all of the MISO Midwest customers and get the huge benefit to our customers in the Jamestown area, and anywhere along the line as we look to Otter Tail communities even down as far south as Edgeley. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Does that happen very often where both those 345 lines were out? MR. WEIERS: I'll mention that because both last Christmas was certainly a unique situation with an extreme weather event. But I will also mention that even when it comes to performing maintenance at the substation, when we have the entire load pocket sourced from a single substation, we do get into some very difficult situations when we try to schedule outages and be ready to survive that next contingency so we don't have a contingency that takes down the entire load pocket. So now this third source will also help ease	6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23	related to the ice storm? MR. LANGSTON: Yes. MR. SCHOCK: Okay. How is this line resistant to ice storms and failure like the other two lines? MR. LANGSTON: The conductor on this proposed line, JETx line, is going to be T-2. That that type of wire, it's a twisted pair, sheds ice. Ice does not form on there and get the galloping that a normal conductor would. MR. SCHOCK: Okay. Thank you. COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Before we go to any more, I'd like to get MDU's perspective on the unless you had a question and follow-up of Otter Tail's perspective. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I don't. I just have some commentary on COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Tranche 1 and

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1	double question. I'd like to get MDU's response.	1	carbon capture and storage if if that's proven out,
2	MR. FRANK: Yeah, I think I'll start and then	2	or if the science changes, you know, there might be more
3	Darcy probably has some comments to add as well for	3	hope for the our coal fleet and through wind you
4	Montana-Dakota.	4	know, wind and renewables. So this Tranche 1 seemed
5	There's some we definitely see some	5	like much more of backbone-type investments to bring
6	reliability benefits as well from this increased	6	this system up to speed.
7	transmission in the area. I think there's also some	7	I will say Tranche 2 is much more about helping
8	opportunities for us from a load-serving perspective as	8	the states and they even state this, MISO even states
9	well because we've seen some interest in the area where	9	this Tranche 2 is much more about helping the states
10	our transmission has been growing like Ellendale where	10	meet their goals.
11	we can realize some some benefits as a company and	11	So in my opinion, I don't think that and I'm
12	customers in North Dakota for these increased load	12	not prepared to just have North Dakota, as long as I'm
13	opportunities that we have to serve, like data centers.	13	here, go along with Tranche 2 depending on how it all
14	And I think that Jamestown to Ellendale also	14	shakes out, but I mean that's that's a play that we
15	gives us an opportunity to increase the transmission	15	need to be looking at down the road, but there should be
16	investment in North Dakota and allow a maybe future	16	a generator-pays component to that and there isn't. And
17	expansion of MISO's transmission system further west	17	they fought it tooth and nail.
18	more into our system. And I think Jamestown to	18	And the benefits to our state of that,
19	Ellendale gives Jamestown to Ellendale line gives us	19	especially 2.1 where we basically aren't even connected
20	that opportunity to continue that transmission further	20	and they've left MDU high and dry in that there's no
21	west into more into MDU's system, I think, in the	21	investments they don't even have in this system west
22	future.	22	of Jamestown on the map on their Tranche 2 stuff.
23	MR. NEIGUM: I would agree with what Rob says.	23	So that one is an area where North Dakota needs
24	And the other one that we're looking at too is	24	to be very engaged in watching how the costs come
25	this looking for a need for additional generation to	25	forward and how those what the benefits are of those
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1	come into the state, whether it's for ourselves or other	1	projects, how they address the cost-benefit analysis and
2	developers. So, you know, without projects like this,	2	and be prepared to not go along with it.
3	it's hard to develop additional generation within the	3	Anyway, commentary, not for today's case.
4	state. And so it does provide those opportunities as	4	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: So there's a lot
5	well. You know, one, for our own utilities to be able	5	of flexibility on the difference between the different
6	to supply the needs for our customers and also at least	6	tranches and the cost allocation or is it
7	for additional development to happen in the state that	7	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: No, no.
8	otherwise wouldn't happen.	8	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: are you saying
9	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Thank you.	9	we did this for 1, it's got to be this way for 2, 3, 4,
10	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: So kind of stepping off	10	whatever?
11	of those comments, when Tranche 1 was being discussed	11	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: There's no flexibility.
12	and the cost allocation this is more background for	12	The cost allocation is set and it would have to be
13	my colleagues when the cost allocation was being	13	fought at FERC if we wanted to not go along with it.
14	discussed, our office and Darcy, so MDU, tried really	14	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Okay.
15	hard to get a generator-pays component to the formula.	15	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A quick question on cost.
16	I mean, we took many, many runs at it and were starting	16	You know, I don't think I'd be the only one who was a
17	to get some traction. And then people got nervous that	17	little shocked by the cost of the project. I would
18	we're taking too long and had to get going and, you	18	imagine you guys were probably maybe not surprised by
19	know, it takes so long to build, etcetera, etcetera, so	19	it. But looking back at the cost of industrial
20	they move forward with this postage stamp approach.	20	materials and things like that, you'd be at like
21	And so we ultimately went along with it for the	21	85 miles, and when you do the breakdown between the
22	reasons, you know, both the reliability reasons and	22	substations and the lines, you've got somewhere in the
23	recognizing, like, North Dakota is an exporting state	23	ballpark of \$4 million a mile for four structures per
24	and we have potential to export more both from the gas	24	mile.
25	side, gas generator side, perhaps through coal with	25	I mean, how does that compare to more recent
1	PAGE 46	Ì	PAGE 48

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1	projects that you guys have done and what kind of an	1	can spell it out for you.
2	inflation? Is it twice the cost of what you did ten	2	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, Matt, maybe speak
3	years ago? Any sense of that?	3	to the FERC jurisdiction a little bit. I know MDU and
4	MR. WEIERS: Yes. It's basically doubled as	4	Otter Tail have a little bit of a difference between
5	what we had done on BSSE. BSSE, we hit the steel prices	5	you have a small jurisdictional portion but maybe I
6	at an all-time low. Right now these steel prices, the	6	think and Victor can correct me if I'm wrong, but I
7	indices are twice that what we had paid for BSSE. Along	7	had a misconception at first that this would be a rate
8	with concrete prices also.	8	base, rate recovery item.
9	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And what year was that?	9	And maybe kind of speak a little bit to the
10	MR. WEIERS: It was in service in 2019.	10	mechanism that how that gets recovered through or
11	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Julie, you missed	11	how that gets charged back to customers as opposed to
12	the brand?	12	being rate base with a recovery and base rates and how
13	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: It's very intriguing.	13	it flows from MISO instead.
14	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Otter Tail	14	MR. OLSEN: Yeah, I I think I'll probably add
15	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: JETx, is that how we	15	confusion by trying to explain it myself and I'd rather
16	say it? JETx? Good job.	16	not introduce that here but certainly
17	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Are there other	17	MR. SCHOCK: That's perfectly fine if you're
18	questions?	18	willing to make a subsequent filing just to kind of lay
19	MR. SCHOCK: I thought I could just sit quietly	19	out the cost recovery of what what I think would be
20	back there and I can't. I tried.	20	interesting to demonstrate for for this project, for
21	Okay. So cost recovery of a line such as this.	21	the Jamestown to Ellendale line and for the rest of
22	You wouldn't be coming in and asking for cost recovery	22	Tranche 1, how that would pass through to North Dakota
23	in your transmission rider as rate base; correct? You	23	customers, because I would assume it's slightly
24	would be coming in through a MISO charge in the	24	different.
25	transmission rider. Is that accurate?	25	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And we do have some of
	PAGE 49		PAGE 51
1	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Different skills.	1	this in data requests so
2	(Laughter)	2	MR. OLSEN: Yeah.
3	MR. SCHOCK: Matt wanted to talk anyways.	3	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: we can just do a
4	MR. OLSEN: Yeah, thanks, Victor. Matt Olsen	4	little addendum.
5	here.	5	MR. OLSEN: I think we'll point there and spell
6	Most of it. I think you're you're accurate	6	it out for you there.
7	about that. There's a small portion that's rate base.	7	MR. SCHOCK: Yeah. Okay. Sure.
8	MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So what portion would be	8	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Would it be different
9	rate base?	9	for MDU or Otter Tail?
10	MR. OLSEN: The small portion that represents	10	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.
11	North Dakota customers of Otter Tail.	11	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Maybe
12	MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So this .66 percent,	12	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Next.
13	roughly.	13	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, it's different.
14	MR. OLSEN: Yeah.	14	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Slightly. I do know
15	MR. SCHOCK: That portion you would be adding to	15	that.
		16	MR. JACOBSON: Travis Jacobson with MDU.
16			
	rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of	17	Montana-Dakota would only see in our
17	rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of return or your FERC approved rate of return?	17	Montana-Dakota would only see in our
17 18	rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of return or your FERC approved rate of return? MR. OLSEN: Yeah, this is where I probably need	17 18	Montana-Dakota would only see in our transmission cost adjustment where we would see the
17 18 19	rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of return or your FERC approved rate of return? MR. OLSEN: Yeah, this is where I probably need help from others. Probably may be better if we work	17 18 19	Montana-Dakota would only see in our transmission cost adjustment where we would see the Schedule 26, the MVP piece of that. And that would be
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17 18 19 20 21	rate base and getting your North Dakota approved rate of return or your FERC approved rate of return? MR. OLSEN: Yeah, this is where I probably need help from others. Probably may be better if we work this out in MR. SCHOCK: It's just curiosity.	17 18 19 20 21	Montana-Dakota would only see in our transmission cost adjustment where we would see the Schedule 26, the MVP piece of that. And that would be the same for Montana-Dakota's JETx project as well as the rest of Tranche 2. That's just going to come
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1	MR. SCHOCK: Okay. So there's other stuff in	1	ballpark. So the bottom line
2	there other than rate of return but that's	2	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: The ballpark is so
3	MR. JACOBSON: Same as BSSE and all the other	3	much different.
4	MR. SCHOCK: Yep, yep.	4	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, it it
5	MR. JACOBSON: ones today.	5	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: A little over three to
6	MR. SCHOCK: Absolutely.	6	almost six.
7	MR. JACOBSON: That's true.	7	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah. And I've asked
8	MR. SCHOCK: Yep. Okay.	8	them to expand upon upon that, but the point that I'd
9	MR. JACOBSON: And there is nothing that we	9	make, though, is when you look at the allocation, the
10	would put in rate base at Montana-Dakota.	10	cost per megawatt-hour is essentially the same for
11	MR. SCHOCK: Okay. And then and that would	11	for each company.
12	flow through, you would be charged by the MISO 26?	12	So if you think about it like a the way I
13	MR. JACOBSON: I think it's 26-A.	13	looked at it on a short basis is, if you jump through
14	MR. SCHOCK: For how many years?	14	all the math, is one customer uses about one
15	MR. JACOBSON: Well, until it's gone. So 40.	15	megawatt-hour per month and the cost was like for
16	MR. SCHOCK: 40? 40 years? Okay.	16	Tranche 1 was like \$2.51 in 2031 per month. So you
17	I think that's all I have. I can go down other	17	think it would be 2.51, but it has to go through all the
18	rabbit holes, but that one seemed most fun.	18	allocations. So it all kind of starts from the same
19	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I'll be 95 when that's	19	place.
20	done.	20	So I'm still waiting to get what that exact
21	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: What's that?	21	number will be, but they all start with the same charges
22	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: I'll be 95 years old	22	from for the same amount of energy from from the
23	when they quit paying for it.	23	MISO cross charges through the Transmission 26 or
24	(Laughter)	24	whatever you call it. So I'm waiting to hear what that
25	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'll be pretty old too.	25	number is exactly.
	PAGE 53		PAGE 55
1	(Laughter)	1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: And the cooperatives
2	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But the electrons will	2	are also going to be paying on this.
3	still be flowing.	3	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, if they're on
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: When it's windy.	4	MR. SCHOCK: MISO
5	Did that cover your questions?	5	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: MISO co-ops.
e			
6	So I don't know if this is more for staff or	6	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right.
7	So I don't know if this is more for staff or what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU	6 7	·
			UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right.
7	what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU	7	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which is Minco
7	what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU because you're owners of the line and (indiscernible)	7 8	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which is Minco Minnkota. No, they have their own deal, don't they?
7 8 9	what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU because you're owners of the line and (indiscernible) certificate, but this rate impact is going to go to Xcel	7 8 9	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which is Minco Minnkota. No, they have their own deal, don't they? Yeah, they're not members. They got some other tariff.
7 8 9 10	what, but we're discussing this with Otter Tail and MDU because you're owners of the line and (indiscernible) certificate, but this rate impact is going to go to Xcel customers too; right?	7 8 9 10	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, right. COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Which is Minco Minnkota. No, they have their own deal, don't they? Yeah, they're not members. They got some other tariff. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: But an answer will get
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	ND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION				
1	MR. SCHOCK: I have one other one. I forgot	CERTIFICATE OF TRANSCRIPTIONIST			
2	about this from earlier.				
3	So I just want to clarify. So this line is not	STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA) ss.			
4	needed because of Applied Digital's load at either				
5	Ellendale or Jamestown?	I, Lisa A. Hulm, CET-783, a certified			
6	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Speaking specifically for	electronic transcriber, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic			
7	Ellendale, no.	sound recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, to the best of my professional			
8	UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And for Otter Tail, no,	skills and abilities. I further state that I was not present during these recorded proceedings, and I am			
9	it's not needed for Applied Digital at Jamestown.	only the transcriber of the recorded proceedings.			
10	MR. SCHOCK: Okay. We've got a couple of	I further certify that I am not a relative			
11	concerned landowners who had made that claim. And I was	or employee or attorney or counsel of any of the parties hereto, nor a relative or employee of such			
12	fairly certain that was the answer. I just wanted to	attorney or counsel; nor do I have any interest in the outcome or events of the action.			
13	confirm it. So if neither of those loads showed up, you	Dated this date of September 8, 2025.			
14	would still be here requesting this same certificate.				
15	Okay.				
16	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. One more time,	LTCA A LILIM CET 702			
17	any other questions? Staff? Commissioners?	LISA A. HULM, CET-783			
18	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Unh-unh.				
19	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. Is there any				
20	objection to the evidence produced today becoming part				
21	of the official record? And by "the evidence," I'm				
22	talking about the recording of the discussion as well as				
23	the slides.	The foregoing certification of this transcript does			
24	MR. ENDRIS: No, Your Honor or Commissioner.	not apply to the reproduction of the same by any means, unless under the direct control and/or			
25	(Laughter)	direction of the certifying transcriber.			
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1	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: MDU?				
2	MS. WALDON: No objection.				
3	MR. JOHNSON: No				
4	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Staff?				
5	MR. JOHNSON: objection from staff.				
6	COMMISSIONER CHRISTMANN: Okay. So the evidence				
7	will become part of the record upon which a decision				
8	will be made.				
9	Are there any other matters to come before the				
10	Commission?				
11	Hearing none, this informal hearing is				
12	concluded. Thank you, everyone.				
13	COMMISSIONER HAUGEN-HOFFART: Thanks, everybody.				
14	COMMISSIONER FEDORCHAK: Thank you.				
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