



Permitting News

One of the major steps in permitting a transmission line is the submittal of a state permit application to the governing utility authority. In the case of the BSSE project, there are two such permitting authorities – the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) and the North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC) – and therefore, two applications to be filed.

On August 23, 2013, the BSSE project team filed a Facility Permit Application with the SDPUC for the South Dakota portion of the project. The application included a project overview, maps, and a complete analysis of the transmission line.

The SDPUC will review the application for completeness and line design and, ultimately, issue a permit to construct. The SDPUC scheduled public hearings that anyone can attend and offer comments on the application and project.

We anticipate that the North Dakota application will be submitted in October. Once the application is filed, we will provide updates on our information hotline and project website with the NDPSC docket number and hearing notice.

Review the South Dakota Facility Permit Application at www.puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2013/EL13-028.aspx.

Public Hearings

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission will hold two public hearings on the Facility Permit Application on **October 17, 2013**.



Hearing 1

October 17 at 12:00 p.m.

Northern State University
Student Center, Centennial Rooms
1200 South Jay Street
Aberdeen, South Dakota

Hearing 2

October 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Milbank Visitor Center
Community Room
1001 East Fourth Street
Milbank, South Dakota

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do landowners receive a one-time payment instead of annual payments?

We will offer landowners a single payment to cover the cost of the easement footprint, structures on the property, and impact to agricultural operations. This approach follows the established compensation process for transmission lines within the region. Annual payments are traditionally associated with generation projects on private land. These assets generate a commodity that is marketed to the public. For example, wind farms usually make annual payments to landowners because they sell the energy generated on the landowner's property. Often the payments fluctuate with the amount of energy being produced.

In comparison to generation projects, transmission lines generally have low impact to land use, with the greatest disturbance occurring during construction. During operation of the transmission line, the structures themselves will take approximately 0.01 acres per mile out of production.

How will you deal with damage to roads?

During the construction phase, inspectors retained for the project will monitor and record damages when they occur. Likewise, the inspectors will monitor and record damages on public roadways. We will review each case and work with local authorities to determine a course of repair. The responsibility and cost for any repairs belong to us.

Dear Readers,

On August 23, 2013, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company submitted a Facility Permit Application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for the portion of the project located in South Dakota. This is a milestone for the project.

In addition to the ongoing permitting activities, our land agents are also out in the field contacting landowners along the route to discuss right-of-way options and easements. If you haven't been contacted yet and you own land along the route, you will be contacted soon. Additionally, our project team is continuing work towards engineering design by identifying structure locations and two fiber optic regeneration stations along the route.

Thank you for your participation in the Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) project!

The BSSE project team



WHAT'S INSIDE?

- Facility Permit Application filed in South Dakota
- Public input hearing dates and locations
- Route map
- Updated project schedule
- Frequently asked questions

BSSE PREFERRED ROUTE

Want to find out more or provide feedback?

If you have additional comments or questions, feel free to use any of the following ways to reach our project team:

Visit our website:
www.BSSETransmissionLine.com

Call our information line:
1-888-283-4678

Email us:
info@BSSETransmissionLine.com

Project Basics:

- New 345 kV transmission line
- End points: proposed Ellendale 345 kV substation and proposed Big Stone South substation
- Project owners: Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company
- In service by 2019
- Approximate cost: \$293 million - \$370 million

Project Schedule:

