



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Big Stone South to Ellendale project announces open house meetings October 15-18, 2012

Bismarck, N.D. – The Big Stone South to Ellendale (BSSE) project will host six open house meetings Oct. 15 – 18, 2012, throughout the project study corridors. The meetings are intended to gather feedback from communities, provide project information, and answer questions. With an open house meeting format, no formal presentation will be given. Project team members will be available to answer questions.

Please join us at one of the open house meetings. Times, dates, and locations of each open house meeting are in the table below.

Monday, October 15	Tuesday, October 16	Wednesday, October 17	Thursday, October 18
5:00 – 7:00 pm Wheaton Library Community Room 901 1 st Avenue North Wheaton, MN 56296	11:00 am – 1:00 pm Milbank Visitor Center Community Room 1001 East 4 th Avenue Milbank, SD 57252	11:00 am – 1:00 pm Dakota Event Center 720 Lamont Street Aberdeen, SD 57401	11:00 am – 1:00 pm Marshall County Meeting Room 909 South Main Street Britton, SD 57430
	5:00 – 7:00 pm The Galley 230 Highway 12 Webster, SD 57274	5:00 – 7:00 pm Fireside Restaurant & Lounge 415 1 st Avenue North Ellendale, ND 58436	



A listing of the open houses also can be found on the project website at www.BSSEtransmissionline.com and on the project information line at (888) 283-4678.

Materials used during the open house meetings will be available on the project website along with an interactive map of the study corridors.

The BSSE project is a proposed approximately 150-mile to 175-mile transmission line from the proposed Big Stone South substation near Big Stone City, SD, to the proposed Ellendale 345 kV substation near Ellendale, ND. Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company jointly will develop, construct and operate the transmission line.

The BSSE transmission line will connect to other similar transmission lines within the Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator (MISO) transmission network. Together these projects will:

- Improve reliability for the regional power system.
- Increase system capacity to address growth in regional demand.
- Support public policy by enabling renewable energy to be integrated into the system.
- Boost regional economies by creating construction and operation jobs and supporting local businesses.

A three-year construction period is expected, which should begin in 2016 and be complete by 2019. The cost will be approximately \$300 million to \$340 million. Visit www.BSSEtransmissionline.com for more information.



Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. distributes natural gas and generates, transmits and distributes electricity and provides related services in the northern Great Plains. The company serves approximately 130,000 electric customers and 245,000 natural gas customers in 262 communities in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming. Montana-Dakota is a division of MDU Resources Group, Inc. For more information, visit www.montana-dakota.com. For more information about MDU Resources Group, visit www.mdu.com.

Otter Tail Power Company, an electric utility owned by Otter Tail Corporation, serves 129,000 customers in a 70,000 square-mile area in northeastern South Dakota, eastern North Dakota, and west central Minnesota. For more information about Otter Tail Power Company, visit www.otpc.com. For more information about Otter Tail Corporation visit www.ottertail.com.