

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. P-844
--	------------------

ORDER REQUESTING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION

(Issued December 10, 2002)

On December 4, 2002, the Utilities Board (Board) issued an "Order Affirming and Modifying Proposed Decision And Order Granting Permit" in which the Board affirmed the order of the presiding officer granting MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) authority to construct a natural gas pipeline. The pipeline will originate at a connection point on Northern Natural Gas Company's interstate pipeline east of Ankeny, Iowa, and terminate at MidAmerican's Pleasant Hill Energy Center and proposed Greater Des Moines Energy Center. As part of the order, the Board required MidAmerican to file an addendum to the land restoration plan that described how it would comply with the plan during winter construction.

On December 5, 2002, MidAmerican filed the addendum. In the addendum, MidAmerican states that construction in severe cold weather may require larger equipment and more time to adequately perform topsoil separation and replacement of segregated topsoil may be delayed until more favorable weather conditions. MidAmerican then states that severe cold weather may require temporary backfilling

of the trench and final backfilling would not be completed until more favorable weather conditions. Finally, MidAmerican states that frozen ground in the right-of-way may be left untilled until more favorable weather conditions and that rutted land shall be graded and tilled until restored as nearly as practical to pre-construction condition.

After reviewing the addendum, the Board remains concerned with the restoration of agricultural land when the pipeline is constructed during severe cold weather. MidAmerican has indicated that it will proceed with construction to supply service to the energy centers by next spring. MidAmerican indicates in the addendum the actions that "may" be taken to replace topsoil, backfill, and remove compaction and rutting if the construction occurs during severe cold weather. The addendum, though, does not describe specifically the equipment or construction methods to be used when excavating and separating topsoil during the severe cold weather.

MidAmerican will be requested to provide an explanation of the types of equipment and construction methods it will employ to comply with the Board rules if it excavates the pipeline trench during severe cold weather. The explanation should include the following information.

1. Provide a more specific explanation of how MidAmerican will adequately separate the topsoil from the subsoil if the ground is frozen.

Describe the types of equipment and construction methods that will be used to

ensure compliance during winter construction with paragraphs "a" and "b" of subrule 9.4(1).

2. Provide a more specific explanation of how MidAmerican will temporarily/finally backfill if the soil is frozen and also what steps will be taken to minimize damage to agricultural drainage tile lines. Describe the types of equipment and construction methods that will be used to ensure compliance during winter construction with paragraph "d" of subrule 9.4(1) and subrule 9.4(2).

3. Provide a more specific explanation of how MidAmerican will remove rocks to temporarily/finally backfill if the soil is frozen. Describe the types of equipment and construction methods that will be used to ensure compliance during winter construction with subrule 9.4(3).

4. Provide a more specific explanation of how MidAmerican will deep till if the soil is frozen. Describe the types of equipment and construction methods that will be used to ensure compliance during winter construction with subrule 9.4(4).

5. Provide a more specific explanation that describes the types of equipment and construction methods that MidAmerican will use if the soil is frozen to ensure compliance with subrules 9.4(5) and 9.4(8).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

MidAmerican Energy Company shall file the additional information as described in this order on or before December 16, 2002.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ Diane Munns

/s/ Mark O. Lambert

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Elliott Smith

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 10th day of December, 2002.