

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: INTERSTATE POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY	DOCKET NO. P-860
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ORDER ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER

(Issued December 20, 2005)

On May 18, 2005, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a petition for a pipeline permit for an existing natural gas pipeline in Marshall County, Iowa. The pipeline was originally constructed in 1969 and consisted of 1.34 miles of 2-inch diameter steel natural gas pipeline operated at 120 psig (pounds per square inch gage). In 1998, IPL replaced the 2-inch diameter pipeline with a 4-inch diameter steel pipeline with a maximum operating pressure of 175 psig. A permit is required for the 4-inch pipeline because it operates at a pressure of greater than 150 psig and meets the definition of a transmission line pursuant to 49 CFR § 192.3. The pipeline serves the Koch Fertilizer Plant and 111 other customers in and around Green Mountain, Iowa.

Board staff reviewed the petition and notified IPL of deficiencies in the petition and requested additional information in letters dated May 19, July 15, and November 3, 2005. IPL filed revisions to the petition and additional information on June 20, August 22, and November 7, 2005. Board staff conducted a field inspection of the pipeline on June 14, 16, and 21, 2005. On December 7, 2005, Board staff filed

a report concerning the pipeline in which staff indicated that all probable violations found during the field inspection had been corrected. Board staff recommended in the report that IPL be required to address in testimony why it built the pipeline without the required permit.

Iowa Code § 479.7 (2005) requires the Board to set a hearing in a pipeline proceeding upon the filing of a petition. The Board finds that the petition, as revised, sufficiently meets the Board's filing requirements and the Board will assign Docket No. P-860 to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and conduct a hearing. The inspection report filed by Board staff recommends that IPL address why the pipeline was built without a permit. The presiding officer should review this recommendation and take appropriate action.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Docket No. P-860 is assigned to a presiding officer to establish a procedural schedule and exercise the authority provided in 199 IAC 7.1(4).

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 20th day of December, 2005.