

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-05-4
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ORDER SCHEDULING TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

(Issued January 20, 2006)

On December 16, 2005, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an application for determination of ratemaking principles (Application) pertaining to MidAmerican's proposed 2006-2007 wind power expansion project. The filing is pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.53. MidAmerican stated the maximum size of the expansion would be 545 MW, although transmission limitations and the ability to negotiate satisfactory terms with potential vendors may result in a project that would be below the maximum size. MidAmerican also sought approval for a one-year extension of its existing revenue sharing arrangement through the year 2012.

MidAmerican asked for expedited review and a Board decision by January 27, 2006, a little more than a month after filing. However, as noted by the Board in its January 4, 2006, order requiring additional information, there were significant pieces of information missing from the filing that are necessary for the Board to conduct a complete review. In that order, the Board said that it would move expeditiously to complete its statutory responsibilities, adding that MidAmerican could assist in this process by filing comprehensive responses to the January 4 order.

MidAmerican filed responses to the Board's written questions on January 12, 2006. The Board has reviewed the responses. The responses are not comprehensive and do not contain sufficient information for the Board to carry out its statutory responsibilities under the ratemaking principles statute. Under the current state of the record, the Board cannot proceed to decision in this docket. For example, it is not clear whether the proposed project meets acceptable reliability standards for MidAmerican and the State of Iowa, including additional transmission capacity, and there are no cost estimates to cover the inherent variability of wind generation. It is not clear from MidAmerican's filing if the proposed wind generation will require back-up dispatchable generation, such as a combustion turbine, and, if so, how much back-up generation will be needed. No current load flow studies or updated resources plan were provided.

It appears there may be a misunderstanding between the Board and MidAmerican about what information is required. Rather than attempt to reformulate the questions, the Board will schedule a technical conference to enable the Board's staff to discuss with MidAmerican the type of information required to carry out the Board's statutory responsibilities. The conference will be open to all parties and any others interested in this docket. The Board believes an open discussion will lead to an understanding of the information the Board requires to complete its review of MidAmerican's filing.

The technical conference will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2006, in Conference Rooms 3 and 4 at the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. At least some Board members will attend all or part of the conference, which

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will begin at 9 a.m. The conference will last as long as necessary, but the Board does not anticipate that it will extend into the afternoon. There will be no transcript made of the discussions because the conference is only intended to provide guidance on what additional information MidAmerican must officially file in this docket if it expects the docket to proceed to decision.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

A technical conference to address the issues discussed in this order is scheduled for Thursday, January 26, 2006, at 9 a.m. The conference will be held in Conference Rooms 3 and 4 in the Board's offices at 350 Maple Street, Des Moines, Iowa. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Utilities Board at (515) 281-5256 in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

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 January, 2006.