

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. E-21752 E-21753 E-21754
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**ORDER CONSOLIDATING DOCKETS AND
ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER**

(Issued March 29, 2006)

On September 6, 2005, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) three electric franchise petitions for a total of 16.9 miles of 161,000-volt electric transmission line in Dallas, Madison, and Warren counties. A separate petition was filed for each county through which a segment of the proposed transmission line will be built. The petitions are identified as Docket Nos. E-21752 (Dallas County), E-21753 (Madison County), and E-21754 (Warren County). The proposed transmission line originates at the MidAmerican Booneville substation and terminates at the MidAmerican substation located in Norwalk.

Board staff has reviewed the three petitions and notified MidAmerican of deficiencies and additional information required by letters dated October 6, October 11, and October 19, 2005. MidAmerican filed revisions to the petition and additional information on October 31, November 9, November 14, November 28, and December 21, 2005. Additional revisions and information were filed on January 4, January 26, and February 20, 2006. On March 17, 2006, a Board staff report (Staff

Report) was filed concerning the three electric transmission line petitions and proposed transmission line route.

The Staff Report recommends that MidAmerican provide additional information in prefiled testimony or at hearing regarding a number of issues and questions raised. Among the issues identified were those related to the double circuit structures and why part of the route is double circuited, how service by the existing transmission lines will be maintained during construction, whether the proposed line is necessary to serve a public use and represents a reasonable relationship to an overall plan, factors used in the route selection and why portions of the route do not follow division lines of land, and objections.

Iowa Code § 478.6 (2005) requires the Board to set a hearing on a franchise application if an objection is filed or eminent domain requested. Eminent domain is requested for three properties in the Warren County docket (E-21754) and objections have been filed in the Warren County and Madison County (E-21753) dockets. While there is no request for eminent domain or objection to the Dallas County segment (E-21752), a hearing must be held in the other two dockets. Because each docket is a segment of a larger, interrelated project with common questions of law and facts, all three dockets will be consolidated for hearing. In such instances, consolidating the dockets for hearing and procedural schedule is the most efficient and effective way to proceed, particularly for those like the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice that are parties to each docket. The hearing will be held in

Winterset because Madison County is the county seat of the county at the midpoint of the proposed line. Iowa Code § 478.6 (2005).

To expedite the hearing process, the Board will assign these consolidated dockets to its administrative law judge, Amy Christensen, as presiding officer. The presiding officer will be directed to set a procedural schedule, including specific dates for filing testimony and hearing.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Docket Nos. E-21752, E-21753, and E-21754 are consolidated for purposes of hearing and procedural schedule.
2. Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.11(1)"b" (2005) and 199 IAC 7.3, Docket Nos. E-21752, E-21753, and E-21754 are assigned to the Board's administrative law judge, Amy Christensen, as presiding officer, to, among other things, set a procedural schedule, conduct a hearing, and issue a proposed decision. The presiding officer shall have the authority provided under 199 IAC 7.3.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Diane Munns

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 29th day of March, 2006.