

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. E-21822
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ORDER ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER

(Issued October 24, 2006)

On July 10, 2006, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) an electric franchise line petition, identified as Docket No. E-21822, for 4.64 miles of 69 kV electric transmission line in Floyd County, Iowa. The proposed transmission line will provide service to a planned ethanol plant to be built northwest of Charles City by VeraSun Energy Corporation (VeraSun).

The Board's staff reviewed the petition and notified MidAmerican of deficiencies and additional information requirements by letters dated August 8, 18, and 31, 2006. MidAmerican filed revisions to the petition and additional information on August 11 and 28 and September 6, 2006. On October 19, 2006, a Board staff report (Staff Report) was filed concerning the electric transmission line petition 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. Among the issues identified were those related to voltage, line constraints, reliability, related upgrades, routing criteria, location of the south terminus, aerial maps, private

airplane landing strip, Federal Aviation Administration standards, electromagnetic fields, objections, and evaluation of alternative routes proposed by objectors. The Staff Report also recommends that certain objectors provide additional information in prefiled testimony or at hearing regarding the airport and a transformer.

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. MidAmerican's proposed route is on public and private property. While MidAmerican is not requesting eminent domain because it has obtained all required easements, various objections have been filed. Section 478.6 requires that when the proposed transmission line is more than one mile in length, the hearing must be held in the county seat of the county at the midpoint of the line. The proposed line is located entirely within Floyd County so the hearing will be held in Charles City, Iowa.

The Board will assign this docket 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. The Board notes that by order dated October 17, 2006, the petition to intervene filed by VeraSun was granted. The Board in that order also offered comments on VeraSun's motion for expedited proceedings.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.11(1)"b" (2005) and 199 IAC 7.3, Docket No. E-21822 is 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

/s/ Curtis W. Stamp

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 24th day of October, 2006.