

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NOS. E-21820 E-21821
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**ORDER CONSOLIDATING DOCKETS
AND ASSIGNING TO PRESIDING OFFICER**

(Issued October 31, 2007)

On September 29, 2006, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) electric franchise line petitions, identified as Docket Nos. E-21820 and E-21821, for 12.07 miles of 161,000-volt electric transmission line in Dallas and Polk counties, Iowa. The proposed transmission line originates at an interconnection with an existing 161 kV electric transmission line northwest of Granger, Iowa, and terminates with an existing 161 kV line in Grimes, Iowa. The proposed route is primarily on private right-of-way, generally adjacent to Iowa Highway 141 and county roads; 7.34 miles of the proposed line is in Dallas County and 4.73 miles in Polk County.

The Board's staff reviewed the petition and notified MidAmerican of deficiencies and additional information requirements by letters, e-mails, or direct contacts on December 22, 2006, and February 7 and 9, April 13, and June 6, 2007. MidAmerican filed revisions to the petition and additional information on January 16, March 28 and 29, May 11, and June 14, 2007. On October 17, 2007, 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 how the proposed line would relieve constraints, enhance reliability, and provide voltage support; the impact of the proposed line on interconnection agreements with other utilities; route selection criteria, and addressing issues raised by objectors.

Iowa Code § 478.6 (2007) requires the Board to set a hearing on a franchise application if an objection is filed or eminent domain requested. Twenty-five objections were filed. While most objections have been withdrawn, three objections in Dallas County and two in Polk County remain on file. Therefore, a hearing in each docket must be held. However, because each docket represents a segment of a larger project that is interrelated, the dockets will be consolidated for hearing.

Iowa Code § 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 in Dallas and Polk counties, with the midpoint of the line in Dallas County. The hearing will be held in Adel, Iowa, the county seat for Dallas County.

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.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

Pursuant to Iowa Code § 17A.11(1)"b" (2007) and 199 IAC 7.3, Docket Nos. E-21820 and E-21821 are consolidated for purposes of hearing and 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/ Krista K. Tanner

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 31st day of October, 2007.