

STATE OF IOWA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE: AMES MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC SYSTEM	DOCKET NOS. E-21743 E-21744
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**ORDER SETTING BRIEFING SCHEDULE AND
DENYING REQUEST FOR ORAL ARGUMENT**

(Issued December 21, 2007)

On September 12, 2007, the administrative law judge (ALJ) assigned to this docket issued a proposed decision and order denying Ames Municipal Electric System's (Ames) petitions for electric line franchises, identified as Docket Nos. E-21743 and E-21744, for 19.75 miles of 161,000 volt electric transmission line in Polk and Story counties. The ALJ issued a subsequent order on October 25, 2007, denying Ames' motion to reopen the record. Ames timely filed a notice of appeal to the Utilities Board (Board) on November 9, 2007. Responses to the notice of appeal were filed by the Consumer Advocate Division of the Department of Justice (Consumer Advocate), C.L. Cole, and Tisha and Jason Murphy.

The Board will set a briefing schedule for the appeal to allow the parties an opportunity to address any issues or arguments they feel they have not already adequately addressed in this record. Ames' also requested that oral argument be set. The request for oral argument will be denied. The record made before the ALJ, along with the briefs that will be filed, will provide a sufficient basis for the Board's

decision; any points that would be made in oral argument can be made in brief. The Board reminds all parties that factual allegations in briefs should be accompanied by specific transcript citations or exhibit numbers whenever possible.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. Ames Municipal Electric System shall file its initial brief on appeal on or before January 18, 2008.
2. Consumer Advocate and other parties participating in this appeal may file briefs on or before February 15, 2008.
3. Ames Municipal Electric System may file a reply brief on or before February 27, 2008.
4. The request for oral argument filed by Ames Municipal Electric System is denied.

UTILITIES BOARD

/s/ John R. Norris

/s/ Krista K. Tanner

ATTEST:

/s/ Judi K. Cooper
Executive Secretary

/s/ Darrell Hanson

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 21st day of December, 2007.