

Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 N. Fourth St.
Bismarck, ND 58501
Attn: Mr. Robert Frank
Director, Electric Transmission Engineering

July 7, 2025

Dear Mr. Frank,

Thank you for your letter of July 3, 2025 to landowners in the Sandstone and Little Goose (aka Roberts) Subdivisions who will be affected by the proposed new r-o-w for the expanded electric transmission line from the Swaim Road sub-station to the Big Horn sub-station. We want to begin by stating that we all understand and appreciate the public need to build additional transmission access between these two sub-stations to accommodate the growth in this part of the county, and MDU's responsibility to meet that need. Our intent is not to stand in the way of MDU meeting its obligations. **It is our intent to voice our strong opposition to the current proposed *new* right-of-way and an above ground transmission line across the Schunk property, and to work with you to establish a more agreeable project.** We appreciate your stated commitment in your letter to provide clearer communication in the future, and toward that end, we respectfully ask for the following:

1. Please provide the analysis of the impacts MDU considered regarding each of the various route options and the basis used for your selection of the approximate 1.5 mile route of *new* r-o-w across the Schunk property with an above-ground transmission line.

As we understand it, in addition to the new Schunk property row, there were at least three other options considered along existing rights-of-way: 1) East along Swaim Road to Big Horn Highway and then south along Big Horn Highway to the sub-station; 2) East along Box Cross from Upper Road to Big Horn Highway and then south to the sub-station; and 3) East along Box Cross from Upper Road to the lower Upper Road "jog", and then south along the "lower" Upper Road to Big Horn Highway and on to the sub-station. From a visual observation and not confirming easements in the County courthouse, Options 1 & 2 follow an existing right-of-way with existing above-ground transmission lines already present. Option 3 also follows an existing transmission line r-o-w with the vast majority including an existing above-the-ground transmission line which the landowners are used to with regards to the viewshed.

2. Please provide the estimated costs required for both a buried transmission line, and an above-ground line, across the proposed new "Schunk property" right-of-way.

As we understand it, the option to bury this new line has been dismissed as being "too expensive". Our private property values are also legitimate costs that will be affected by the construction of a new above-ground transmission line on the Schunk property. While neighboring landowner costs of impacted viewsheds and change in community character have not traditionally been considered in a public project r-o-w cost-benefit analysis, it is not unheard of, and given the character of our neighborhoods and the out-of-pocket

investments we have all individually made to maintain this character for our own benefit as well as the broader community, we respectfully request that you include both of these estimated project costs for our information.

3. Please provide us your consideration and analysis of potential health impacts of EMFs from a new above-ground power line on the residents of the homes that lie within 700-1000 feet from the proposed Schunk right-of-way.

We are fully aware that the State of Wyoming does not have a specific required amount of distance between an above-ground transmission line and neighboring domicile, but we are aware of scientific studies that recognize that a greater distance does diminish potential risks, and “700-1000 feet” is referenced (National Institute of Environmental Health and Safety). At 17 Sandstone Circle, the Goodman porch and southwest-facing bedroom lies approximately 40’ from the Shunk property line and 80’ from the newly proposed r-o-w. The owner of this property lives with Stage 4 metastatic breast cancer with an estimated 10-15 year lifespan. At 18 Sandstone Circle, the Bealer deck and southwest facing bedroom lies approximately 80’ from the Shunk property line and 140’ from the proposed new r-o-w. A 30-year old resident of this property has just completed chemotherapy treatment for Stage 4 Non-Hodgkins lymphoma to promote her extended lifespan. And at 3 Sandstone Circle, the home is located 210’ from the lower Upper Road along Option 3. The owner of this property has undergone stem-cell replacement therapy to treat acute myeloid leukemia and is awaiting a determination of remission or not. All 3 of these residents are working very hard with medical treatments and lifestyle behaviors to fight their cancers and lead productive, healthy lives, and any new environmental health threats are of grave concern and need to be avoided at all costs.

Thank you for providing us the above requested information in a timely and relevant manner. On behalf of the Sandstone Circle Subdivision, **it is our goal to agree to a buried line along the new Schunk right-of way. We are also open to hearing your proposals for construction along Options 1, 2 and 3.** (We do not speak for the Roberts, aka Little Goose Subdivision.) We hope that with this requested information shared with all of us we can work together constructively as we all strive to meet this country’s goal to Make America Great Again. It is a tall order that requires private landowners, corporate interests, and public officials to all sit down together to listen, think and act differently as we chart our communities’ paths toward the future. You have our commitment to do just that with MDU going forward to find an alternate construction plan to the new above-ground line on the Schunk property.

Thank you,

Sandstone Circle home and landowners