

Mission accomplished

163-mile Big Stone South to Ellendale Transmission Line energized

On a cold and blustery February 5, crews from co-owners Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota Utilities, Co., energized the 163-mile, 345-kV Big Stone South-Ellendale (BSSE) Transmission Line after eight years of planning and three years of construction. The \$215 million line extends from the Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the Ellendale Substation near Ellendale, North Dakota.

"The team completed construction on time, under budget, and with a stellar safety record—which was our mission," said Project Manager Al Koeckeritz. "I'd like to extend a special thanks to communities and residents throughout the project area. Your partnership has brought us to the finish line. Thank you."

The project is one of 16 multi-value projects approved by the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO) and state regulatory agencies to improve reliability of the electric system and increase system capacity to address growth in demand, support public policy by enabling renewable energy to be integrated into the system, and boost regional economies by creating jobs, supporting local businesses, and contributing taxes.

High-voltage transmission lines, such as BSSE, allow access to diverse generation resources in a large geographic area. MISO cost-allocation mechanisms allow recovering project costs from all customers who benefit from the line, so Otter Tail Power Company and Montana-Dakota customers will pay less than one percent of the project costs.



We value your input

We've been publishing *Customer Connection* for 25 years. We want to hear what you like about it and what you'd change. Complete the short survey below for a chance to win one of five water bottles. This survey also is available at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/R8ZSC2G>.



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 Every issue (six per year)
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 Some issues
 None

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Check the areas you most enjoy:
 Electric utility-related stories
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May is National Electrical Safety Month

The Electrical Safety Foundation International launched National Electrical Safety Month as an annual effort to promote electrical safety in the home, school, and workplace.

Electrical safety is important to us every month! We urge you to use caution and stay safe around electricity.

Indoors

- Don't overload electrical circuits with too many cords.
- Keep cords, outlets, and tools dry. Don't stand in water or on damp grass while using electrical equipment.
- Keep electrical devices, such as hair dryers, radios, and heaters, away from bathtubs and sinks.

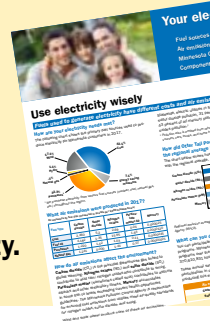
Outdoors

- Look up for power lines. Always keep yourself, your ladder, and the tools you're using at least ten feet away from power lines.
- Make sure power tools are in good repair before use. Check for frayed cords.
- While washing windows and cars, take care to keep the spray away from power lines. A stream of water is an electrical conductor that can carry electric current through you to the ground.

Learn about your electricity

Many people don't know a lot about electricity, even though it's an essential part of everyday life. The *Your electricity* brochure offers useful information about where electricity comes from, how we calculate rates, and ways to reduce your electricity use.

Find the brochure at otpc.com/YourElectricity.



Mark your calendar!

Pine-to-prairie event

34th Annual North Dakota Farm Toy Show

June 15 and 16, 2019

LaMoure, North Dakota

Call 800-533-8293 for more information.



We're celebrating

110

years

of service

Since 1909 we've touched the lives of our customers by providing reliable electricity and energy services. And we'll continue to focus on your energy needs with our balanced approach to environmental, economic, and community stewardship.

Our vision is growth and success—for our company and our communities. It's important to us that we continue to be an electric utility that does the right thing. Because when you thrive, we thrive too. We're glad you're our customer.

EMPLOYEE PROFILE

Debbie Opatz

Senior Resource Planner



As part of our Resource Planning Department, Debbie is responsible for developing sales and demand forecasts. We use these forecasts as part of our

regulatory filings for our company's resource plan and rate reviews. We also submit the forecasts to the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc., energy market.

Debbie has been on the United Way Children's Services Board for more than 25 years and is on the church council at First Lutheran Church in Fergus Falls. She and her husband Jon have four children.

Customers, meet Debbie!

Customers' cookery

Low-fat key lime pie

- 1 graham cracker pie crust
- 1 3-ounce box lime Jell-O
- 1 cup water
- 2 6-ounce containers Weight Watchers key lime yogurt
- 1 8-ounce container Cool Whip

Dissolve Jell-O in boiling water. Mix in yogurt, then Cool Whip. Pour into pie crust and chill until set (approximately two hours).

Submitted by Larry Rowland, Wilton, Minnesota



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Send your favorite recipe to rmichael@otpc.com or to the above address.

If we use your recipe, we'll send you a gift to thank you.

Please recycle



Is there anything you'd like us to change or topics you'd like to know more about?

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