

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY OTTER)	ORDER ASSESSING
TAIL POWER COMPANY AND WESTERN)	FILING FEE
MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY)	
FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR A 345-KV)	
TRANSMISSION FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED)	
FACILITIES IN GRANT COUNTY, SOUTH)	EL24-015
DAKOTA)	

On April 15, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Otter Tail Power Company and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, through its agent, Missouri River Energy Services (collectively, Applicants). Applicants propose to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities including substation upgrades (Project) within South Dakota. The Project, known as the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project, originates at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation, located approximately 2 miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota in Big Stone Township and connects to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. The South Dakota portion of the Project consists of approximately 3.5 miles of transmission line beginning in Section 24, Township 121N, Range 47W, Grant County, South Dakota, extending east and south to the Minnesota border. Applicant anticipates construction to commence in 2027 or 2028 and be completed in either 2030 or 2031. Applicant estimates the total construction cost of the proposed Project in South Dakota to be approximately \$41.4 million. SDCL 49-41B-12 provides for a filing fee to be assessed to cover the Commission's actual cost of investigating, reviewing, processing, and serving notice of the Application. The maximum fee chargeable, as calculated pursuant to statute, is \$103,500. However, according to said statute, the minimum total fee chargeable may not be less than \$8,000.

On April 18, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 14, 2024, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments have been filed to date.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12, 49-41B-26, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 8, 2024, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12 of up to the statutory maximum of \$103,500 with an initial deposit of \$20,000 and any unused portion above \$8,000 subject to refund. Having considered the scope of the Project and the Commission's ability to collect the fees from the Applicants, the Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$103,500, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Applicants shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$103,500, with an initial deposit of \$8,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of May 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: *Justin Edwards*

Date: *10 May 2024*

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner