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Boyce, Greenfield, Pashby & Welk, LLP

cwmadsen@bgpw.com

Direct Dial: 605-731-0205

Attorneys at Law

101 N. Phillips Ave., Suite 600
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

P.O. Box 5015

Sioux Falls, SD 57117-5015

P: 605-336-2424

F: 605-334-0618

www.bgpw.com

- Russell R. Greenfield
- Gary J. Pashby
- Thomas J. Welk
- Michael S. McKnight
- Gregg S. Greenfield
- Roger A. Sudbeck
- Lisa K. Marsu
- Heather R. Springer*
- Darin W. Larson
- Michael F. Tobin
- Christopher W. Madsen
- Sherri L. Rotert**
- Charles A. Larson
- Joune M. Huase*

*Also licensed in Kansas

**Also licensed in Colorado

*Also licensed in Minnesota

J.W. Boyce (1884-1915)

February 23, 2006

Patty VanGerpen, Ex. Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E Capitol
Pierre SD 57501

Via Email to patty.vangerpen@state.sd.us
and regular mail

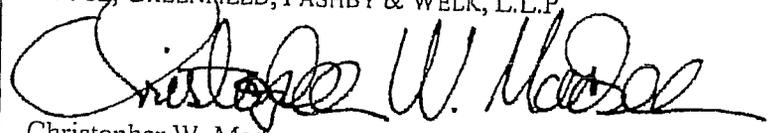
Re: In the Matter of the Application by Otter Tail Power Company on Behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of Big Stone II Project (EL05-022)
Our File No. 11402.000

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Please find enclosed for filing the Motion to Clarify Scheduling Order and Procedural Order in this matter. The original and four copies are being mailed to you today.

Sincerely yours,

BOYCE, GREENFIELD, PASHBY & WELK, L.L.P.



Christopher W. Madsen

CWM/vjj

Enclosure

cc (via email): John Davidson

Elizabeth Goodpaster

Mary Jo Stueve

Karen Cremer

Bruce Nilles

Patrick Gallagher

George Hayes

Sanjay Narayan

Todd Guerrero/David Sasseville

Bruce Gerhardson

Mark Rolphes

Terry Graumann

467A

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

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company
on Behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for an
Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the
Construction of the Big Stone II Project

Docket No. EL 05-022

**MOTION TO CLARIFY SCHEDULING
AND PROCEDURAL ORDER**

Applicant Big Stone II Co-owners ("Applicant"), by and through their undersigned attorneys, respectfully move the Commission to clarify or amend the Scheduling and Procedural Order ("Scheduling Order") entered in this docket on January 18, 2006, as follows:

1. **Correction of hearing date.** According to the Scheduling Order, the final hearing in this matter is scheduled to occur from June 6 to June 9, 2006, in Pierre. This appears to be a typographical error. It was the understanding of counsel that the hearing was to begin on Monday, June 5 and the balance of the week was reserved for the hearing. In order to avoid any confusion or scheduling issues, the Scheduling Order should be amended to indicate that the hearing is to begin on Monday, June 5, 2006.

2. **Clarification of testimony to be filed.** The Scheduling Order directs that written testimony be filed with the Commission, as follows:

- March 15, 2006 Applicant's Direct Testimony
- April 28, 2006 Intervenors' and Staff's Direct Testimony
- May 19, 2006 All Parties' Rebuttal Testimony

In developing this schedule, it was the understanding of counsel for Applicant that by March 15, Applicant would file the direct testimony in support of the Application; that by April 28 Intervenors would file direct testimony contravening the testimony filed by Applicant and in opposition to the Application and the Staff would file direct testimony as to any issues Staff wishes to raise; and, that by May 19, Applicant would file testimony rebutting the Intervenors' testimony and addressing any issues raised in the Staff's direct testimony.

However, it has come to the attention of counsel for Applicant that the above schedule may lead Intervenors believe that they may adopt a strategy to withhold the filing of testimony which substantively addresses the Applicant's direct testimony until May 19. At a prehearing conference in the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company and Others for a Certification of Transmission Facilities in Western Minnesota and In the Matter of the Application to the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for a Route Permit for the Big Stone Transmission Project in Western Minnesota PUC Docket Nos. CN-05-619 and TR-05-1275 ("Minnesota Proceedings"), it is apparent that an Intervenor in those matters who has also intervened in the docket presently before the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission believed

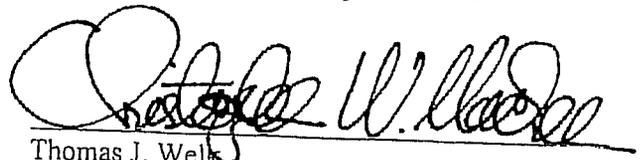
that a similar schedule would allow for the filing of some sort of direct testimony and for the filing of rebuttal testimony which addresses Applicant's direct testimony. The Minnesota Proceedings are concerned with transmission facilities linking the proposed Big Stone II plant to customers in Minnesota.

Applicant is concerned that the Scheduling Order, as drafted, will lead the Intervenor to believe that it is appropriate or acceptable to wait until rebuttal to file testimony that specifically addresses or challenges Applicant's direct testimony leaving Applicant with no opportunity to address contentions specific to the direct testimony. Therefore, Applicant specifically requests that the Commission amend the Scheduling Order to state that May 19, 2006 will be the deadline for Applicant to file testimony rebutting the Intervenor's direct testimony and any issues raised in direct testimony filed by the Staff.

3. **Numbering of exhibits.** Applicant also requests that the Commission amend the Scheduling Order to "reserve" exhibit numbers for particular parties so that as the parties begin to compile and file testimony, exhibits can be premarked. Specifically, Applicant suggests the following:

- Exhibit numbers 1 through 100 be reserved for the Commission;
- Exhibit numbers 101 through 200 be reserved for the Staff;
- Exhibit numbers 201 through 700 be reserved for Applicant;
- Exhibit numbers 701 through 1200 be reserved for the Intervenor MCEA, UCS, etc.;
- Exhibit numbers 1201 through 1700 be reserved for Intervenor Sierra Club; and
- Exhibit numbers 1701 through 2000 be reserved for Intervenor Mary Jo Stueve.

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2006



Thomas J. Welk
Christopher W. Madsen
Boyce, Greenfield, Pashby & Welk, L.L.P.
101 N. Phillips Avenue - #600
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 336-2424

David L. Sasseville (156000)
Todd J. Guerrero (0238478)
LINQUIST & VENNUM
4200 IDS Center
80 South 8th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
(612) 371-3211

Attorneys for Co-owners

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In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Christopher W. Madsen, do hereby certify that I am a member of the law firm of Boyce, Greenfield, Pashby & Welk, L.L.P., attorneys for the Co-owners of Big Stone II Project and that on the 23rd day of February, 2006, true and correct copies of the Motion to Clarify Scheduling Order and Procedural Order were served via email to the following addresses listed on the E-Service List:

John H. Davidson john.davidson@usd.edu
213 USD Law Bldg.
414 E. Clark Street
Vermillion, SD 57069

Bruce Nilles
bruce.nilles@sierraclub.org
Sierra Club
214 N. Henry Street, #203
Madison, WI 53703

Elizabeth I. Goodpaster
bgoodpaster@mncenter.org
MN Center for Environmental Advocacy
26 E. Exchange Street #206
St. Paul, MN 55101

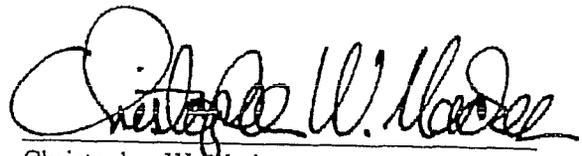
Patrick Gallagher
pat.gallagher@sierraclub.org
Sanjay Narayan
sanjay.narayan@sierraclub.org
Sierra Club
85 Second Street 2nd floor
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mary Jo. Stueve mj_stueve@hotmail.com
196 East 6th Street #401
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

George Hayes georgehays@mindspring.com
Sierra Club
236 West Portal Avenue #110
San Francisco, CA 94127

Karen Cremer karen.cremer@state.sd.us
SD PUC
500 E. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501

Dated this 23rd day of February, 2006



Christopher W. Madsen
Boyce, Greenfield, Pashby & Welk, L.L.P.
101 N. Phillips Avenue - #600
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(605) 336-2424
Attorneys for Big Stone II Project