

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS 2014 TRANSMISSION)
COST RECOVERY ELIGIBILITY AND)
RATE ADJUSTMENT)**

**ORDER ASSESSING)
FILING FEE AND)
SUSPENDING OPERATION)
OF RATE SCHEDULE)**

EL13-029

On August 30, 2013, Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Petition for Annual Update to Transmission Cost Recovery Rider Rate. OTP requests approval of the annual update to its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider (TCR) rate. According to the filing, the TCR rate has been adjusted to reflect the TCR revenue requirements for the next recovery period (calendar year 2014). The update includes the tracker balance estimated for the end of the current recovery period so that no over or under-recovery of TCR costs occurs. The update also includes the costs of one new transmission project that is not currently in base rates and has not previously been approved for inclusion in the TCR. The overall increase in rates is approximately 0.8% for both residential and large general service customers. The impact of the change in rates for a residential customer using 759 kWh per month is an increase of 49 cents per month. For a large general service customer using 486 kW and 222,350 kWh, the bill impact of this update is an increase of \$91.04 per month. OTP proposes an effective date of January 1, 2014.

On September 5, 2013, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 20, 2013, to interested individuals. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, and 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-25.1 through 49-34A-25.4.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 10, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as authorized by SDCL 49-1A-8 to defray expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing and suspend the imposition of the rate for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days beyond August 30, 2013. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee for actual expenses incurred in the review of this filing up to the statutory limit of \$50,000 and to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by OTP for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days beyond August 30, 2013. It is therefore

ORDERED, that OTP shall be assessed a filing fee for actual expenses not to exceed \$50,000 pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8. It is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for a period not to exceed 180 days from the date of filing pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of September, 2013.

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.	
By:	<u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date:	<u>9.16.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner