

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT) ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL
REQUEST FOR SERVICE RIGHTS) OF AN EXCEPTION TO ASSIGNED
EXCEPTION BETWEEN OTTER TAIL) ELECTRIC SERVICE TERRITORY
POWER COMPANY AND LAKE REGION)
ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.)**

EL14-029

On April 3, 2014, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. (Lake Region) requesting approval of a service rights exception. On April 11, and April 25, 2014, Lake Region responded to the Commission's staff's (Staff) data requests.

On April 10, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 25, 2014, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 through 49-34A-44 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on May 13, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. Staff recommended approval of the request for an exception to the electric service territories. Finding that Lake Region's provision of three-phase electric service to the customer will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to the customer affected, and promote the efficient and economical use and development of Lake Region and Otter Tail's electric systems and that it is in the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the exception to Otter Tail's and Lake Region's assigned service territories. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request for approval of an exception to the assigned service territories of Otter Tail and Lake Region is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of May, 2014.

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><i>Lore Rashley</i></u>
Date: <u>5/16/14</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner