

**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 THE ENVIRONMENTAL )  
COST RECOVERY RIDER CHARGE )

ORDER ASSESSING  
FILING FEE

EL15-029

On August 31, 2015, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval of its annual update to the Environmental Cost Recovery Rate under its Environmental Cost Recovery Rider (ECR or Rider), Rate Schedule 13.08, for the actual and forecasted cost and revenue through the recovery period of November 2015 through October 2016 for Big Stone Plant's Air Quality Control System (AQCS) and Hoot Lake Plant's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS). Otter Tail states the rate impact of this request (for both projects) will increase the ECR Rider Rate from \$.00487 per kWh to \$.00643 per kWh. Otter Tail anticipates the rate impact after this update will be just over 9 percent of a customer's bill on average. Otter Tail estimates the rate impact will decline each year in subsequent filings.

On September 3, 2015, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 18, 2015, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 and 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100.

SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 15, 2015, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee as requested by Commission Staff up to the statutory limit of \$50,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Otter Tail shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$50,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2015.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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: <u>Rayne West</u>
Date: <u>9-24-15</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner