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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

ELECTRONICALLY FILED

DATE JUN 16 2006

**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**

South Dakota Docket No. EL05-022

REQUEST FOR CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT OF INFORMATION

Missouri River Energy Services ("MRES"), pursuant to ARSD Part 20:10:01:41, hereby requests the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for confidential treatment of certain information contained in the Rebuttal Testimony of Gerald A. Tielke, marked as Applicants' Exhibit 44 (the "Rebuttal Testimony"), in the above matter.

1. Document and Materials for Which Confidentiality is Requested.

MRES seeks confidential treatment of information contained in the Rebuttal Testimony. All of the information for which MRES seeks confidential treatment is conspicuously marked in the Rebuttal Testimony as to where the Trade Secret Data begins and where it ends.

2. Length of Time for Which Confidentiality is Requested.

MRES asks that the information be treated as confidential and withheld from public view for a period of ten years from the date of the Rebuttal Testimony. Pursuant to ARSD Part 20:10:01:41(2), MRES may seek an extension at that time.

3. Persons to be Contacted Regarding the Confidentiality Request.

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4. Authority Under Which Confidentiality is Requested.

This request for confidential treatment is made pursuant South Dakota statute and administrative rules. The Uniform Trade Secrets Act provides that trade secrets shall be preserved by reasonable means including granting protective orders and sealing records. SDCL § 37-29-1 et seq. ARSD Part 20:10:01:39 defines “confidential information” to include trade secrets recognized and protected by law. ARSD Part 20:10:01:41 defines the procedure by which a party can request that information be treated as confidential by the Commission.

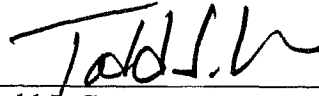
5. Factual Basis that Qualifies the Information for Confidentiality.

The information contained in the Rebuttal Testimony that MRES seeks to protect as confidential is clearly trade secret information. All of the designated information derives independent economic value from not being generally known, is not readily ascertainable, and is the subject of reasonable efforts by MRES to maintain its secrecy. See SDCL § 37-29-1(4). In particular, the information in the Rebuttal Testimony relates to certain demand-side management information of MRES and its member, the Hutchinson Utilities Commission (Hutchinson,

Minnesota). The information is kept confidential by MRES in the ordinary course of its business.

Date: June 16, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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