

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

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)

APPLICATION FOR
PARTY STATUS

EL05-022

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the Union of Concerned Scientists ("UCS") applies for party status in the above-referenced proceeding. SDCL 49-41B-17 (3) provides that parties to energy conversion facility permitting proceedings include "any nonprofit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values . . . to promote consumer interests . . . or to promote the orderly development of the areas in which the facility is to be sited[.]" UCS meets the definition of a party under SDCL 49-41B-17 (3).

UCS is a nonprofit organization of more than 60,000 citizens and scientists that, for more than two decades, has combined rigorous analysis with committed advocacy to reduce the environmental impacts and risks of energy production and use. The UCS Clean Energy Program focuses on encouraging the development of clean and renewable energy resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, and bioenergy, and on improving energy efficiency. We favor the adoption of policies to increase the use of renewable energy resources in our nation's electricity generation mix. Such policies are needed to meet our future electricity needs, diversify our electricity supply, reduce the vulnerability of our energy system, stabilize electricity prices, and protect the environment.

6298

Applicant's
EXHIBIT NO. 59
C. BACHAND

UCS respectfully requests that it be granted party status in this proceeding.

Dated:

Respectfully submitted,

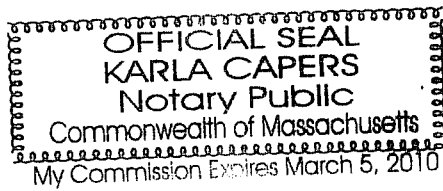
Steven Clemmer

Steven Clemmer
Clean Energy Program Research Director
Union of Concerned Scientists
2 Brattle Square, 6th Floor
Cambridge, MA 02238

Subscribed and sworn before me this 15th day of September, 2005.

Karla Capers
Notary Public

(SEAL)



Handwritten initials or mark.