



Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

The legal and scientific voice protecting and defending Minnesota's Environment

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September 19, 2005

VIA FACSIMILE AND U.S. MAIL

Pamela Bonrud
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: In the Matter of 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

Docket No. EL05-022

Dear Ms. Bonrud:

In connection with the above-referenced docket, please find enclosed the original and ten copies of the Application for Party Status of Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy, the Izaak Walton League of America - Midwest Office, and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 651-223-5969. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth I. Goodpaster

Enclosure

Applicants
EXHIBIT NO. 62
C. BACHAND

RECEIVED

SEP 22 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

FAX Received SEP 19 2005

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

In the Matter of Otter Tail Power)	APPLICATION FOR
Company on behalf of Big Stone II)	PARTY STATUS
Co-owners for an Energy Conversion)	
Facility Permit for the Construction)	
Of the Big Stone II Project)	EL05-022

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the following organizations each apply for party status in the above-referenced proceeding: Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (“ME3”), Izaak Walton League of America – Midwest Office (“IWLA”), and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (“MCEA”). 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[.]” ME3, IWLA and MCEA each meet the definition of a party under SDCL 49-41B-17 (3).

ME3 is a non-profit organization, working in the public interest to increase commitments to renewable energy, energy efficiency in homes, government and business, to protect public health and quality of life, and to promote an energy-efficient economy.

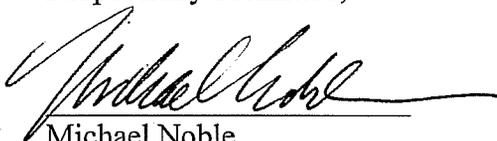
IWLA is a nonprofit conservation organization committed to protecting fish and wildlife, critical habitat, air and water resources. The Midwest Office of the IWLA works on energy and air quality issues throughout the Midwest.

MCEA is a nonprofit environmental organization that works in the courts, the legislature and state agencies to protect Minnesota's wildlife, natural resources and the health of its people. MCEA's five program areas include an Energy Program, which focuses on advancing Minnesota utilities' pursuit of environmentally sustainable sources of energy.

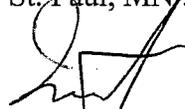
ME3, IWLA, and MCEA respectfully request that the Commission grant them each party status in this proceeding.

Dated: September 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



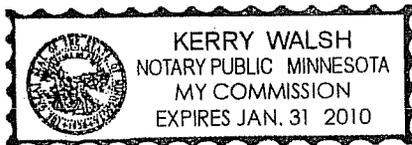
Michael Noble
Executive Director
Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy
Minnesota Building, Suite 600
46 East Fourth Street
St. Paul, MN 55101 V 651-726-7563



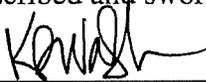
William Grant
Executive Director
Izaak Walton League of America - Midwest Office
1619 Dayton Avenue, Suite 202
St. Paul, Minnesota 55104 V 651-649-1446
ext. 11



Elizabeth Goodpaster
Energy Program Director
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy
26 East Exchange Street, Suite 206
St. Paul, MN 55101



Subscribed and sworn before me this 19th day of September, 2005.



Notary Public