

CUSTOMER NUMBER:	44377	Argus Leader		P.O. Box 5034, Sioux Falls, S.D. 57117-5034
INVOICE NUMBER:				
RUN DATES:	Thursday, February 23, 2006	AMOUNT DUE	\$1552.95	

SD PUBLIC UTILITIES
ATTN: Karen Cremer
500 E CAPITOL AVE
PIERRE SD 57501-5070

RECEIVED

FEB 27 2006

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DETACH THIS STUB AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT

PAYMENT DUE UPON RECEIPT

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION-

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OF MINNEHAHA } ss

Beth Buchanan being duly sworn, says: That The Argus Leader is, and during all the times hereinafter mentioned was, a daily legal newspaper as defined by SDCL 17-2-21, as amended published at Sioux Falls, Minnehaha County, South Dakota; that affiant is and during all of said times, was an employee of the publisher of such newspaper and has personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit; that the notice, order or advertisement, a printed copy of which is hereto attached, was published in said newspaper upon

Thursday, the 23rd day of February 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,
_____, the _____ day of _____ 2006,

and that \$1552.95 was charged for publishing the same for display advertising.

Beth Buchanan

Subscribed and sworn to before me February 23, 2006,

JUDY WIESE
NOTARY PUBLIC
SOUTH DAKOTA

Judy Wiese
Notary Public, South Dakota

My Commission expires November 3, 2006

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY ON BEHALF OF SEVEN
REGIONAL UTILITIES TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
GRANT AND DEUEL COUNTIES, SOUTH DAKOTA
DOCKET EL06-002**

**WHEN: Thursday, March 2, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. CST
WHERE: Reville City Auditorium - Basement, Reville, SD**

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application filed by Otter Tail Power Company on behalf of seven regional utilities (Applicants) - Otter Tail Power Company, Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Great River Energy, Heartland Consumers Power District, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., Eastern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (as represented by Missouri River Energy Services) for a permit to construct transmission lines and associated facilities in Grant and Deuel Counties in South Dakota. The applicants seek a Construction Permit designating a route authorizing construction of three new transmission lines in South Dakota. Two lines would be constructed at 230 kV standards and would run from the existing Big Stone 230 kV Substation next to the Big Stone 1 power line to a new Big Stone 345 kV Substation, which is proposed to be located southwest of the intersection of County Road #4 (145th Street) and 484th Avenue. One of these 230 kV lines will continue on to the east one mile and then turn and run diagonally to a point on the west side of the existing Highway 12 Substation is approximately two miles west of Big Stone City. From that point the line will go east a short distance and will be double circuited with an existing 115 kV line and follow the existing route of the 115 kV line to the South Dakota/Minnesota border. Approximately 5.45 miles of new 230 kV line would be built in South Dakota.

The third line would be constructed for future 345 kV operation but initially be operated at 230 kV. It would start from the new Big Stone 345 kV Substation, go slightly southeasterly until it crosses U.S. Highway 12 where it turns and goes directly south along the Quarter Section line between 484th and 485th Avenue Street. The proposed route then goes at a diagonal southwest to 484th Avenue and parallels 484th Avenue south to 149th Street. The proposed route then turns southeasterly again to a point approximately one mile south of 149th Street to 485th Avenue, where it again turns south and parallels 485th Avenue until it reaches 155th Street (Grant County Road #26). The proposed route then turns and runs diagonally to the south point approximately one-third of a mile north of 158th Street, where it again turns south and follows the Quarter Section line between 484th and 485th Avenue to 172A Street. The route then turns and runs diagonally southeast to a point on the South Dakota/Minnesota border approximately one-quarter of a mile south of 172A Street or two miles north of the City of Gary, South Dakota. The line then continues south approximately one-quarter mile before it turns and enters Minnesota and continues on to the Granite Falls Substation near Gary, Minnesota. Approximately 33 miles of 345 kV line will be built in South Dakota. In addition, modification of the existing Big Stone 230 kV Substation and existing transmission facilities and construction of a new Big Stone 345 kV Substation will also be required as part of the project.

An alternative route for the proposed 345 kV line would follow the same proposed route from the Big Stone 345 kV Substation to the intersection of 160th Street and 485th Avenue where it would turn and run straight east along 160th Street to the South Dakota/Minnesota border.

At the hearing, interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. The application is on file in the Grant County Auditor's office and Deuel County Auditor's office and in the Commission's office in Pierre. The application and all other documents in the file may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Dockets," "2006 Electric Dockets," "EL06-002."

The parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicants and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 41B-17, any person residing in the area of the project, each municipality, county, and governmental entity in the project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation, beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historic landmarks, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in the proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before March 20, 2006. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on March 20, 2006.

For approval, the Applicants must show that the proposed transmission line project will comply with applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially affect the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in the proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before March 20, 2006. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on March 20, 2006. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted or denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance of the project as the Commission finds are appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs or arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: phone (800) 773-3809; fax (605) 773-3809; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.