

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)	ORDER GRANTING
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS)	APPROVAL OF AN
EXCEPTION BETWEEN OTTER TAIL POWER)	EXCEPTION TO THE
COMPANY AND WHETSTONE VALLEY)	ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)	SERVICE TERRITORY
)	EL05-025

On October 6, 2005, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Whetstone) filed a joint request with the Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The exception would allow Whetstone to provide electrical service to two rail switches for Western Consolidated Cooperative (Western) in its grain handling operation located in Otter Tail's territory. The two rail switches are located in the SE1/4 of Section 7, Township 120 North, Range 49, West, Grant County, South Dakota. Western has consented to the transfer.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 1, 2005, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that Whetstone may provide electrical service to Western's two rail switches as it will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of Otter Tail and Whetstone. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of November, 2005.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u> Melaine Koelbo </u></p> <p>Date: <u> 11/7/05 </u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

 Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

 Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner