

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF  
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY TO  
ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
QUALITY COST RECOVERY TARIFF** )  
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)  
)

**ORDER GRANTING  
INTERVENTION**

**EL12-027**

On March 30, 2012, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval of an Environmental Quality Cost Recovery Tariff. The purpose of this request is to begin the recovery of the costs of the required environmental retrofit to the Big Stone generating station. Otter Tail anticipates that the rate impact of this request will be approximately two percent on average in the first year of the rider. Once the construction is complete in 2016, Otter Tail estimates the rate impact will be approximately 15 percent. Otter Tail proposes an October 1, 2012, effective date.

On April 5, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 23, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. On April 10, 2012, NorthWestern filed a Petition to Intervene.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A and ARSD 20:10:01:15.05.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 24, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that the Petition to Intervene demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that NorthWestern's Petition to Intervene is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 1<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2012.

<p><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></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, electronically.</p> <p>By: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Date: <u>May 1, 2012</u></p> <p>(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner