

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST BY) ORDER APPROVING TRANSFER
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR) OF CONSTRUCTION PERMIT
APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF)
CONSTRUCTION PERMIT) EL12-045**

On June 28, 2012, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a Motion to Transfer Permit Ownership (Motion) requesting approval pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-29 to transfer the electric transmission line Construction Permit granted in Docket EL06-002 from the seven Big Stone II regional utilities including Otter Tail, as joint owners, to Otter Tail as sole owner.

On July 5, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Motion and the intervention deadline of July 20, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No parties filed for intervention. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-29.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on July 31, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission's Staff recommended approval. Finding that Otter Tail was from the outset the managing partner of the Big Stone II regional utilities, that Otter Tail's proposed transmission improvements have been approved as MVP projects by MISO, and that transfer of the Construction Permit is consistent with the public interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the transfer of the Construction Permit issued in Docket EL06-002 from the Big Stone II joint owners to Otter Tail as sole owner. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Otter Tail's request for approval to transfer the Construction Permit issued in Docket EL06-002 from the Big Stone II joint owners to Otter Tail as sole owner is granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31st day of July, 2012.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
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.
By: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>July 31, 2012</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

[Signature]
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

[Signature]
GARY HANSON, Commissioner