

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION) OF OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR) AN ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY) PERMIT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF) A COMBUSTION TURBINE GENERATOR) AND ASSOCIATED INFRASTRUCTURE) INCLUDING A NATURAL GAS PIPELINE) AND ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION LINE) NEAR ASTORIA, SOUTH DAKOTA)) NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER) FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC) INPUT HEARING; NOTICE OF) OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR) PARTY STATUS) EL17-042
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On October 5, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a permit application for an energy conversion facility (Application) from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail). Otter Tail proposes to develop, own, and operate an approximate 250 megawatt simple-cycle natural gas fired energy conversion facility and related components known as the Astoria Station Project (Project). Associated facilities include a short segment (less than 1,000 feet long) of approximately 10-inch diameter natural gas pipeline on Otter Tail property necessary to interconnect to the Northern Border Pipeline and a short segment (preliminarily estimated to be less than one-half mile long) of 345 kilovolt (kV) generation-tie electric transmission line necessary to interconnect to the Big Stone South-Brookings County 345 kV electric transmission line. Astoria Station is to be located in the N 1/2 of Section 22, Township 113N, Range 48W, Scandinavia Township, Deuel County, approximately one and one-half miles northwest of Astoria, South Dakota. The Project is expected to be in service by May 2021. Otter Tail estimates the total construction cost to be \$165 million.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application on Monday, November 27, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., CST, at the Deubrook Elementary School Gymnasium, 695 Palisades Avenue, Toronto, South Dakota.**

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the hearing, Otter Tail will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Brookings and Deuel County Auditors pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2017 Electric Dockets, EL17-042 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently Otter Tail and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Project; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Project is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Project is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission.

Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CST, December 4, 2017. The Commission will also be accepting comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mailing the Commission right up until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, the Commission's staff, or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or ad hoc meeting of the Commission.

For approval, Otter Tail must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input hearing on the Application and Project on November 27, 2017, 6:30 p.m., CST, at the Deubrook Elementary School Gymnasium, 695 Palisades Avenue, Toronto, South Dakota. It is further

ORDERED, that **pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, applications for party status must be filed on or before 5:00 p.m., CST, on December 4, 2017.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 or (800) 332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of October, 2017.

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 or by mail.	
By:	<u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>10/12/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner