

**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**

**ORDER GRANTING REQUEST TO  
WITHDRAW PETITION AND  
CLOSE DOCKET**

**EL12-027**

On March 30, 2012, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition of Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval of an Environmental Quality Cost Recovery Tariff (Petition). 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 20, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. On April 10, 2012, NorthWestern Energy filed a Petition to Intervene. On May 1, 2012, the Commission issued an Order Granting Intervention to NorthWestern Energy. On January 25, 2013, Commission Staff filed its Evaluation of Otter Tail's Air Quality Control System Project as the Least Cost Option Compared to Other Alternatives.

On April 16, 2013, Otter Tail filed a letter requesting that action on its Petition be suspended until the Air Quality Control System project nears completion, or, if the Commission prefers, requesting authority to withdraw its Petition.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Otter Tail's request to withdraw its Petition and close the docket. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Otter Tail's request to withdraw its Petition and close the docket is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2013.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>04.24.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature: Gary Hanson]

GARY HANSON, Chairman

[Signature: Chris Nelson]

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

[Signature: Kristie Fiegen]

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner