

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS 2013 TRANSMISSION)
COST RECOVERY ELIGIBILITY AND RATE)
ADJUSTMENT)**

**ORDER GRANTING JOINT
MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION**

EL12-054

On September 4, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) requesting approval of its annual update to its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider (TCR) rate. The proposed revised TCR rate reflects the TCR revenue requirements for the year 2013, including the tracker balance estimated for the end of the current period and costs of new transmission projects that are not currently in base rates and have not previously been approved for inclusion in the TCR rider. The Company proposes a January 1, 2013, effective date.

On September 6, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 21, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On September 27, 2012, the Commission issued an Order Assessing Filing Fee and Suspending Operation of Rate Schedule. On April 17, 2013, Commission Staff (Staff) filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation (Joint Motion), Settlement Stipulation, and Staff Memorandum.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-25.1 through 49-34A-25.4, and ARSD 20:10:01:19.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on April 23, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission heard from Otter Tail and Staff concerning the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest, and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th day of April, 2013.

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>Joy King</u>
Date:	<u>4.24.13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner