

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST) FOR SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION) BETWEEN LAKE REGION ELECTRIC) ASSOCIATION, INC. AND OTTER TAIL) POWER COMPANY)	ORDER GRANTING APPROVAL OF AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS EXCEPTION EL16-036
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On November 8, 2016, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Joint Request for Service Rights Exception between Lake Region Electric Association, Inc. (Lake Region) and Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail). Lake Region was contacted by a customer to provide single-phase residential service to a location that resides in Otter Tail's service territory. It would be cost prohibitive for Otter Tail to extend service to this location. The requested Service Rights Exception is for single-phase power to this location and is not a service territory exchange with all future projects in this area being subject to discussions with Otter Tail on a case-by-case basis.

On November 10, 2016, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 28, 2016, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 through 49-34A-44 and 49-34A-55.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 6, 2016, the Commission considered this matter. Staff recommended approval of the requested service rights exception. Finding that Lake Region's provision of single phase residential service to a location that resides in Otter Tail's service territory, and finding that it is in the customers interest, the Commission voted unanimously to approve the requested service rights exception. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Request for Approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception between Otter Tail and Lake Region is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of December, 2016.

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>Haron E. Cremer</u>
Date: <u>12/12/2016</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner