

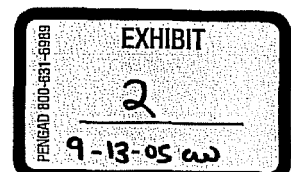
My name is Adam Sokolski, and I am an Energy Associate with the Midwest Office of the Izaak Walton League of America. The Izaak Walton League – together with our colleagues from Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy and the Union of Concerned Scientists – intends to intervene in the ^{SOUTH DAKOTA} Public Utilities Commission proceeding regarding the proposed Big Stone II power plant.

We have concerns about the proposed Big Stone II power plant – not the least of which is that it would be a substantial increase in carbon dioxide emissions. This is an environmental issue AND a financial issue. The world's emerging response to global warming will inevitably transform the regulatory climate in the years ahead. These new laws will in turn change the economics and the technology of electricity production and use, making high-carbon energy sources relatively more expensive, while low-carbon energy sources become better and cheaper through technological advances, economies of scale, and government incentives.

The Big Stone II partners have proposed a high-risk, high-cost power plant when you consider the ratepayer costs that are likely under carbon-capped regulatory scenarios. Just this Summer, the United States Senate passed a resolution supporting “a comprehensive and effective national program of mandatory, market-based limits and incentives on emissions of greenhouse gases.” The regulatory path ahead puts a hefty price tag on proposals such as Big Stone II.

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In fact, Otter Tail Power's largest industrial customer in Minnesota, Enbridge Corporation, is seeking to insulate itself from the high costs and risks of future fossil fuel investments such as Big Stone II, by seeking from Otter Tail a long term contract that is keyed into the costs of a new *wind power* development in the "other Dakota".

Izaak Walton League, Minnesotans for an Energy Efficient Economy and the Union of Concerned Scientists appreciate the opportunity to participate in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission proceeding.

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