

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER GRANTING LOCAL
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY ON BEHALF)	REVIEW COMMITTEE'S
OF BIG STONE II CO-OWNERS FOR AN)	REQUEST TO HIRE
ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY PERMIT)	CONSULTANTS
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BIG)	
STONE II PROJECT)	EL05-022

On July 21, 2005, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) on behalf of the Project Co-Owners, Central Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Great River Energy, Heartland Consumers Power District, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group, Inc., Otter Tail Corporation d/b/a Otter Tail Power Company, Southern Minnesota Municipal Power Agency and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for a permit for an energy conversion facility. The proposed energy conversion facility is a nominal 600 MW coal-fired electric generating facility and associated facilities, which the Project co-owners have named Big Stone II, to be located on an industrial site adjacent to the existing Big Stone Plant Unit I in Grant County, South Dakota. The proposed site is located East of Milbank and Northwest of Big Stone City, in Grant County, South Dakota.

On July 28, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities, however, it did not include an intervention date. On August 5, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted an amended notice which included an intervention deadline of September 18, 2005. On August 18, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted and posted to its web page an Errata Notice for Amended Weekly Filings setting forth the correct intervention deadline of September 19, 2005. On August 25, 2005, the Commission received a Petition to Intervene from Clean Water Action (Clean Water). On September 16, 2005, the Commission received Applications for Party Status from South Dakota Chapter Sierra Club (Sierra Club) and Union of Concerned Scientists (Union). On September 19, 2005, the Commission received Applications for Party Status from Mary Jo Stueve (Stueve), Minnesotans for an Energy-Efficient Economy (Minnesotans), Izaak Walton League of America - Midwest Office (Izaak Walton) and Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy (Minnesota Center). At its September 27, 2005, meeting, the Commission granted intervention to Clean Water, Sierra Club, Union, Stueve, Minnesotans, Izaak Walton and Minnesota Center.

On September 20, 2005, the Commission received a letter from the Local Review Committee requesting \$47,959 to employ two consultants to assist the Local Review Committee in carrying out the Committee's responsibilities by the February 21, 2006, deadline. The consultants' credentials, work plan and fee itemizations were set forth in a proposal attached to the letter. Staff stated that there was a computational error in the fee total and that the correct total was \$47,950.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-6, 49-41B-7, 49-41B-8, 49-41B-9, 49-41B-10, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-14, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-19, 49-41B-20, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-24, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-35, 49-41B-36, 49-41B-38, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

On October 4, 2005, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission voted unanimously to grant the Local Review Committee's request to hire the two consultants to carry out the work plan and in accordance with the fee schedule set forth in the proposal submitted herein for \$47,950. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Local Review Committee's request to hire two consultants for \$47,950 is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 5th day of October, 2005.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.	
By:	<u>Melaine Kolbo</u>
Date:	<u>10/6/05</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner *dk*

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner