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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

BIG STONE II

August 3, 2006

Patty Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen

Subject: Final Decision and Order - Big Stone II Energy Conversion
Facility Permit
Docket No. EL 05-022

In conformance with Condition 2.A of the Final Decision and Order for
the Big Stone II Energy Conversion Facility Permit (Docket No. EL 05-
022), enclosed is a copy of the following permit:

DENR Water Quality Certification under Section 401 of the Clean
Water Act

Sincerely,



Terry Graumann
Manager, Environmental Services

Enclosure

PO Box 496
215 SOUTH CASCADE STREET
FERGUS FALLS MN 56537
www.BigStoneII.com

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY, LEAD DEVELOPER
CENTRAL MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY
GREAT RIVER ENERGY
HEARTLAND CONSUMERS POWER DISTRICT
MISSOURI RIVER ENERGY SERVICES
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.
SOUTHERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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DEPARTMENT of ENVIRONMENT
and NATURAL RESOURCES

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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

PMB 2020
JOE FOSS BUILDING
523 EAST CAPITOL
PIERRE, SOUTH DAKOTA 57501-3182
www.state.sd.us/denr

July 13, 2006

Terry Graumann
Otter Tail Corporation
P. O. Box 496
215 South Cascade Street
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496

RE: 200530159
Big Stone II Power Plant
Wetlands

Dear Mr. Graumann:

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has reviewed the request for water quality certification. This project will result in the filling of approximately 65 acres of wetlands for the construction of a power plant northwest of Big Stone City, SD. This project is located in Sections 11, 12, 14 and 15, Township 121 North, Range 47 West, Grant County, South Dakota. Section 401 of the Clean Water Act requires this review before a 404 permit is granted.

The department is granting water quality certification with the following conditions:

(1) The Best Management Practices must be used and in place before construction begins.

In addition to the 404 permit, a Storm Water Construction Permit must be obtained from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Please contact Al Spangler at 1-800-737-8676 for the Storm Water Construction Permit.

This certification does not authorize the above referenced activity. The activity may occur only by issuance of the U.S. Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit. If you have questions pertaining to this certification, please contact John Miller, at (605) 773-3351. Thank you for ensuring the continued protection of our natural resources.

Sincerely,

Steven M. Pirner
Secretary

cc: Steve Naylor, US COE, Pierre
Martha Chieply, US COE, Omaha
Brent Truskowski, US EPA, Denver

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