

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR PROPOSED ENERGY CONVERSION FACILITY

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing on an application submitted by 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 for a permit to construct an Energy Conversion Facility. The proposed site is located East of Milbank and Northwest of Big Stone City, in Grant County, South Dakota. 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 Commission finds that good cause exists to schedule a public input hearing pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16. The purpose of the hearing is to hear public comment regarding Otter Tail's application. The public input hearing will be held on Tuesday, September 13, 2005, at 7:00 p.m., at the Lantern Inn, 1010 South Dakota Street, Milbank, South Dakota. At the public input hearing, interested persons may appear and present their views and comments regarding the application. A copy of the application is on file with the Grant County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5). Filing in the docket, including the application, may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov.

The Commission further finds that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are Otter Tail and the Commission. Further, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the facility is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission on or before September 19, 2005. Forms for intervening as a party will be available at the hearing or may be obtained from the Commission.

Otter Tail must show that the proposed energy conversion facility will comply with all applicable laws and rules; that the energy conversion facility will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area; the energy conversion facility will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants; and the energy conversion facility will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. The Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted,

denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.



Gary Hanson, Chair
Bob Sahr, Vice-Chair
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-5070
www.puc.sd.gov

Capitol Office
(605) 773-3201
(605) 773-3809 fax

Transportation/Warehouse
(605) 773-5280
(605) 773-3225 fax

Consumer Hotline
1-800-332-1782

August 11, 2005

Watertown Public Opinion
120 3rd Avenue N.W.
Watertown, SD 57201

Attention: Faye

Re: In the Matter of the Application by Otter Tail Power
Company on behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for
an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the
Construction of the Big Stone II Project
Docket EL05-022

Dear Faye:

Please publish the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Energy Conversion Facility in the Watertown Public Opinion as a display advertisement for one issue on August 18, 2005. Please send us your Affidavit of Publication, together with your invoice, and we will promptly remit.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Karen E. Cremer
Staff Attorney

KEC:dk



Gary Hanson, Chair
Bob Sahr, Vice-Chair
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

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1-800-332-1782

VIA FAX: (605) 698-3641

August 11, 2005

The Sisseton Courier
117 East Oak
Sisseton, SD 57262

Attention: Ronda

Re: In the Matter of the Application by Otter Tail Power
Company on behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for
an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the
Construction of the Big Stone II Project
Docket EL05-022

Dear Ronda:

Please publish the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Energy Conversion Facility in The Sisseton Courier as a display advertisement for one issue on August 16, 2005. Please send us your Affidavit of Publication, together with your invoice, and we will promptly remit.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Karen E. Cremer
Staff Attorney

KEC:dk
Enc.



Gary Hanson, Chair
Bob Sahr, Vice-Chair
Dustin Johnson, Commissioner

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August 11, 2005

Valley Shopper
203 South 3rd Street
Milbank, SD 57252

Attention: Jeannie

Re: In the Matter of the Application by Otter Tail Power
Company on behalf of Big Stone II Co-Owners for
an Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the
Construction of the Big Stone II Project
Docket EL05-022

Dear Jeannie:

Please publish the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing for Proposed Energy Conversion Facility in the Valley Shopper as a display advertisement for one issue in your paper that is going to print tomorrow. Please send us your Affidavit of Publication, together with your invoice, and we will promptly remit.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Karen E. Cremer
Staff Attorney

KEC:dk
Enc.