



48450 144th Street • Big Stone City, SD 57216

[www.bigstoneii.com](http://www.bigstoneii.com)

November 16, 2009

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

RE: Big Stone II  
Our File No. 11402.000

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

I am writing to advise you and the Commission of the status of the Big Stone II Project. As has generally been announced in the media, in September, Otter Tail Power Company announced its withdrawal from the Project. Since that time, the remaining owners sought additional participants, but none have been identified. Accordingly, the remaining owners have stated that they will not move forward with plans to construct the proposed power plant.

Please let this letter serve as notice that the Big Stone II owners relinquish all rights and obligations granted through and by the Commission's Final Decision and Order for the Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of the Big Stone II Project, Docket EL 05-022.

As of this time, the owners wish to preserve all rights and obligations granted by and through the Commission's January 16, 2007 Decision and Order Approving Stipulation and Granting Permit to Construct Transmission Facilities, Docket EL 06-002. Given the interest in the proposed transmission facilities to support renewable energy resources, among others, the owners are considering whether the lines can be constructed by other parties. The owners will inform the Commission of any developments regarding the transmission facilities permit.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Rolfes  
Project Manager

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UTILITIES COMMISSION**