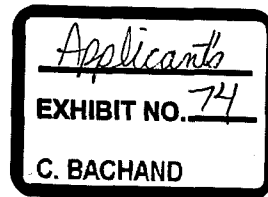


**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**



<b>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 )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING WITHDRAWAL OF INTERVENTION  EL05-022</b>
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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 February 16, 2006, the Commission received a letter from Clean Water Action requesting that its Petition to Intervene be withdrawn.

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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 28, 2006, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that Clean Water Action's request to withdraw its Petition to Intervene should be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Clean Water Action's request to withdraw its Petition to Intervene is granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2006.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>	
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>3/17/06</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Dustin M. Johnson  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner