

September 3, 2015

Dear Landowner,

The purpose of this letter is to provide you with important information about Otter Tail Power Company's 230-kilovolt transmission lines being constructed between the existing Big Stone Plant Substation and the new Big Stone South Substation. We've included the following information in this packet:

- A copy of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's EL12-063 Certification Order
- A copy of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's EL06-002 Order and Stipulation
- Information about *Staying safe in electric line rights of way*
- Information about *Construction, restoration, and maintenance procedures*
- South Dakota Public Utilities Commission contact information, on the next page

### **Schedule**

Otter Tail Power Company employees will begin construction later in September 2015 with setting of the poles along the route. We anticipate conductor stringing activities to begin in November 2015. At this time we expect all transmission line construction activities to be complete by December 2015. Construction at our new Big Stone South Substation and upgrade work at our existing Big Stone Plant Substation will continue in 2016 and into 2017 to address the transmission line commissioning.

### **Public Utilities Commission permit**

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission issued an Order December 18, 2006, granting a Route Permit for Construction of the Big Stone Transmission Line and Substations in Grant and Deuel County. These project components were complementary to the then proposed Big Stone II generating plant. In 2007 the Big Stone II generating plant was canceled, however, the need for transmission service in the region remained leading project utilities to seek certification of the transmission line route permit in 2012. The Commission issued an Order May 10, 2013, recertifying the route that includes the 230-kilovolt lines as well as the new substation construction and existing substation upgrades. We've included the Orders for your reference.

### **Safety information sheet**

You will be able to continue using most of the land you own near the transmission line as you have in the past. As the utility owner and operator of the transmission line, Otter Tail Power Company is required to maintain a safe clearance around its energized wires and structures. This includes keeping tall trees from growing in the right of way. Please review the attached *Staying safe in electric line rights of way* fact sheet for additional information about the activities that can and can't be safely conducted near a transmission line.

### **Construction damage restoration and compensation**

Your crops within or near the right of way may be damaged by the construction process. Otter Tail Power Company has a process to compensate landowners for crop and other damages. When construction is complete, we will calculate actual damages and make payments according to the procedure described in the *Construction, restoration, and maintenance procedures* fact sheet and *Sample Form*.

If you have questions or concerns about any of the information provided in this packet or about the project in general, please contact me at:

Cindy Kuismi, Supervisor, Land Rights and Permitting  
Otter Tail Power Company  
[ckuismi@otpc.co](mailto:ckuismi@otpc.co)  
218-739-8751 (W); 218-7707869 (C)

If you would like to communicate with someone at the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, use the following contact information:

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Capitol Building, 1st floor  
500 E. Capitol Ave.  
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

Phone: 605-773-3201

Otter Tail Power Company is committed to providing our customers safe, reliable, and affordable electricity. We appreciate your cooperation and attention to safety during this busy construction time.

Sincerely,

Cindy Kuismi  
Supervisor, Land Rights and Permitting  
Otter Tail Power Company

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