

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY  
Docket No: EL14-090

Response to: South Dakota Public Utilities Commission  
Analyst: SDPUC Staff  
Date Received: 12/10/2014  
Date Due: 12/30/2014  
Date of Response: 12/30/2014  
Responding Witness: Stuart Tommerdahl, Manager Regulatory Administration, 218 739-8279

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Information Request:

Referring to the “soil conditions and weather related hindrances” mentioned on page 10 of the petition relating to the increased costs of the Oakes Area Transmission Improvements, provide a breakdown of each obstacle faced, the corrective action that had to be taken, and the associated costs.

Attachments: 0

Response:

Costs resulting from the bitter cold weather resulted in about \$160,000 in additional equipment and labor expenses. Exceptionally cold weather prompted extra measures to keep power outage times to a minimum requiring cut over work to be done in a condensed time frame. This required additional crews and equipment. An additional digger was required to get through the deep frost caused by the cold. Additionally, lengthier times to prepare equipment and perform the construction work were required due to the cold permitting less outdoor exposure time for workers than normal.

The loose wet soils with a high water table present on the project resulted in bigger, deeper foundation needs, corrugated metal pipe culverts installations, additional structure grounding costs, some specialty equipment needs, some frost road packing activities, additional foundation backfill materials and the associated labor for those activities resulted in about \$270,000 in additional expenses.

Therefore, the total weather and soil related additional costs are estimated at about \$430,000.