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October 5, 2022

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
State Capitol Building
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**RE: In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company for An Energy Conversion Facility Permit for the Construction of a Combustion Turbine Generator and Associated Infrastructure Including a Natural Gas Pipeline and Electric Transmission Line Near Astoria, South Dakota
Docket No. EL17-042
Informational Filing**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) submits this informational filing regarding Condition 30 of the Settlement Stipulation in the above referenced docket for Otter Tail's Astoria Station Project. Condition 30 requires a post-construction operational noise assessment be completed based on measurements by an independent third-party noise consultant, approved by Commission Staff.

As additional background, Otter Tail previously filed a post-construction operational noise assessment on May 27, 2021. That test was completed at less than full load due to high vibration in the exhaust that would have resulted in noise levels to exceed the permit conditions; thus, since that time Otter Tail has been limiting load at Astoria Station during standard periods of dispatch. Otter Tail and the turbine manufacturer have been working on a solution to the exhaust vibration and are planning an outage this November to address the issue. As directed by Commission Staff in a June 3, 2021 letter, Otter Tail intends to conduct an updated operational noise assessment following the outage.

In this filing, Otter Tail is providing notice of Commission Staff's approval of HDR Engineering, Inc. as the independent third-party consultant to conduct the updated Astoria Station Project noise assessment, along with the proposed test plan and qualifications that were provided to Commission Staff.

Pursuant to South Dakota Codified Laws Section 49-34A-10 and Administrative Rules of South Dakota (ARSD) Part 20:10:01:02:05, this filing has been electronically submitted to the Commission.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (218) 739-8526 or mthoma@otpc.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ MARK THOMA
Mark Thoma
Manager, Environmental Services

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Enclosures
By electronic service