

215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496
218 739-8200
www.otpc.com (web site)



December 16, 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 Conditions 29 and 30 of the Settlement Stipulation in the above referenced docket for Otter Tail's Astoria Station Project. Condition 29 sets forth the noise levels associated with the Project that shall not be exceeded at the nearest, occupied residents. 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, to show compliance with the noise standards.

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 to 235 megawatts (MW) during standard periods of dispatch. Otter Tail and the turbine manufacturer developed a solution to the exhaust vibration and undertook an outage this November to address the issue. As approved by Commission Staff, following the outage Otter Tail retained HDR Engineering to conduct an updated operational noise assessment.

As detailed in the attached assessment, Astoria Station met the noise standards at a plant output of 277 MW, which was the maximum achievable load at the time of testing, and well above the Station's 245 MW nominal rating required to be achieved for the testing.

In accordance with Commission Staff's June 3, 2021 letter that requested Otter Tail to file the updated far-field noise test demonstrating compliance at or above 245 MW prior to releasing Astoria Station to load levels above 235 MW, coincident with this submittal Otter Tail intends to begin releasing Astoria Station for full load.

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

lcd
Enclosures
By electronic service