

July 6, 2020

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen Executive Director South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Capitol Building, 1st floor 500 East Capitol Avenue Pierre, SD 57501-5070

## **RE:** Otter Tail Power Company intent to Reinstate Late Payment Fee Provision of the Company's General Rules and Regulations Tariff Section 4.10 and End the Suspension of Disconnect Notices and Disconnection Actions

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) hereby advises the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) that Otter Tail will reinstate late payment charges as outlined in our General Rules and Regulations Tariff Section 4.10 and will end the suspension of disconnect notices and disconnection actions.

As economic uncertainty has diminished, Otter Tail believes it appropriate to reinstate these actions which will reinforce the importance of customers continuing to make timely payments on their accounts to avoid further arrears that could cause hardship in the future.

On March 17, 2020 Otter Tail suspended our disconnection process; on March 20, 2020 late payment charges were suspended; and on April 17, 2020 Otter Tail replaced our disconnect notices with an informative letter. This letter kept the customers informed their account was past due, encouraged them to contact us, and informed them that we had temporarily suspended disconnects and late payment charges.

Starting July 13, 2020, we will begin sending disconnection notices and disconnection actions will follow for accounts with outstanding balances as of August 4, 2020. For late payment fees, we are allowing customers time to adjust, and these fees will be reinstated as of August 12, 2020.

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Notification will be sent to all residential and small commercial customers on or before July 13, 2020 to inform them of the transition back to our normal practices.

Otter Tail appreciates the Commission working together with utilities as we make our way through this challenging and uncertain time. We also appreciated the efforts by the Commission to encourage and educate customers.

Please contact me at (218) 739-8657, or molsen@otpco.com, should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

/s/ *MATTHEW J. OLSEN* Matthew J. Olsen Manager, Regulatory Proceedings & Compliance

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