

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)		
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND)		ORDER GRANTING JOINT
WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER)		MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF
AGENCY FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR A 345-)		SETTLEMENT STIPULATION
KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY AND)		BETWEEN APPLICANTS
ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN GRANT)		AND INTERVENORS; ORDER
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)		GRANTING WITHDRAWAL
)		OF PARTY STATUS
)		
)		EL24-015

On April 15, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota), through its agent, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) (collectively, Applicants). Applicants propose to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities including substation upgrades (Project) within South Dakota. The Project, known as the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project, originates at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation, located approximately 2 miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota, in Big Stone Township and connects to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. The South Dakota portion of the Project consists of approximately 3.5 miles of transmission line beginning in Section 24, Township 121N, Range 47W, Grant County, South Dakota, extending east and south to the Minnesota border. Applicants anticipate construction to commence in 2027 or 2028 and be completed in either 2030 or 2031.

On April 18, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 14, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On June 18, 2024, the Commission granted party status to Daniel and Tamra Jurgens (Jurgens). On December 5, 2024, the Applicants and Jurgens filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. The referenced Settlement Stipulation resolves all the issues between Jurgens and the Applicants in this proceeding with the Jurgens withdrawing their party status in the Docket.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 1-26-20 and ARSD 20:10:01:19. The Commission may rely upon any or all of these or other laws of this state in making its determination.

The Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation was noticed for Commission consideration and action at its regularly scheduled meeting on December 17, 2024. The Commission heard from Otter Tail and Western Minnesota, Daniel Jurgens, and Commission staff concerning the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and the related Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket and after having made further inquiry of the parties, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and to grant withdrawal of party status to Daniel and Tamra Jurgens. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is hereby granted and the Settlement Stipulation is approved. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein. It is further

ORDERED, that withdrawal of party status is hereby granted to Daniel and Tamra Jurgens.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of December 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: *[Signature]*

Date: 18th Dec 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Ch. Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner