

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION
OF OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR
AUTHORITY TO INCREASE ITS ELECTRIC
RATES IN SOUTH DAKOTA**

) **ORDER SUSPENDING**
) **OPERATION OF PROPOSED**
) **RATES; ORDER ASSESSING**
) **FILING FEE; ORDER**
) **AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE**
) **DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO**
) **CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

EL25-022

On June 4, 2025, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval to increase rates for electric service to customers in its South Dakota service territory. Otter Tail requests a net revenue increase of \$5,719,671 annually or approximately 12.5% based on Otter Tail's 2024 historic test year. Otter Tail states a typical residential electric customer using 932 kWh would see a bill increase of \$14.39 per month. The proposed changes may affect approximately 11,500 electric customers in Otter Tail's South Dakota service territory.

On June 5, 2025, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of July 17, 2025, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene or comments had been filed.

SDCL 49-34A-14 authorizes the Commission to suspend the operation of the proposed rates for 180 days following the date on which the proposed rates were filed. SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to \$500,000 in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon an application to increase rates as part of a general rate case.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A and ARSD Chapter 20:10:13.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 17, 2025, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Otter Tail for 180 days after the Application filing date of June 4, 2025. The Commission further voted unanimously to assess Otter Tail a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for actual expenses related to the general rate case and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for 180 days after the Application filing date of June 4, 2025. It is further

ORDERED, that Otter Tail shall be assessed a filing fee in an amount up to the statutory limit of \$500,000 for actual expenses related to the general rate case, with payments made to the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee fund as periodically billed by the Commission. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of June 2025.

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:	<u>Jenni L. Frew</u>
Date:	<u>06/18/2025</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner