

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

**In the Matter of Otter Tail Power
Company's approval of Tariff
Revisions to its South Dakota Rate
Book, Section 1.05**

**Docket No. EL26-

PETITION**

I. INTRODUCTION

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power or the Company) hereby Petitions the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for approval of revisions to its South Dakota Rate Book, Section 1.05, to implement a new Direct Payment Agreement form. The Company is introducing this new form to formalize and standardize the process for certain customer-requested services that require direct customer payment.

II. GENERAL FILING INFORMATION

A. Name, address, and telephone number of the utility making the filing

Otter Tail Power Company
215 South Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496
(218) 739-8200

B. Name, address, and telephone number of the attorney for Otter Tail Power Company

Lauren Donofrio
Senior Associate General Counsel - Regulatory
Otter Tail Power Company
215 South Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496
(218) 739-8774
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C. Title of utility employee responsible for filing

Chris Waltz
Manager, Sales and Economic Development Rates Analyst
Otter Tail Power Company
215 South Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496
(218) 739-8492
cwaltz@otpc.com

D. The Company also requests that the following contact(s) be placed on the Commission's official service list for this matter

Regulatory Filing Coordinator
Otter Tail Power Company
215 South Cascade Street
P.O. Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496
regulatory_filing_coordinators@otpc.com

E. The date of filing and the date changes will take effect

The date of this filing is May 27, 2026. Otter Tail proposes the revisions to Section 1.05 go into effect on and after July 1, 2027.

F. Statutes controlling schedule for processing the filing

Pursuant to ARSD 20:1:13:12, sample copies of forms that are used in connection with customer service must be filed as part of a utility's tariff schedules. The Company is therefore submitting this new form in Section 1.05 Rate Schedule, Attachment 1. Otter Tail Power also includes Attachment 2 to comply with ARSD 20:10:13:26, which requires a utility to report all rate schedule changes and customer impacts.

III. BACKGROUND

Historically, Otter Tail Power has administered these types of arrangements through informal processes, primarily email correspondence between the Company and the customer. While the underlying processes and requirements are already established in the Company's General Rules and service practices, the Company has not previously used a standardized, customer-facing form to document, authorize, and track these arrangements.

The Company's recent experience using a similar form in North Dakota showed us the benefits of having a formalized agreement. That experience demonstrated the value of

having a consistent, documented process to clearly communicate expectations, capture customer authorization, and ensure accurate tracking and billing of these transactions.

IV. PURPOSE OF THE FORM

The Direct Payment Agreement form is intended to define the scope of customer-requested work or temporary service, document customer authorization for payment of associated costs, and provide a consistent, transparent process for administering these arrangements.

The agreement ensures that both the Company and the customer have a shared understanding of the work to be performed and the associated financial responsibility.

The agreement will be used in situations where a customer requests services that fall outside of standard, tariffed service installations, or where costs are the customer's responsibility. These situations include, but are not limited to:

- Temporary electric service installations
- Relocation of an existing pole at customer's request
- Conversion from overhead to underground services at customer's request

V. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Otter Tail Power respectfully requests the Commission's approval of the Company's revisions to its South Dakota Rate Book, Section 1.05, to implement a new Direct Payment Agreement form. The form supports existing tariff provisions and provides clearer framework for documenting customer obligations and Company processes.

Date: May 27, 2026

Respectfully submitted,

OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

/s/CHRIS WALTZ

Chris Waltz

Manager

Sales and Economic Development Rates Analyst

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