

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY OTTER) ORDER APPROVING TARIFF
TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF) REVISIONS
ENERGY-ONLY LIGHTING TARIFF)
) EL99-016

On September 20, 1999, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) requesting approval of a tariff sheet for service designated "Outdoor Lighting-Energy Only." OTP asked for approval of the following revised tariff sheet of its Electric Rate Schedule:

Section No. 3, Volume I, Original Sheet No. 93, Rate Designation M-41S, pages 1 of 2 and 2 of 2.

OTP's Petition in this matter states, in part, that "[t]he proposed Energy-Only Tariff, attached as Exhibit No. 1, is similar to Otter Tail's existing Outdoor Lighting Tariff ("OLT"), Rate Designation M-42S, in that it allows Otter Tail to sell electric energy to municipal and other outdoor area lighting customers. The Energy-Only Tariff differs, however, in that it allows the customer or some other third party, as opposed to Otter Tail, to own, operate and maintain the lighting equipment. Under the Energy-Only Tariff, Otter Tail will provide the customer only with electric service, i.e., 'energy-only.'"

At its regularly scheduled March 14, 2000, meeting, the Commission considered final approval of the application. OTP appeared via teleconference. OTP agreed that the approval of this tariff rate does not provide or imply a Commission endorsement or approval of the cost study used in this filing nor does it provide or imply a Company endorsement or approval of the rate of return and cap on common equity used by staff. Commission Staff recommended approval of the tariff revisions.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-4, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-10 and 49-34A-12. The Commission found the rate changes are just and reasonable and approved the revised tariff. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore

ORDERED, that OTP's aforementioned revised tariff is approved and shall be effective for service rendered on and after April 1, 2000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of March, 2000..

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u>Maureen Kaelbs</u>
Date: <u>3/23/00</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson
PAM NELSON, Commissioner

Laska Schoenfelder
LASKA SCHÖENFELDER, Commissioner