

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST )  
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS )  
EXCEPTION BETWEEN WHETSTONE VALLEY )  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. AND OTTER )  
TAIL POWER COMPANY )

ORDER GRANTING  
APPROVAL OF AN  
EXCEPTION TO THE  
ASSIGNED ELECTRIC  
SERVICE TERRITORY  
EL04-031

On October 12, 2004, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Whetstone) filed a joint request to the Public Utilities Commission for approval of an Electric Service Rights Exception. The exception would allow Otter Tail to provide electrical service to the Victory Farms' dry cow facility and manager residence located in the East 1/2 of the NW 1/4 of Section 34, Township 120 North, Range 48 West of the 5th P.M., Grant County, South Dakota, for so long as those facilities shall be used for agricultural and related residential purposes.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 30, 2004, the Commission considered the matter. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that Otter Tail may provide electrical service to the Victory Farms' dry cow facility and manager residence located on the above described property for so long as those facilities shall be used for agricultural and related residential purposes as it will avoid unnecessary duplication of facilities, provide adequate electric service to all customers affected, and promote the efficient use and development of the electric systems of Otter Tail and Whetstone. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2004.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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>Melaine Kalbs</u>
Date: <u>12/13/04</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner