

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING OF OTTER )  
TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF )  
AN EXTENSION OF TEST PERIOD )  
)  
)**

**ORDER APPROVING  
EXTENSION OF TEST  
PERIOD  
  
EL10-005**

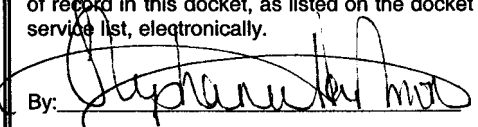
On May 17, 2010, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application by Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) requesting extension of time beyond test period to file application for increase in rates. OTP requests to be allowed to file a general rate increase application on or before August 31, 2010, based on a calendar year 2009 test period. ARSD20:10:13:44 requires the use of a test period consisting of 12 months of actual experience ending no earlier than six months before the date of filing unless good cause for extension is shown. OTP requests the extension because of efficiencies gained in the concurrent use of the test period in a Minnesota general rate increase filing. OTP also states a calendar year test period will simplify the filing efforts for OTP, will assist the Commission Staff in verifying OTP's financial status, and will cause the basis of rates charged to South Dakota customers to reflect proper levels of cost.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A.

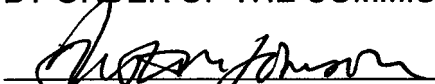
At its June 1, 2010, meeting, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff recommended approval of OTP's request of extension of time. The Commission finds that Otter Tail's request for approval of an extension of its test period is just and reasonable and shall be approved. As the Commission's final decision in this matter, it is therefore


ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of extension of test period is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of June, 2010.

<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, electronically.
By: <u></u>
Date: <u>06/16/10</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

  
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner