

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR)
APPROVAL OF ITS 2013)
TRANSMISSION COST RECOVERY)
ELIGIBILITY AND RATE ADJUSTMENT)
)**

**ORDER ASSESSING
FILING FEE AND SUSPENDING
OPERATION OF RATE
SCHEDULE**

EL12-054

On September 4, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) requesting approval of its annual update to its Transmission Cost Recovery Rider (TCR) rate. The proposed revised TCR rate reflects the TCR revenue requirements for the year 2013, including the tracker balance estimated for the end of the current period and costs of new transmission projects that are not currently in base rates and have not previously been approved for inclusion in the TCR rider. The Company proposes a January 1, 2013, effective date.

On September 6, 2012, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 21, 2012, to interested individuals and entities. No parties sought intervention. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A and 49-34A, particularly 49-34A-25.1 through 49-34A-25.4.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 25, 2012, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) as authorized by SDCL 49-1A-8 to defray expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing and suspend the imposition of the rate pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee for actual expenses incurred in the review of this filing up to the statutory limit of \$50,000.00 and to suspend the operation of the schedule of rates proposed by Xcel Energy for a period not to exceed one hundred and eighty (180) days. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Otter Tail shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$50,000 pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8. It is further

ORDERED, that the proposed schedule of rates shall be suspended for a period not to exceed 180 days from the date of filing pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-14.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 27th day of September, 2012.

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.

By: Joy Chung

Date: Sept. 27, 2012

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner