

**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 THE ENVIRONMENTAL )  
COST RECOVERY RIDER CHARGE )**

**ORDER ASSESSING  
FILING FEE**

**EL17-035**

On August 31, 2017, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) for approval of its annual update to the Environmental Cost Recovery Rate (ECR Rider Rate) under Otter Tail's Environmental Cost Recovery Rider, Rate Schedule 13.08, for the actual and forecasted costs and revenues through the recovery period of November 2017 through October 2018 for Big Stone Plant's Air Quality Control System (AQCS) and Hoot Lake Plant's Mercury and Air Toxics Standards (MATS). Included in the update is one new tax-related item attributable to the AQCS project which relates to a one-time depreciation deduction of approximately \$8.7 million for Research and Experimental expenses. Otter Tail states the rate impact of this request (for both projects) will decrease the ECR Rider Rate from \$0.00536 per kWh to \$0.00484 per kWh. The bill decrease for a typical residential customer averaging 955 kWh per month will be approximately \$0.50 or 0.56%.

On September 7, 2017, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 22, 2017, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 49-1A and 49-34A, particularly 49-1A-8 and 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 12, 2017, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee as requested by Commission staff up to the statutory limit of \$50,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. It is therefore

**ORDERED**, that Otter Tail shall be assessed a filing fee for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$50,000.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2017.

<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 or by mail.
By: <u>Karen E. Bremer</u>
Date: <u>09/18/17</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Eiegen  
KRISTIE EIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner