

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF OTTER TAIL ) POWER COMPANY'S PETITION FOR ) APPROVAL OF PHASE-IN RIDER RATE ) ) ) ) ) )</b>	<b>ORDER ASSESSING FILING FEE; ORDER AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO CONSULTING CONTRACTS  EL19-025</b>
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On May 31, 2019, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition by Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-73 for authority to implement a phase-in rate increase for its South Dakota customers to recover actual and forecasted costs for its Astoria Station and Merricourt Wind projects and forecasted net benefits associated with additional load in the Lake Norden, South Dakota, area. Astoria Station is a natural gas-fired power plant that will be constructed near Astoria, South Dakota, that will provide 245 MW of generation to Otter Tail. The Merricourt Wind project consists of 75 wind turbines approximately 15 miles south of Edgeley, North Dakota, in McIntosh and Dickey counties, that will provide 150 MW of generation to Otter Tail. Otter Tail states a typical residential electric customer using an average of 1,000 kWh per month would see an increase of \$2.40 per month resulting from this filing. Otter Tail proposes a "percent of bill" Phase-In rate of 3.942 percent of base rates, effective September 1, 2019.

On June 6, 2019, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 21, 2019, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically SDCL 49-34A-73 through 49-34A-78.

SDCL 49-34A-77 requires an electric utility filing an application for a phase-in rate plan to pay a filing fee to be determined by the Commission in an amount not to exceed \$250,000, to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 11, 2019, the Commission considered this matter. Commission staff requested that the Commission assess a filing fee not to exceed \$250,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing, and to authorize the executive director to enter into consulting contracts needed for review of the petition. Otter Tail did not object to the fee assessment. The Commission voted unanimously to assess Otter Tail a filing fee in an amount not to exceed \$250,000 to account for actual expenses incurred in review of this filing commencing from the filing date. The Commission further voted unanimously to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Otter Tail shall be assessed a filing fee pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-77 for actual expenses incurred by the Commission commencing from the filing date not to exceed \$250,000. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director is authorized to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of June 2019.

**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 or by mail.

By: Adam DeHueck

Date: 6/14/19

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner