

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND)	FOR PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE
WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL)	
POWER AGENCY FOR A FACILITY PERMIT)	
FOR A 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY)	
AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN GRANT)	EL24-015
COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA)	

On April 15, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota), through its agent, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) (collectively, Applicant). Applicant proposes to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities including substation upgrades (Project) within South Dakota. The Project, known as the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project, originates at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation, located approximately 2 miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota, in Big Stone Township and connects to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. The South Dakota portion of the Project consists of approximately 3.5 miles of transmission line beginning in Section 24, Township 121N, Range 47W, Grant County, South Dakota, extending east and south to the Minnesota border. Applicant anticipates construction to commence in 2027 or 2028 and be completed in either 2030 or 2031.

On April 18, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 14, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filing electronic listserv. On September 16, 2024, staff filed a Motion for Procedural Schedule. On September 20, 2024, Applicant filed a Response to Motion for Adoption of Procedural Schedule requesting the Commission permit certain rebuttal witnesses to testify without prefiled testimony.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 15-6 and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 24, 2024, the Commission considered this matter. No party objected to the schedule suggested by PUC Staff in its September 16 filing. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion for Procedural Schedule based on PUC Staff's September 16 motion and to grant Applicant's request to allow rebuttal witnesses to testify without prefiled testimony only in response to Commission questions and new issues arising at the evidentiary hearing. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Procedural Schedule is granted. It is further

ORDERED, that the Procedural schedule is as follows:

Applicant's Supplemental Testimony Filed.....	12:00 P.M. CDT, October 25, 2024
Staff/Intervenor Testimony Filed.....	12:00 P.M. CDT, December 12, 2024
Rebuttal Testimony Filed.....	12:00 P.M. CDT, January 9, 2024
Final Discovery Sent.....	5:00 P.M. CDT, January 17, 2025

Responses to Final Discovery Due.....January 30, 2025
Witness/Exhibit Lists and Exhibits Filed.....12:00 P.M. CDT, February 6, 2025
Prehearing Conference.....February 11, 2025 (time and
location to be determined at a later date)
Evidentiary Hearing.....February 12 – 14, 2025

It is further

ORDERED, that responses to discovery are due ten business days after service of discovery except as provided in the procedural schedule above. It is further

ORDERED, that prefiled testimony must be submitted for all witnesses, except for rebuttal witnesses responding to Commission questions and new issues arising at the evidentiary hearing. It is further

ORDERED that all exhibits be marked and filed prior to the evidentiary hearing.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th day of September 2024.

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: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 25 September 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner