

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Otter Tail Power Company/Northern States
Power Company
230 Kv Transmission Line/ Pierce, Rolette
Counties
Application**

Case No. PU-2280-00-200

NOTICE OF FILING AND NOTICE OF HEARING

September 27, 2000

On September 11, 2000, Otter Tail Power Company, 215 South Cascade Street, Fergus Falls, MN (OTP) and Northern States Power Company (NSP), (collectively "the Project Partners"), filed an application for a certificate of corridor compatibility and route permit for the construction of approximately 53 miles of 230,000 volt (230 kV), three-phase alternating current electric transmission line from Rugby, North Dakota, to the Canadian border north of Rolla, North Dakota. The proposed corridor is in Pierce and Rolette Counties.

The Project Partners state that the electric transmission facility is necessary to solve multiple transmission problems endemic to the north central North Dakota electric transmission system thereby providing benefits to the Project Partners' and other utilities' customers in the project area. The proposed Rugby-border facility is needed to relieve existing transmission constraints in North Dakota. The electric transmission facility will tie into a transmission facility being built by Manitoba Hydro and emanating out of Glenboro, Manitoba.

In the application, the Project Partners request that the Commission shorten the waiting period for the Project Partners to file the application for Corridor Certificate and Route permit, that the Commission waive procedures to allow for a single consolidated application for Corridor Certificate and Route Permit, that the Commission waive procedures to allow for a single consolidated hearing on the waiver requests and the applications for Corridor Certificate and Route Permit, that the Commission shorten the three-month period specified in N.D.C.C. Section 49-22-08(5) and the six-month period specified in N.D.C.C. Section 49-22-08.1(5), and that the Commission waive requirements for mylar maps and aerial photographs.

On September 21, 2000, the Project Partners filed a Supplement and Amendment to the application and Plan and Profile sheets showing line design and structure locations. In addition, the Project Partners request a waiver of the one-year waiting period between filing the letter of intent and the application.

The Commission finds the application is complete. The Commission also grants the Project Partners' request to shorten the one-year waiting period between filing the letter of intent and the application.

The issues to be considered in this proceeding are:

1. Will the location, construction, and operation of the proposed electric transmission line produce minimal adverse effects on the environment, natural resources, and upon the welfare of the citizens of North Dakota?
2. Is the proposed electric transmission line compatible with the environmental preservation and the efficient use of resources?
3. Will the proposed electric transmission line corridor minimize adverse human and environmental impact while ensuring continuing system reliability and integrity and ensuring that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion?
4. Is it appropriate for the Commission to waive the procedures as requested in the application including the request for a single consolidated application for Corridor Certificate and Route Permit?

A consolidated public hearing on this matter will be held **November 21, 2000 at 10 a.m. in the Otter Tail Power Company Community Room, 226 Main Ave S, Rugby, North Dakota.**

For more information, contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or Relay North Dakota 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or braille materials please notify Jon Mielke, Executive Secretary.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Susan E. Wefald
Commissioner**

**Bruce Hagen
President**

**Leo M. Reinbold
Commissioner**