

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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

**Case No. PU-2280-00-200**

**ORDER TO PROCEED**

**August 28, 2002**

**Preliminary Statement**

During construction of the 230 Kv transmission line, Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) became aware of the existence of a stone circle site located near the construction corridor at transmission line structures 105 through 108, in the S1/2/SE/NW of Section 15, Township 158 N, Range 72 W, in Pierce County, North Dakota.

As required by the Commission's December 29, 2000 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order in this proceeding, OTP suspended construction until a professional examination could be made by the State Historical Society and a report of the examination could be filed with the Commission.

By letter dated August 5, 2002, OTP filed a copy of the July 23, 2002 report of Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.'s examination of the stone circle site. OTP also filed a copy of the July 30, 2002 letter from Merlan E. Paaverud, State Historic Preservation Officer. Mr. Paaverud concurred with the findings of the report that, since the site is located outside the current construction corridor, OTP should easily avoid the site by limiting construction activity to portions of the landscape outside the mapped stone circle site boundaries.

OTP's August 5, 2002 letter also requested approval to commence construction on structure numbers 105 through 108.

**Order**

The Commission orders:

1. The request of Otter Tail Power Company to commence construction of the transmission line at structures 105 through 108, in the S1/2/SE/NW of Section 15, Township 158 N, Range 72 W, in Pierce County, North Dakota is granted.

2. Otter Tail Power Company is required to take all necessary precautions to avoid the stone circle site.

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

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**Anthony T. Clark**  
**Commissioner**

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**Susan E. Wefald**  
**President**

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**Leo M. Reinbold**  
**Commissioner**