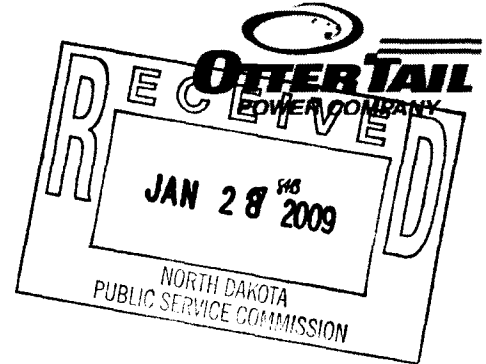


215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496
218 739-8200
www.otpco.com (web site)

January 27, 2009

Darrell Nitschke
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0408



SUBJECT: Need for an effective date of February 1, 2009 for Otter Tail Power Company's Small Power Producer rates.

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

In Otter Tail's original January 6, and revised January 26th Small Power Producer rate filings, Otter Tail requested an effective date for its Small Power Producer rates of February 1, 2009. Otter Tail has programmed its billing system to use the newly filed rates effective on February 1st. Changing the effective date would result in extra programming costs for Otter Tail.

Otter Tail's customers on the Small Power Producer rates have not been generating enough energy to be reimbursed under the net energy rates in the filing. The only rate that affects the customer's bill in this filing is the metering charge which has not been changed. The overall bill impact to the customers is \$0.00.

An electronic copy of the letter is being sent to you at dnitschk@nd.gov. An original and seven copies are being sent overnight mail.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (218) 739-8607 or pbeithon@otpco.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ PETER J. BEITHON

Peter J. Beithon
Manager Regulatory Economics
Regulatory Services

wao
By email and overnight mail

An Equal Opportunity Employer

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Letter Regarding Request and Justification for Early Effective Date

Otter Tail Corporation
Peter J. Beithon