



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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December 29, 2009

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Ilona Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel
Public Service Commission
600 East Boulevard Avenue
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Thank you for your December 28, 2009, request of the designation of an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing in the matter of Otter Tail Power Company (PU-09-676) and Northern States Power Company (PU-09-678). I hereby designate Al Wahl to be assigned as a contract administrative law judge to conduct the hearing in regard to this matter. Because the contract administrative law judge will not be making recommended findings of fact and conclusions of law, or issuing a recommended order, the person or persons who will be making the final administrative decision in regard to this matter (*i.e.*, the commission) must be in attendance at the hearing.

Please send all additional relevant documents (correspondence, and other pleadings and documents) to the designated contract administrative law judge 138 East Edmonton Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58503. I understand the hearing is scheduled for April 6-7, 2010, beginning at 9:00 a.m., in the Commission Hearing Room at the State Capitol in Bismarck, North Dakota. Because the contract administrative law judge is requested to conduct the hearing only, the agency must give proper notice of the hearing.

Your request has been assigned OAH File Nos. 20090412 (Otter Tail) and 20090413 (Northern State Power Company). Please include these numbers on all future documents and correspondence filed for these matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Hoberg
Director

ACH/lmw

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Letter Designating Administrative Law Judge
Office of Administrative Hearings
Allen C. Hoberg

cc: Dean Pawlowski, counsel for Otter Tail Power Company
Lawrence Bender, counsel for Northern State Power Company

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Letter Designating Administrative Law Judge