

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU  
Resources Group, Inc.  
Discontinue Prudence Big Stone II  
Application**

**Case No. PU-09-731**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU  
Resources Group, Inc.  
Deferred Accounting - Big Stone II  
Application**

**Case No. PU-09-733**

**Otter Tail Power Company  
Deferred Accounting - Big Stone II  
Application**

**Case No. PU-09-739**

**Otter Tail Power Company  
Discontinue Prudence Big Stone II  
Application**

**Case No. PU-10-30**

**ORDER GRANTING INTERVENTION**

**March 24, 2010**

On March 19, 2010, Dakota Resource Council and Mark Trechock filed a Petition to Intervene in the captioned proceedings.

The petition states that Dakota Resource Council (DRC) is a North Dakota nonprofit corporation formed in 1978 to protect North Dakota's land, air, water, rural communities, and agricultural economy, and Mark Trechock is a ratepayer in North Dakota and DRC's Staff Director.

DRC and Mark Trechock are intervenors in the underlying Big Stone II prudency proceedings, Case No. PU-06-481 and Case No. PU-06-482, and have voluntarily stayed their appeal of these two underlying prudency cases pending the outcome of the instant proceedings.

The petition states that the instant proceedings directly relate to the underlying prudency determinations in which DRC and Mark Trechock retain a vested interest. It further states that DRC and Mark Trechock have a direct and substantial interest in the captioned proceedings which will be affected by the Commission's decisions. The petition states that DRC and Mark Trechock are not adequately represented by existing parties, that they have a right to intervene, and that their intervention is in the public interest.

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|----|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|----|-----------------------------|------------------|----------|
| 19 | PU-09-733                   | Filed 03/24/2010 | Pages: 1 | 17 | PU-10-30                    | Filed 03/24/2010 | Pages: 2 |
|    | Order Granting Intervention |                  |          |    | Order Granting Intervention |                  |          |
|    | Public Service Commission   |                  |          |    | Public Service Commission   |                  |          |
| 19 | PU-09-731                   | Filed 03/24/2010 | Pages: 1 | 22 | PU-09-739                   | Filed 03/24/2010 | Pages: 1 |
|    | Order Granting Intervention |                  |          |    | Order Granting Intervention |                  |          |
|    | Public Service Commission   |                  |          |    | Public Service Commission   |                  |          |

DRC and Mark Trechock request the right to intervene in support of the applications of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company for a determination that discontinuation of the Big Stone II project is prudent, and in opposition to the right of Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. and Otter Tail Power Company to recover costs only to the extent such costs are not supported by evidence or are contrary to law.

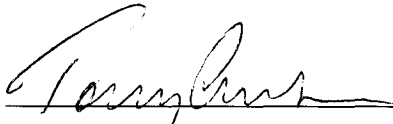
The Commission finds that Dakota Resource Council and Mark Trechock have an interest in these proceedings and their participation will not unduly broaden the issues or delay the proceeding.

**Order**

The Commission orders:

1. The Petition to Intervene of Dakota Resource Council and Mark Trechock is GRANTED.
2. Admission as an intervenor shall not be construed as recognition by the Commission that an intervenor might be aggrieved by an order of the Commission in this case.

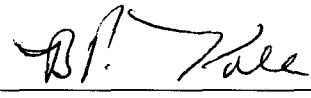
**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**



**Tony Clark  
Commissioner**



**Kevin Cramer  
Chairman**



**Brian P. Kalk  
Commissioner**