

BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

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MAY 20 2011

In the Matter of the Application of)
MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.,)
a Division of MDU Resources Group,)
Inc. for An Advance Determination of) Case No. PU-11-_____
Prudence for the Big Stone Generating)
Station Air Quality Control System)
Project)

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Pursuant to N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-01, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU Resources Group In., (Montana-Dakota) respectfully requests that the Commission issue a trade secret protective order under N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-04. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secrets as defined by N.D. Cent. Code § 47-25.1-01(4).

The information for which Montana-Dakota seeks trade secret protection are the portions of the following attachments to the Application for an Advance Determination of Prudence filed on May 20, 2011 marked as "Trade Secret":

- Attachment No. 4 – SO₂, NO_x, and Mercury Reduction Study
- Attachment No. 5 - Big Stone Plant AQCS Project Cost Estimate
- Attachment No. 6 - Big Stone AQCS Project Operating and Maintenance Cost Calculations
- Attachment No. 8 – Natural Gas Conversion Conceptual Study
- Attachment No. 9 – Otter Tail Power Company BSP Pro Forma Results Letter Report North Dakota

The above-referenced information is not publicly available and is confidential business information. The information was prepared specifically for Otter Tail Power Company (OTP), on behalf of the Big Stone Co-Owners with data inputs unique to OTP, pursuant to agreements that require the continuing confidentiality of the information. Furthermore, the information cannot be selectively disclosed without violating the public


reporting requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information, therefore, is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

Vendors and competitors would have an opportunity to obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information, to the detriment of the Big Stone Co-Owners and specifically the customers served by Montana-Dakota. If publicly available, vendors could use the information to their advantage in competing for project procurement opportunities, while competitors could use the information to leverage their rate positions in the marketplace to Montana-Dakota's detriment.

In accordance with N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-09-02, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope labeled TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.

Respectfully submitted this 20th day of May 2011.

MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES CO.

By 
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