



OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
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Bismarck, North Dakota 58503

Allen C. Hoberg
DIRECTOR

July 12, 2011

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RECEIVED

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PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

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

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

Thank you for your July 11, 2011, request of the designation of an administrative law judge from the Office of Administrative Hearings to conduct a hearing in the matter of Big Stone Air, PU-11-163 and 11-165. I hereby designate Al Wahl to be assigned as 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 in care of 138 East Edmonton Drive, Bismarck, North Dakota 58503. Please contact ALJ Wahl prior to scheduling a hearing date. Because the 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 No. 20110276. Please include this number on all future documents and correspondence filed for this matter with the Office of Administrative Hearings.

Sincerely,

Allen C. Hoberg
Director

ACH/lmw

cc: Daniel Kuntz, counsel for Montana Dakota Utilities Company
Mark Bring, counsel for Otter Tail Power Company
Al Wahl, Administrative Law Judge

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Letter designating Administrative Law Judge
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