

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
Advance Determination of Prudence – Big Stone Air
Application**

Case No. PU-11-163

**Otter Tail Power Company
Advance Determination of Prudence – Big Stone Air
Application**

Case No. PU-11-165

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING
January 27, 2012**

On May 20, 2011, Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (MDU) filed an application for advance determination of prudence for its investment in air quality control equipment at the Big Stone Generating Plant, Case No. PU-11-163. Also on May 20, 2011, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) filed an application for advance determination of prudence for its investment in air quality control equipment at the Big Stone Generating Plant, Case No. PU-11-165.

On July 27, 2011, the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) issued a Notice of Filing and Notice of Intervention Deadline providing until September 2, 2011 for petitions to intervene.

On September 7, 2011, the Commission issued Notice of Consolidated Hearing consolidating these two cases for hearing for November 29, 2011 at 8:30 a.m. in the Commission Hearing Room of the State Capitol, 12th Floor, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505. The hearing was held as scheduled.

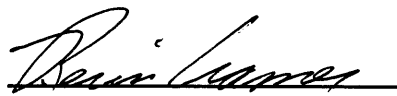
On January 4, 2012, MDU, Otter Tail and Advocacy Staff entered into a Settlement Agreement which they assert will resolve the issues in Case No. PU-11-163 and Case No. PU-11-165.

The issue to be considered in this matter is whether the Settlement Agreement should be approved and adopted by the Commission for the resolution of the issues in Case No. PU-11-163 and Case No. PU-11-165. Those interested are invited to comment in writing. Persons desiring a hearing must file a written request identifying their interest in the proceeding and the reasons for requesting a hearing. Comments and requests for hearings must be received **by close of business on March 7, 2012.**

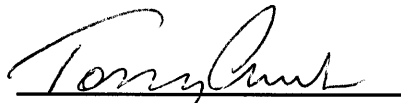
The Commission may make a decision in these two cases without hearing. If the Commission does not approve and adopt the Settlement Agreement in full resolution of the two cases, further Commission proceedings may be required.

For more information or a copy of the Settlement Agreement, contact the Public Service Commission, State Capitol, Bismarck, North Dakota 58505, 701-328-2400; or 877-245-6685 (toll free in North Dakota), or Relay North Dakota, 1-800-366-6888 TTY. If you require any auxiliary aids or services, such as readers, signers, or Braille materials, please notify the Commission.

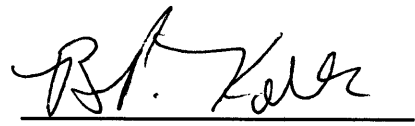
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



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