

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Montana-Dakota Utilities Co., a Division of MDU
Resources Group, Inc.
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

AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE BY CERTIFIED & REGULAR MAIL

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
COUNTY OF BURLEIGH

Cara DeSaye deposes and says that:

she is over the age of 18 years and not a party to this action and, on the **30th** day of **January, 2012**, she deposited in the United States Mail, at Bismarck, North Dakota, two envelopes with certified postage, return receipt requested, fully prepaid, securely sealed and containing a photocopy of:

Notice of Opportunity for Hearing

The envelopes were addressed as follows:

Daniel Kuntz
MDU Resources Group, Inc.
PO Box 5650
Bismarck ND 58506-5650

Mark Bring
Otter Tail Power Company
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls MN 56538-0496

Cert. No. 7009 2820 0002 9237 5305

Cert. No. 7009 2820 0002 9237 5312

Cara DeSaye further deposes and says that on the **30th** day of **January, 2012**, she deposited in the United States Mail, Bismarck, North Dakota, one envelope by regular mail, with postage fully prepaid, securely sealed, each containing a photocopy of the same.

Tamie Aberle
Montana-Dakota Utilities Co.
400 North Fourth Street
Bismarck ND 58501

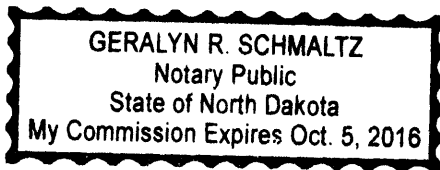
Each address shown is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable mailing address, and each email address is the respective addressee's last reasonably ascertainable electronic mailing address.

Subscribed and sworn to before me
this 30th day of **January, 2012**.

Cara DeLage

Geralyn R. Schmaltz
Notary Public

SEAL



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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.

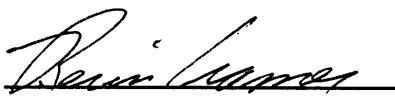
On January 4, 2012, MDU, Otter Tail and Advocacy Staff entered into a Settlement Agreement which they assert will resolve the issues in Case No. PU-11-163 and Case No. PU-11-165.

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.**

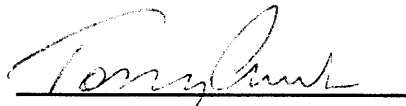
The Commission may make a decision in these two cases without hearing. If the Commission does not approve and adopt the Settlement Agreement in full resolution of the two cases, further Commission proceedings may be required.

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.

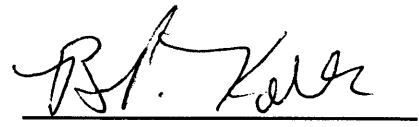
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Kevin Cramer
Commissioner**



**Tony Clark
Chairman**



**Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner**