

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**Otter Tail Power Company
115 kV Transmission Line Buffalo-Casselton Line
Public Convenience and Necessity**

Case No. PU-12-76

ORDER GRANTING CERTIFICATE

May 9, 2012

On February 10, 2012 Otter Tail Power Company filed an application for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, own and operate approximately 16 miles of 115 kV electric transmission line from Buffalo to Casselton in Cass County, North Dakota.

On March 21, 2012 the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until April 25, 2012 for receiving written comments or hearing requests. No response was received. The notice identified the following issues to be considered:

1. Whether public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.
2. Whether the applicant is fit, willing and able to provide service.

Otter Tail is a Minnesota corporation duly authorized to conduct business in North Dakota as a public utility subject to the jurisdiction and regulation of this Commission. Otter Tail is an experienced regional generation, transmission and distribution utility with the expertise and resources to construct, own and operate the proposed Buffalo-Casselton 115 kV transmission line. Otter Tail presently serves more than 129,000 retail electric customers in eastern North Dakota, northwestern Minnesota and northeastern South Dakota. Otter Tail is fit, willing and able to provide service.

The Buffalo-Casselton 115 kV transmission Line with an associated transformer upgrade at Buffalo was approved as a baseline reliability project eligible for cost sharing in the Midwest Independent System Operator, Inc.'s 2011 Midwest Transmission Expansion Plan (MTEP 11 Project Id 3481). The project is needed to provide reliability support for the entire area stretching between Forman, Buffalo and Mapleton, North Dakota. The project improves system performance during outages of the Buffalo-Maple River 345 kV line and the Forman-Gwinner 115 kV line while providing another 115 kV path into the Fargo/Moorhead load area and offering relief on existing 345 /230 kV and 230/115 kV transformers. Public convenience and necessity will be served by construction and operation of the facilities.

Order

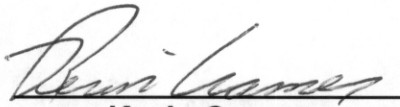
The Commission Orders:

1. The application of Otter Tail Power Company for a certificate of public convenience and necessity is GRANTED.

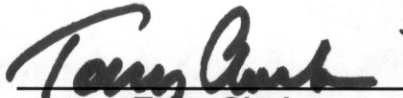
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Order Granting Certificate

2. Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity No. 5475 is issued to Otter Tail Power Company to construct, own and operate its proposed 115 kV Buffalo-Casselton electric transmission line in Cass County, North Dakota.

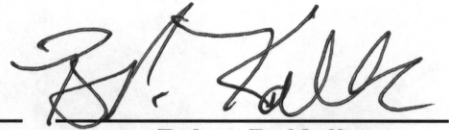
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



**Kevin Cramer
Commissioner**



**Tony Clark
Chairman**



**Brian P. Kalk
Commissioner**

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity

Certificate Number 5475

This is to certify that public convenience and necessity require, and permission is granted for Otter Tail Power Company, to construct, own and operate approximately 16 miles of 115 kV electric transmission line and associated facilities extending from Buffalo to Casselton in Cass County, North Dakota.

This certificate is issued in accordance with the Order of this Commission dated May 9, 2012 in Case No. PU-12-76, and is subject to the conditions and limitations noted in the Order.

This certificate is conditioned upon Otter Tail Power Company securing the franchise or other authority of the proper municipal or other public authority for the exercise of these rights and privileges.

Bismarck, North Dakota, May 9, 2012.

ATTEST:

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION


Executive Secretary


Commissioner