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February 2, 2017



Darrell Nitschke
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408
Bismarck, ND 58505-0408

RE: Approval to Temporarily Estimate Meter Readings for Surrey, Lansford, Deering, and Glenburn

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail or the Company) provides this advanced notice and requests Commission approval to temporarily use estimated meter readings for the towns of Surrey, Lansford, Deering, and Glenburn in North Dakota for the February billing cycle. North Dakota Administrative Code Chapter 69-09-02-10(2) states that a “utility may read meters used for determining charges to customers less frequently than once each month provided authorization thereof is obtained from the commission.” Chapter 69-09-02-11(3) allows use of estimated consumption if a utility is unable to obtain a meter reading. Otter Tail’s Service Representative serving these towns will be unavailable on short-notice medical leave. Due to the time required to read meters with the current snow depth and their routine work, other Service Representatives are not available to read meters in these towns in addition to their normal routes. Otter Tail contacted a contract meter reading service that would ordinarily provide these services on an interim period, but the contractor does not have resources available to accommodate the request. Otter Tail also considered issuing forms for customers to provide self-reads, but the time constraint before billing makes this impractical.

Consequently, Otter Tail requests the Commission’s authorization to estimate customers’ consumption for the February 2017 billing cycle based on normal consumption for this time period in 2016. The first reading cycle begins on February 3. Otter Tail anticipates that reading of the specified meters will resume with the March billing cycle. This will affect approximately 1,100 customers.

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An electronic copy of this filing is being sent to you at dnitschk@nd.gov and to ndpsc@nd.gov.
An original and seven copies are being sent by U.S. mail.

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 218-739-8657 or at molsen@otpc.com.

Sincerely,

/S/ MATTHEW J. OLSEN
Matthew J. Olsen
Manager, Regulatory Proceedings and Compliance

MO: kaw
Enclosures
By electronic filing and U.S. mail