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April 15, 2021

Steve Kahl
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: Otter Tail Power Company's Application for Astoria Natural Gas Project
Case No. PU-17-140
Quarterly Report - Compliance Filing**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

On November 3, 2017, the Commission issued an Order on Settlement and approved a Settlement Agreement between Otter Tail and Advocacy Staff in the above-described case. The Settlement Agreement required Otter Tail to "provide the Commission quarterly construction progress reports on the Astoria Project until the project is in service."

Enclosed is Otter Tail's report for the quarter ending March 31, 2021.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at (605) 924-0767 or at kphinney@otpc.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ *KIRK PHINNEY*
Kirk Phinney
Manager, Supply Engineering

tlk
Enclosures
By electronic filing

**ASTORIA NATURAL GAS PROJECT
QUARTERLY CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS REPORT**

TO THE

NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

FOR THE

PERIOD JANUARY 1 THROUGH MARCH 31, 2021

April 15, 2021

Astoria Natural Gas Project Quarterly Construction Progress Report

Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) submits this report on the Astoria Natural Gas Project in compliance with the Commission's November 3, 2017 Order on Settlement in Case Number PU-17-140, which requires OTP to provide the Commission quarterly construction progress reports on the Astoria Natural Gas Project until the project is in service. This report concerns project activities through March 31, 2021.

Project activities for the first quarter of 2021 focused on cold and hot commissioning activities and operating the Unit for tuning and testing.

All cold commissioning was completed this quarter and first fire of the combustion turbine was achieved on January 24, 2021. Hot commissioning continued after first fire and full load was achieved on February 13, 2021. Once full load was achieved, testing and tuning carried on for emissions; startup and online ramp rates; heat rate; generator capability testing; noise emissions; and cold and hot start parameters. Late in March the combustion turbine supplier indicated it was ready to conduct formal testing the first week of April.

Managing implications of the COVID-19 pandemic continued in the first quarter of 2021. During the quarter, no workers at the site tested positive for COVID-19. Mandatory face covering usage, continuous cleaning, disinfecting, and coordinated contract tracing with all on-site contractors will continue through completion of the project. Additional project costs due to COVID-19 have remained relatively low and with the project winding down, the number of workers in close proximity to one another is much lower.

The remaining project activities are formal performance and acceptance testing; final construction work, such as punch list items, and warm weather-dependent base-scope work such as final grading, asphaltting, touchup painting, and cleaning; and administrative and contractual closeout items. Some of the activities will carry well into 2021, but the Unit is expected to be released for full dispatch before June 1, 2021. Project costs remain within budget.



Astoria Station Aerial Photo

3/19/2021