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April 30, 2019

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

**RE: In the Matter of Notifying the Commission of Otter Tail Power Company's  
Major Service Interruptions - Annual Summary for 2018  
Case No. PU-19-**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Enclosed in the above-referenced matter are an original and seven (7) copies of Otter Tail Power Company's Annual Summary of North Dakota Major Service Interruptions for the 2018 calendar year.

An electronic copy of this Summary is also being sent to the North Dakota Public Service Commission at [ndpsc@nd.gov](mailto:ndpsc@nd.gov).

If you have any questions regarding this filing, please contact me at 218-739-8699 or at [wolson@otpc.com](mailto:wolson@otpc.com).

Sincerely,

*/s/ WENDIA A. OLSON*  
Wendi A. Olson  
Regulatory Compliance Specialist

jch  
Enclosures  
By electronic filing and First-Class mail

**Otter Tail Power Company  
Major Service Interruptions – Annual Summary  
(Outage Report)  
For the year 2018**

**Background**

In August 2005, Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) agreed to provide the North Dakota Public Service Commission with outage information that entailed outages within North Dakota (ND) affecting 500 or more customers for one hour or more.

**Annual Summary – 2018**

In 2018, there were seventeen (17) outages that met the reporting criteria described above or were considered significant enough to be reported. Each outage is described below.

**January 26, 2018 – Jamestown Peaking Plant Substation**

There were 2535 customers in the Jamestown ND service area that were affected by an outage January 26, 2018. The outage was approximately 1 hour and 29 minutes long from 6:58 p.m. to 8:27 p.m. The outage was due to a blown terminator.

**March 4, 2018 and March 5, 2018 – North Eastern North Dakota**

March 4, 2018

- The communities of Fordville, Forest River, Inkster, Lankin and Pisek were without power for approximately 2 hours and 29 minutes from 7:25 p.m. to 9:54 p.m. affecting approximately 500 customers.
- The communities of Gilby and Orr were without power for approximately 1 hour and 41 minutes from 7:25 p.m. to 9:06 p.m. affecting approximately 151 customers.
- Doyon was without power for approximately 2 hours and 40 minutes from 6:46 p.m. to 9:26 p.m. affecting approximately 40 customers.

March 5, 2018

- The communities of Adams, Edmore, Fairdale, Lawton, Nekoma, and Osnabrock were without power approximately 2 hours and 32 minutes from 4:15 a.m. to 6:47 a.m. affecting approximately 611 customers.

These outages were due to a winter storm that rolled through Otter Tail's service territories.

### **March 22, 2018 – LaMoure Substation**

Approximately 614 customers in the LaMoure ND service area were affected by a planned outage Thursday morning, March 22, 2018. The outage was approximately 1 hour long from 5:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. The purpose of the planned outage was to do substation maintenance to improve the service quality to customers in this area.

### **April 5, 2018 – LaMoure, North Dakota**

The entire town of LaMoure was affected by a planned outage in the early morning hours of Thursday, April 5, 2018. The outage affected approximately 561 customers and was approximately 3 hours long from 3:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. This outage was necessary to change out the bypass disconnects in the substation to better serve our customers.

### **April 22, 2018 – Lisbon Substation**

Approximately 1338 customers in the Lisbon service area were affected by an early morning planned outage on Sunday, April 22, 2018. The outage was approximately 2 hours long from 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. This planned outage was necessary to do substation repairs to replace disconnects in the substation that were overheating.

### **April 28, 2018 – Enderlin Substation (Enderlin and Sheldon, North Dakota)**

On April 28, 2018, customers in the Enderlin and Sheldon service areas were affected by an outage due to a breaker failure in the Enderlin substation and a fire in the substation house. There were approximately 474 Enderlin customers that were without power for approximately 4 hours and 50 minutes from 7:40 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 222 Sheldon customers without power for approximately 8 hours and 20 minutes from 7:40 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**May 9, 2018 – Velva and Simcoe, North Dakota**

On May 9, 2018 customers in the Velva and Simcoe service areas were affected by an outage due to a switch pole with a bad insulator that caught on fire. Otter Tail was not allowed to do any switching until we acquired the appropriate clearance to use the Neal substation. Approximately 562 customers were without power in the Velva service area for 3 hours and 7 minutes from 12:47 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. which was the time we received the required clearance. The 7 Simcoe service area customers were without power from 12:47 p.m. until approximately 6:00 p.m. These customers had their power restored as soon as our crews could get the pole changed out.

**June 1, 2018 – Northern North Dakota**

The communities of Bisbee, Clyde, Munich, Egeland, Rock Lake, Calio, Dresden and Wales in northern North Dakota were without power starting at 5:45 a.m. on June 1, 2018 affecting approximately 730 customers. The power was restored at 7:12 a.m. to the majority of the customers (outage duration: 1 hour and 27 minutes) and the remaining customers in Dresden (8), Wales (29) and Hannah (24) were restored at approximately 10:30 a.m. The outage was caused by a lightning strike near Dresden that blew the top off a pole.

**June 5, 2018 – New Rockford, ND and Surrounding Communities**

New Rockford and the surrounding communities of Sheyenne, Oberon and Fort Totten were without power starting at 12:57 a.m. on June 5, 2018. The power was restored at 1:34 a.m. which was a duration of 37 minutes. This outage does not meet the one-hour threshold, but due to its uniqueness, we are including it. The outage was due to vandalism at a substation near Fort Totten. Someone cut the lock and opened the switch. Otter Tail field personnel were dispatched immediately upon the outage and discovered the cut lock during their patrol. Local law enforcement (Bureau of Indian Affairs) was notified of the incident. The number of customers affected is described in the table below.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Customers</b>
New Rockford South	342
New Rockford North	569
New Rockford South – North Feeder	145
Sheyenne	193
Fort Totten	5
Oberon	99
Total	1353

**June 23, 2018 – Jamestown, North Dakota**

Approximately 2315 customers in the Jamestown service area were affected by an outage Saturday evening, June 23, 2018. The outage was approximately 1 hour and 14 minutes long from 8:51 p.m. to 10:05 p.m. This outage was due to substation circuit issues.

**June 29, 2018 – West Central North Dakota**

Numerous communities in Otter Tail’s west central North Dakota service area were affected by an outage that started at 12:30 a.m. on June 29, 2018. The duration of the outage varied for each of these communities with Velva being the first to be restored at 5:14 a.m., which was an outage duration of 4 hours and 44 minutes and Goodrich being the last restored at 9:06 p.m., which was 20 hours and 33 minutes. The cause of this outage was a large storm system that moved through the area which caused significant damage in the western area transmission and distribution lines. The communities and numbers of customer’s affected are listed below.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Customers</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Customers</b>
Mercer	35	Wilton ND-Rural	3
Goodrich	146	Wing	49
Hurdsfield	103	Tuttle	51
McClusky	415	Velva 838	838
Chaseley	15	Denhoff	21
Wing	49	Goodrich	128
Tuttle	96	Falkirk	21
Washburn	489	Sheyenne	168
Wilton ND-Rural	3	Streeter	174

\*Total Customers - 2804

**June 29, 2018 – Eastern North Dakota**

Eastern North Dakota communities were affected by an outage on Friday, June 29, 2018. The outages occurred between 4:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. for these communities. Otter Tail restored power to the various communities starting at 8:00 a.m. with the majority restored by 11:00 a.m. Tolna’s 138 customers were restored at 1:30 p.m. followed by the last to be restored which was Pekin’s 72 customers. The outage was caused by transmission issues due to high winds, lightning and significant tree damage in the area from a large storm system. The communities and numbers of customers affected are listed below.

<b>Community</b>	<b>Customers</b>	<b>Community</b>	<b>Customers</b>
Adams	141	Aneta	169
Ardoch	30	Bartlett	4
Brockett	55	Crystal	131
Edinberg	168	Fairdale	55
Fordville	169	Forest River	84
Gilby	151	Hensel	52
Hoople	188	Inkster	65
Lankin/Pesik	182	McCanna	24
McVille East	193	McVille West	102
Michigan	239	Minto	345
Niagra	60	Pekin	72
Petersburg	123	St. Thomas NW	78
St. Thomas SW	180	Tolna	138

\*Total Customers - 3198

**July 4, 2018 – Northeast North Dakota Communities**

Approximately 1400 customers in Otter Tail’s Devils Lake Service Area were without power starting at 2:32 a.m. on July 4, 2018. The outage was due to a severe thunderstorm with high winds that moved through these areas causing damage to transmission poles between Hamar and Warwick. Power was restored to Finley, Aneta, Kloten, McVille, Pekin, Hamar and Tolna at 4:22 a.m. and to Tokio, St. Michaels, and Warwick at approximately 5:00 a.m. The approximate duration of this outage ranged between 2 and 3 hours.

**July 8, 2018 – New Rockford, ND**

Customers in the New Rockford service area experienced outages on July 8, 2018 at 3:34 a.m. This outage affected the following customers.

<b>Feeder / Substation</b>	<b>Customers</b>
New Rockford – North Substation	569
New Rockford – South Feeder	53
New Rockford – South Substation	467

The outage was caused by a storm moving through the area with straight line winds. Several trees and lines were down throughout the area. The duration of this outage was 10 hours and 44 minutes for the New Rockford – South Feeder customers and 18 hours and 21 minutes for the New Rockford – North Substation customers. The New Rockford – South Substation customers were restored the following morning. Crews were pulled from Devils Lake, Jamestown and Rugby to assist in the New Rockford service area.

**August 9, 2018 – Walhalla, ND**

Approximately 649 customers in the Walhalla service area were affected by a planned outage on Thursday, August 9, 2018. The outage was approximately one hour long from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Equipment replacement was needed. The crews changed out lighting arrestors and transformers.

**August 14, 2018 – Jamestown, ND**

In the Jamestown service area approximately 708 customers experienced an outage on August 14, 2018. The outage was approximately 1 hour and 31 minutes long from 12:00 a.m. to 1:31 a.m. The outage was caused by a storm and a tree hit by lightning.

**September 18, 2018 – Jamestown, ND**

On September 18, 2018, approximately 1116 customers in the Jamestown service area experienced an outage at 6:20 p.m. that was restored at 8:45 p.m. This outage lasted 2 hours and 25 minutes. The cause of this outage was a bad UG which caused a weak overhead line to burn up.

**October 7, 2018 – Lisbon, ND**

Early Sunday morning on October 7, 2018, approximately 1000 customers in the Lisbon service area experienced an outage. The outage was approximately 1 hour and 55 minutes long from 5:50 a.m. to 7:45 a.m. This outage was caused by a bird making contact in the substation resulting in a failed buss support insulator.