

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Otter Tail Power Company
Meter Testing Rule Waiver
Approval**

Case No. PU-21-416

ORDER

December 15, 2021

Preliminary Statement

On October 21, 2021, Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) filed an application for a waiver pursuant to the terms of North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-02-28(3), Meter records. The waiver would suspend the existing meter testing plan and associated annual reports for the years 2022 through 2025, to resume in 2026.

On November 3, 2021, the Commission issued a Notice of Opportunity for Hearing, which provided until December 3, 2021, for receiving written comments and hearing requests. No response was received. The notice provided that, if deemed appropriate, the Commission can determine the matter without a hearing.

The Notice identified the issue to be considered in this proceeding is whether it is appropriate to grant a waiver of the Commission's rules under North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-02-28(3), Meter Records.

On December 1, 2021, the Commission discussed the filing with OTP and Commission Staff during an Informal Hearing.

Discussion

OTP's existing meter testing plan requires a sample of meters to be tested each year from each lot (group) of meters. Additionally, North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-02-28(3) requires a summary report of meter tests made during the year to be filed annually.

OTP is implementing its Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) program to replace all non-AMI meters. This implementation will start in 2022 and continue through the end of 2024. Due to implementation of AMI meters, OTP requests approval to deviate from the existing testing plan and temporarily modify testing procedures as OTP transitions its meter fleet from manually read meters to AMI meters.

OTP stated during the Informal Hearing that customers may continue to request a test of their meter at any time, and meters with high usage or high consequences of inaccuracies will continue to be tested regularly.

Having considered this matter the Commission finds that the request is reasonable, appropriate, and should be approved. Therefore, the Commission issues its:

Order

The Commission Orders Otter Tail Power Company is granted a waiver from North Dakota Administrative Code section 69-09-02-28(3) for the years of 2022 through 2025 during which time Otter Tail Power Company will carry out a modified meter testing program as described in its application and the December 1, 2021 Informal Hearing.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

		
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Randy Christmann Commissioner	Julie Fedorchak Chair	Brian Kroshus Commissioner