

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

**Otter Tail Power Company
Fuel Clause Adjustment Waiver
Approval**

Case No. PU-23-81

ORDER

February 28, 2023

On February 24, 2023, the Commission received a request from Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) for a temporary waiver from its Energy Adjustment Rider (EAR) tariff provisions. The waiver would permit OTP to recover approximately \$14 million of January 2023's costs that would normally be collected during March 2023 during the months of April through July 2023.

OTP's filing noted that due to its Big Stone Plant being offline from November 5, 2022, through February 8, 2023, it was forced to purchase higher priced energy from the market and forward energy purchases. These purchases are what led to the \$14 million in additional costs.

OTP states that the proposed waiver would serve to smooth the EAR rate over the March through July 2023 time period rather than an abrupt increase that would occur in March 2023 absent the waiver. If the waiver is not granted, a residential customer using 1000 kWh would see an increase of approximately \$12.62 per month above the February 2023 rate. If the waiver is granted that same customer would see an increase of approximately \$5.43 per month above the February 2023 rate.

Pursuant to North Dakota Century Code (NDCC) Section 49-05-05 no tariff change may be made without a notice of at least thirty days to the Commission. The Commission may allow changes upon less than thirty days if good cause is shown.

The Commission finds that granting the waiver is in the public interest as it will mitigate the rate impact to customers.

The Commission finds good cause to allow the temporary tariff waiver upon less than thirty days' notice.

Order

The Commission Orders Otter Tail Power Company's request for a temporary waiver from its Energy Adjustment Rider tariff is Granted.

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart
Commissioner



Randy Christmann
Chair



Julie Fedorchak
Commissioner