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June 16, 2023



Mr. Steve Kahl  
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary  
North Dakota Public Service Commission  
State Capitol Building  
600 East Boulevard, Dept. 408  
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**Re: In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience & Necessity for a new 115 kV Substation and 115 kV Transmission Line near Ardoch, North Dakota to the near the North Dakota Border  
Case No. PU-23-  
Initial Filing**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Otter Tail Power Company herewith files an original and copies of an Application for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct a new 115 kV substation and approximately six (6) miles of 115 kV electric transmission line in North Dakota. The new 115 kV transmission line will begin at a newly constructed 115 kV substation in Walsh County, North Dakota, turn South and extend through Grand Forks County, North Dakota, and then turn North to interconnect with an existing substation located further East in Walsh County, North Dakota. This filing is made in accordance with NDCC Chapter 49-03-01.

Otter Tail Power Company also submits a check in the amount of \$10,000.00 as partial payment of the fee required by NDCC Chapter 49-05-04.2(2)(d). Otter Tail Power Company will submit additional funds as ordered by the Public Service Commission up to the \$175,000.00 amount required by NDCC Chapter 49-03-02.3.

Otter Tail Power Company respectfully requests that this filing be accepted as being in full compliance with the filing requirements of this Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa M. McFarland".

Lisa M. McFarland  
Associate General Counsel

kaw  
Enclosures  
By electronic filing and U.S. mail

1 PU-23-228 Filed 06/16/2023 Pages: 6  
Application for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  
Otter Tail Power Company  
Lisa McFarland, Assoc. Gen. Counsel

**STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA  
BEFORE THE  
NORTH DAKOTA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

**In the Matter of Otter Tail Power  
Company's Application for a  
Certificate of Public Convenience  
and Necessity for a new Substation  
and 115 kV Transmission Line from  
near Ardoch, North Dakota to near  
the North Dakota Border**

**Case No. PU-23-  
APPLICATION**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) submits this Application to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) for approval in the above-entitled proceeding, and makes application pursuant to Chapter 49-03.1, North Dakota Century Code, for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to construct and operate a new 115 kV substation near Ardoch in Walsh County, North Dakota and to construct and operate approximately six (6) miles of 115 kV electric transmission line and associated interconnection facilities starting at the new substation, running through Grand Forks County, North Dakota, and ending at an existing Minnkota owned substation located near the border in Walsh County, North Dakota.

**II. GENERAL FILING INFORMATION**

Pursuant to § 69-02-02-04 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the following information is provided:

**A. Name, address, and telephone number of the utility making the filing**

Otter Tail Power Company  
215 South Cascade Street  
P.O. Box 496  
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496  
Phone (218) 739-8200

**B. Name, address, and telephone number of utility attorney and responsible for filing**

Lisa M. McFarland  
Associate General Counsel  
Otter Tail Power Company  
215 South Cascade Street  
P.O. Box 496  
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496  
Phone (218) 739-8814  
[lmcfarland@otpc.com](mailto:lmcfarland@otpc.com)

We request that all communications regarding this proceeding, including data request, also be directed to:

Regulatory Filing Coordinator  
Otter Tail Power Company  
215 South Cascade Street  
P.O. Box 496  
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496  
[regulatory\\_filing\\_coordinators@otpc.com](mailto:regulatory_filing_coordinators@otpc.com)

**C. The date of filing**

The date of this filing is June 16, 2023.

**D. Other requirements of North Dakota Rules Part 69-02-02-04**

Pursuant to [N.D. Admin. Code § 69-02-02-04](#), a certified copy of Otter Tail's articles of incorporation is on file with the Commission in Case No. PU-09-677 and a current certificate of good standing is on file with the Commission in Case No. PU-23-39. The certificate and amendments are hereby incorporated by reference.

**III. STANDARD OF REVIEW**

This Application is being made pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 49-03 of the North Dakota Century Code, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the Public Service Commission of the State of North Dakota. Under this statute, the overall standard applied by the Commission is whether public convenience and necessity will be served by the construction, ownership and operation of the North Dakota Facilities and whether the applicant is fit, willing and able to provide service.

The new 115 kV substation and 115 kV transmission line is required to enhance the reliability of electric service and Otter Tail is fit, willing and able to construct the project and operate the facilities.

**IV. DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT**

The new 115 kV substation and 115 kV transmission line will be integrated system facilities and will be located in Walsh and Grand Forks Counties in North Dakota. The new transmission line will mostly run through Grand Forks County, North Dakota, but will interconnect Otter Tail's new 115 kV substation near Ardoch in Walsh County, North Dakota to an existing Minnkota owned substation in Walsh County, North Dakota (near the North Dakota border). The new substation will interconnect to Otter Tail's existing sub-transmission system.

Otter Tail has secured or will secure all land rights necessary to construct and operate the 115 kV transmission line, including an agreement with Minnkota to connect to their existing substation. Otter Tail has already entered into a purchase agreement for land on which to construct the new 115 kV substation.

**V. PROJECT NEED**

The project was identified as a need by the Northwest Minnesota Transmission Upgrade study and is part of MISO approved transmission upgrades Otter Tail is planning to make in the area in cooperation with Minnkota. The current transmission system supporting this area consists of very long transmission lines between power sources. These long transmission lines expose customers to more frequent and extended outages due to lightning strikes or storms. Power quality is also a concern under some system configurations, limiting operation flexibility. The addition of this line will provide a new power source into the area and provide additional support on the integrated system. The proposed new line, originating from the proposed new substation on the left of the map below, is shown in yellow.



## VI. CONCLUSION

No other electric public utility or any electric cooperative corporation will be affected by the ownership and operation of the proposed North Dakota Facilities and Applicant is fit, willing and able to own and operate the North Dakota Facilities. It is in the public interest that Otter Tail be granted a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the authority it requests herein.

WHEREFORE, Applicant respectfully requests that the Commission:

1. Give Notice of Opportunity to request a hearing to interested parties and, if no hearing is requested within twenty (20) days, to waive the hearing in accordance with N.D.C.C. § 49-03.1-05;
2. Enter an Order and issue a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity authorizing the Applicant to construct and operate a new 115 KV substation in Walsh County, North Dakota and a 115 kV transmission line in Walsh County and Grand Forks County, North Dakota (near the North Dakota border); and
3. Grant such other relief as the Commission shall deem appropriate.

Date: June 16, 2023

Respectfully submitted:

**OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY**

By: 

Lisa M. McFarland  
Associate General Counsel  
Otter Tail Power Company  
215 South Cascade Street  
P.O. Box 496  
Fergus Falls, MN 56538-0496  
Phone (218) 739-8814

Dated this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.

*Lisa M. McFarland*

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2023.



*Cynthia C Geray*  
Notary Public  
Otter Tail County, Minnesota  
My Commission Expires: *January 31, 2026*

(Seal)

Of Counsel:  
Lisa M. McFarland  
Associate General Counsel  
Otter Tail Power Company  
215 South Cascade Street  
Fergus Falls, MN 56537