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January 11, 2024

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

**Re: In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Application for Approval of  
Tariff Changes to Facilitate Implementation of New Advanced Metering  
and Distribution Technology (AMDT) systems and a Variance to  
Commission Rules  
Case No. PU-23-275  
Compliance Filing**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) submits this compliance filing following issuance of the North Dakota Public Service Commission's (Commission) Order dated January 4, 2024, in the above-referenced matter.

Attached to this letter you will find the following non-legislative versions of Otter Tail's updated Rate Schedules reflecting Commission approved changes.

- 1) Section 1.03 Deposits, guarantees and credit policy
- 2) Section 4.01 Meter and service installations
- 3) Section 4.02 Meter readings
- 4) Section 4.03 Estimated readings
- 5) Section 4.04 Meter testing and meter failure
- 6) Section 4.07 Monthly billing period and prorated bills
- 7) Section 8.01 Glossary
- 8) Section 9.01 Residential service

We are taking this opportunity to update this version of our Section 9.01 Residential Service Rate Schedule at number 4 on page 3, with the updated title of our Metering & Distribution Technology (MDT) Cost Recovery Rider as approved in Case No. PU-23-283 on November 29, 2023<sup>1</sup>.

Copies of this filing have been sent to you via USPS.

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

Sincerely,

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

lcd  
Enclosures  
By electronic filing and U.S. mail

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<sup>1</sup> In the Matter of Otter Tail Power Company's Request for Approval of the Annual Rate Update to the Rate Schedule, Section 13.11, Advanced Metering and Distribution Technology Cost Recovery Rider, Case No. PU-23-283, Order dated November 28, 2023.



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**Section 1.03 DEPOSITS, GUARANTEES AND CREDIT POLICY**

The Company may require a deposit to ensure payment of bills when due if Customer has not established good credit. A deposit may be required if the credit history of a Customer does not demonstrate that payment is assured. In determining credit history, the Company shall only use credit reports reflecting the purchase of utility services unless the Customer consents in writing to the use of additional credit reports. Any credit history used is mailed to the Customer. The Customer’s refusal to permit use of credit rating or credit services other than that of a utility will not affect the determination of the Company as to the Customer’s credit history. A deposit is not to exceed the estimated charge for furnishing service to the Customer for a 60-day period.

The Company will pay interest on deposits, each year, at the rate paid by the Bank of North Dakota for its smallest six-month certificate of deposit determined as of the first business day of each year. Interest will either be paid to the Customer on an annual basis, or credited to the Customer by a deduction made on the Customer’s December electric service bill, or when a deposit is refunded by either termination of service or with 12 consecutive months of prompt payments.

Deposits held by the Company when the Customer ends service or service is terminated, plus any accrued interest, will be refunded by the Company to the Customer, less the amount of any outstanding bills on the account.

Whenever service has been disconnected for nonpayment of a bill, before reconnection is made the Customer shall (a) pay the reconnection fee stated in Section 1.04 of these General Rules and Regulations; (b) make a deposit to the Company pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code Standards of Service 69-09-02-04 if all or a part of the previous deposit was used in settlement of the delinquent bill; and (c) make a satisfactory settlement with the Company for the delinquent bill and for service rendered between the last Meter Reading date and the date service was disconnected. If a customer’s credit standing becomes unsatisfactory after a deposit has been refunded or if the deposit is inadequate to cover the estimated charge for furnishing service for a 60-day period, a new or additional deposit may be required upon reasonable written notice by the Company.

The Company may, in lieu of a cash deposit, accept an agreement signed by a guarantor, satisfactory to the Company, whereby payment of a specified amount not exceeding the deposit requirement is guaranteed. The guarantee agreement shall automatically end on the earliest to occur of: (a) the Customer gives the Company notice of service discontinuance; (b) the Customer gives the Company notice in a change in location covered by the guarantee agreement; or (c) thirty days after written request from the guarantor to terminate the guarantee agreement. However, no guarantee agreement shall be terminated without the Customer first having made

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## METERING & BILLING

### Section 4.01 METER AND SERVICE INSTALLATIONS

The Company will furnish, install and maintain one set of metering equipment for each account and rate schedule under which a metered service is supplied.

Unless required by other applicable codes, inspections of the line-side wiring in the Meter socket and current transformer cabinet (CT cabinet) are the responsibility of the Company. The Customer retains inspection authority of Customer-side connections to ensure compliance with National Electric Code requirements. Once inspections are completed and the wiring approved by the Company, the Meter socket and CT cabinets will be secured with Company seals. The Company will connect electric service to a previously served location without the requirement of an affidavit or wiring certificate if all of the following four conditions are met: 1) if discontinuation of service was made within the past two years, 2) as long as there is no change in the wiring, including the service drop, 3) if the wiring was acceptable at the time service was discontinued, and 4) if the structure has not been moved. Service may be denied to any Customer for failure to comply with the applicable requirements of these General Rules and Regulations, or with other service requirements of the Company contained in an agreement with the Customer for the services, or on file with any regulatory body having jurisdiction.

#### METER INSTALLATION REQUIREMENTS:

Customer-furnished Meter sockets: Service entrance sizes up to and including 400 amps single-phase and three-phase will be metered by the use of Self-Contained Meters. Meter sockets for Self-Contained metering are furnished, installed, and wired by the Customer or the Customer’s electrical contractor. The Company will install and wire a load management receiver, if applicable, and the Customer or the Customer’s contractor will make the remaining connections in the Meter socket. The Company will make the connections to the Customer’s conductors at the top of the mast for overhead service, and at the Company source for underground service.

Company-furnished Meter sockets: If the service entrance requirements exceed 400 amp single-phase or three-phase, the Company will furnish the pre-wired Meter socket and enclosure, including current transformers, conduit, and other equipment necessary to Meter the service. The Customer’s contractor will install the equipment. These Meter sockets will be mounted next to the Customer-provided CT cabinet on a building, pole, or



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pedestal. However, in all cases, permission to use and the determination of transformer rated metering location must be approved by the Company.

Customer-furnished CT cabinets: Cabinets used outside any building wall for current transformers (CTs) or required as a junction point between the Company’s service lateral and the Customer’s service entrance conductor are furnished by the Customer or the Customer’s electrical contractor. Unless otherwise provided in the Customer’s service agreement with the Company, the cabinets will serve as the point of common connection between Company-owned facilities and the Customer. Conduit and any additional material required for attachment is furnished by the Customer. The Company will make the service connections at the line side lugs and install the control wires between the CTs and the Meter. The Customer or contractor will install all remaining equipment, including CTs furnished by the Company, and make the connections to the load side lugs.

**METER SOCKET REQUIREMENTS:**

All Meter sockets must be approved and properly labeled by a state-recognized testing lab such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL).

**Profiles and Rating:** The Customer must furnish a Meter socket equipped with lever-style bypass rated at 200 amps or larger for underground services. In order to allow for proper conductor bending, crossover clearance, and additional slack in the incoming service wires within the socket, the internal dimensions for the socket must be a minimum of 11 inches wide for single-phase service and 13 inches wide for three-phase service. For services where conductors will be installed below ground, conduit of adequate size must be installed on the Meter socket and extend a minimum of 12 inches below grade level. Due to limited space for conductors, round Meter sockets will no longer be permitted on new installations or as replacements on existing installations. The Company reserves the right to require that a round socket be replaced at Customer’s expense before any work is done by the Company.

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**CURRENT TRANSFORMER CABINET REQUIREMENTS:**

The Customer or the Customer’s electrical contractor will size and furnish the cabinet to be used as a point of common connection between the Company’s service and the Customer’s service point. The Cabinet will be mounted outdoors in a location readily accessible to Company personnel. The Customer will provide any materials required for installation. The Contractor shall contact Company personnel to discuss details prior to ordering a current transformer cabinet.



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**Section 4.02 METER READINGS**

Unless authorized by statute, rule or other appropriate authority, unless a Customer location is considered self-read, the Company will read all Meters used for determining charges to Customers each month. The term “month” for Meter Reading and billing purposes is the period between successive Meter Reading dates, which is as nearly as practicable to 30-day intervals. When the Company is unable to gain access to a Meter, it shall leave a Meter-Reading form for the Customer to complete and provide to the Company. The Company may use Customer-supplied Meter Readings to render bills, provided a Company representative reads the Meter at least once each three months, and when there is a change in occupancy of the premises. The Company may move the Meter to a self-read status when necessary.

**SELF-READ CUSTOMERS:** Customers designated as self-read Meter accounts shall, upon request of the Company, report the reading of their Meter monthly online, or on forms provided by the Company. At a minimum, the Company will verify Meter Readings of self-read Meter accounts at least once within a 12-month period.



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**Section 4.03 ESTIMATED READINGS**

Pursuant to North Dakota Administrative Code Standards of Service 69-09-02-11, when access to a Meter cannot be gained and the Customer fails to supply a Meter-Reading form in time for the billing operation, or Meter data is unavailable an estimated bill may be rendered by the Company. In cases of emergency, the Company may render estimated bills without reading Meters or supplying Meter-Reading forms to Customers.

When Customer fails to return a Meter-Reading form or input the Meter Reading online, an estimated bill may be rendered.

Estimated bills are based on the Customer’s normal consumption for a corresponding period during the preceding year, or average consumption during the three preceding months, or any other method authorized by the North Dakota Public Service Commission. As provided in Section 4.02 of these General Rules and Regulations, only in unusual cases, when approval is obtained from the Customer, or when a self-read Customer fails to supply Meter Readings, shall more than two consecutive estimated bills be rendered.

If an estimated bill appears to be abnormal when a subsequent reading or energy consumption is obtained, the bill for the entire period is computed at a rate which contemplates the use of service during the entire period and the estimated bill is deducted. If there is reasonable evidence that the use occurred during only one billing period, the bill shall be so computed.

If the Advanced Metering Infrastructure is unavailable or Meters located where the Company has no resident service representative, or the resident service representative is unavailable, final readings or energy consumption may be estimated at the time the Customer requests that service be discontinued. Estimates will be made on the basis of previous average usage. All estimated readings or energy consumption are clearly marked as such.



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**Section 4.04 METER TESTING AND METER FAILURE**

The Company will maintain and test its metering equipment in accordance with the Rules of the North Dakota Public Service Commission. If the Company’s test shows a Meter to have an average error of more than 2% fast or 2% slow, the Company shall make an adjustment to the bills for service during the period of registration error, if known, in accordance with North Dakota Administrative Code Standards of Service 69-09-02-12 and Section 4.9 of these General Rules and Regulations. If the period of registration error is unknown, a billing adjustment will be applied to lesser period of (a) one-half the time elapsed since the last testing of the Meter, or (b) six months. If the average error cannot be determined by test because of failure of part or all of the metering equipment, the Company shall use the registration of check metering installations, if any, or to estimate the quantity of energy consumed on all available data. The Customer shall be advised of metering equipment failure, and of the basis for the estimated bill. Any adjustment because of failure of metering equipment shall be from the date of the metering equipment failure, if known; or if not known, for a period equal to one-half the time elapsed since the last previous meter test, but not to exceed six months.

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The Customer may request the Company to test the Meter. If the request to test a Meter is made within one year of a previous test, a charge will be added to the Customer’s bill if the metering equipment tests accurate (Meter error is plus or minus two percent or less). The charges will be as follows:

Single-Phase or Residential Customer Meter	\$10.00
Single-Phase Demand or Self-contained Three-phase Meter	\$20.00
All Other Three-phase Meters	\$30.00



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## Section 4.07 MONTHLY BILLING PERIOD AND PRORATED BILLS

A period of 365 days divided by 12 months [30.41667 days] is considered a normal monthly billing period. The Meter Reading date may be advanced or postponed not more than five days without adjustment of the billing for the period. Bills based on actual billing periods, which will be determined by the interval between two consecutive Meter Reading dates for metered services or between billing dates for the non-metered services, will be prorated on a daily basis for a period of lesser than or greater than a normal billing period. The proration shall apply to the Customer Charge, Energy Charge, Demand Charge and Facilities Charge components of the rate.

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Services will be prorated to the month in which they were consumed based on a computed daily average. The following definitions apply:

- For fixed charges, the “computed daily average” used to prorate “services” is the daily fixed charge, or ratio of the annual amount of the fixed charge by the number of days in a year (365).
- For consumption-based charges, the “computed daily average” used to prorate “services” is the daily average energy/demand usage, or ratio of the energy/demand usage during the billing period by the number of days in the same billing period.



## GLOSSARY AND SYMBOLS

### Section 8.01 GLOSSARY

#### Glossary of terms used in tariffs and riders

**Advanced Metering Infrastructure** – Communication infrastructure that supports the remote collection of Customer’s electrical energy consumption.

**Billing Demand** – A charge applied to an Energy Customer for Capacity reserved or made available explicitly for that Customer. Customer’s Demand as used by Company for billing purposes. Billing Demand is calculated and specified in applicable tariffs.

**Capacity** – The maximum amount of power, normally expressed in Kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW), that a given system or subsystem can carry or produce at a particular moment.

**Commercial** - A business consumer of Energy.

**Commission** – The regulating entity in the state government that oversees the operations of investor-owned utilities. (See North Dakota Public Service Commission).

**Company** - Otter Tail Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, a regulated power company providing electricity to Customers in Minnesota, North Dakota and South Dakota.

**Control Criteria** - The terms and guidelines governing the supply of electricity to non-firm electric loads.

**CT Metering** – A watt-hour Meter that is used with current transformers. The current transformer reduces the primary current to a secondary current applied to the Meter in a known proportion. Used when the current exceeds 400 amperes. C

**Customer** - Any party that is involved in the purchase or sale of electrical Energy from or to Company.

**Customer Charge** – Part of the monthly basic Distribution charge to partially cover costs for billing, Meter Reading, equipment, service line maintenance and equipment. This charge is the same no matter how much electricity is used. C

**Demand** – The rate at which electric Energy is delivered to or by a system, part of a system, or piece of equipment and is expressed in Kilowatts (kW) or megawatts (MW).

**Demand Interval** – The specified interval of time on which a demand measurement is based.



**Distribution** - The local wires, transformers, substations and other equipment used to deliver electricity from the high-voltage transmission lines to low voltage Distribution lines and to end-use consumers.

**Distribution Facilities** - Company facilities as defined in Section 5.02 of these General Rules and Regulations.

**Energy** – Customer’s electric consumption requirement measured in Kilowatt-hours (kWh).

**Energy Charge** – The amount on Customer billings reflecting the actual Energy used over the billing period.

**Excess Expenditure** – Certain costs incurred by Company in the construction of Special Facilities, as defined in Section 5.02 of these General Rules and Regulations.

**Facilities Charge** – An amount to be paid by the Customer in a fixed monthly amount for distribution facilities sized on the basis of the Customer’s design (rather than metered) demand. The charge may include operation and maintenance as capital costs.

**Farm** – A Customer classification where ordinary farming operations of a Commercial scale are conducted from which Customer derives income.

**Generator** – A general name given to a machine for transforming mechanical Energy into electrical Energy.

**Kilovolt (kV)** – A unit of pressure equal to one thousand volts.

**L Kilowatt (kW)** – A unit of electrical power equal to one thousand watts. Electric power is usually expressed in Kilowatts. A watt = volts times amps times power factor. One watt = 1/746 Horsepower and a Kilowatt = 1,000 watts or 1.34 Horsepower.

**Kilowatt-hour** - A Kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the standard unit of measure for electricity for which most Customers are charged in cents per Kilowatt-hour. One Kilowatt-hour is equal to 1,000 watt-hours. The total number of Kilowatt-hours charged to your bill is determined by your electricity use. For example, if you used a 100-watt light bulb for 10 hours, you would be billed for one Kilowatt-hour (100-watts x 10 hours = 1,000 watt-hours).

**Meter** – An electric indicating instrument used to measure kWhs, kW, and /or kVAR.

**Meter Reading** – The period, expected to be 30 days, between requested Meter reads utilized by the billing system to render a Customer’s energy consumption.

**Midwest Independent System Operator (MISO)** – An independent third party operating in the Midwest states and formed to operate the transmission system in a way that provides fair access for all electricity suppliers. The ISO maintains instantaneous balance of the Grid system by controlling the dispatch of flexible plants to ensure that loads match resources available to the system. It is regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

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**Municipality** - A city, town, or other local unit of government with jurisdiction over the use of the public rights of way or other public areas.

**North Dakota Public Service Commission (NDPSC)** – The regulating entity operated by the State of North Dakota that oversees the operations of investor- owned electric utilities such as Otter Tail Power Company.

**Reactive Demand** - A term used in the calculation of power factor defined as the relationship between the total power (kVa) and the real power (kW) for loads such as motors that require magnetizing current to operate.

**Reliability** – The providing of adequate and dependable generation, Transmission and Distribution service. Electric system Reliability has two components -- adequacy and security. Adequacy is the ability of the electric system to supply the aggregate electrical Demand and Energy requirements of Customers at all times, taking into account scheduled and unscheduled outages of system facilities. Security is the ability of the electric system to withstand sudden disturbances such as electric short circuits or unanticipated loss of system facilities.

**Residential** – An Energy consumer consisting of a single private household, but not necessarily a single-family dwelling.

**Self-Contained Metering** – A watt-hour Meter which has sufficient current-carrying capacity to meet the specific demand for which it is designed without the need for a current transformer. Used to measure current up to 400 amperes.

**Space Conditioning Loads** – Electrical processes used to condition air or water, such as heating, cooling, dehumidifying, or humidifying.

**Special Facilities** - Company provided facilities as defined in Section 5.02 of these General Rules and Regulations.

**Standard Facilities** – Company provided facilities as defined in Section 5.02 of these General Rules and Regulations.

**Summer Season or Summer** – The period of time beginning June 1 and ending September 30.

**System Marginal Energy Price** – Company’s hourly system Incremental Energy cost plus applicable losses, transmission, and a profit margin.

**Total Coincident Demand** – The sum of two or more Demands that occur in the same Demand Interval as determined by Company.

**Transmission Facilities** – Company provided facilities as defined in Section 5.02 of these General Rules and Regulations.

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*Transmission Service* – The reservation and L  
transmission of Capacity and Energy on L  
either a firm or non-firm basis. L

*Winter Season or Winter* – The period of L  
time beginning October 1 and ending L  
May 31 L

**RESIDENTIAL SERVICE**

DESCRIPTION	RATE CODE
Residential Service	N101
Advanced Meter Opt Out	N102

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**RULES AND REGULATIONS:** Terms and conditions of this tariff and the General Rules and Regulations govern use of this schedule.

**APPLICATION OF SCHEDULE:** This schedule is applicable to Residential Service as defined in the General Rules and Regulations.

**RATE:**

RESIDENTIAL SERVICE – N101			
<b>Customer Charge per Month:</b>	\$14.00		
<b>Monthly Minimum Bill:</b>	Customer Charge		
<b>Energy Charge per kWh:</b>	Summer		Winter
	8.050	¢/kWh	5.446 ¢/kWh

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**MANDATORY AND VOLUNTARY RIDERS:** The amount of a bill for service will be modified by any Mandatory Rate Riders that must apply or Voluntary Rate Riders selected by the Customer, unless otherwise noted in this rate schedule. See Sections 12.00, 13.00 and 14.00 of the North Dakota electric rates for the matrices of riders.

**DEFINITIONS OF SEASONS:**

Summer: June 1 through September 30.

Winter: October 1 through May 31.

**SEASONAL RESIDENTIAL SERVICE:**

1. These rates and regulations shall apply to seasonal and lake cottage service and to rural residential service only. Resorts, stores, farms and other nonresidential establishments will be billed at the rates provided for such classes of service.
2. Seasonal customers will be billed at the same rate as year-around Customers, except as follows:

Each seasonal Customer will be billed a one-time seasonal fixed charge of \$56.00 in addition to the rate provided above. The fixed charge will be included on the first bill rendered for each season.

Each seasonal Customer will be billed for the number of months each season that the residence or cottage is in use but not less than a minimum of four months, plus the seasonal fixed charge. The Company normally will read Meters and render a bill during the months of June, July, August and September. At the Company’s option, meters may be read at other times during the year and a bill will be rendered if Energy recorded on the Meter exceeds 100 kWh.

**ADVANCED METER OPT-OUT RATES, TERMS AND CONDITIONS:**

ADVANCED METER OPT-OUT – N102	
Customer Charge per Month:	\$20.00

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|--|------------------|
|  | N                |
|  | N                |
|  | NR               |
| 1. Customers may select to have the remote communications capabilities of advanced meters turned off by opting out (“Advanced Meter Opt-Out”). Advanced Meter Opt-Out customers’ meters will be manually read. Customers will pay additional charges to opt-out as noted elsewhere in this schedule.   | N<br>N<br>N<br>N |
| 2. Only customers classified as Residential customers and who are exclusively on this Section 9.01 Residential Service rate are eligible for an opt-out agreement with Otter Tail. Residential customers who also have a rate other than this Section 9.01 Residential Service Rate on their bill would not be eligible for an opt-out agreement on either rate. | N<br>N<br>N<br>N |

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|---|----------------------------|
| Residential customers who elect to opt-out must not have their meter located inside their home or have any other physical barriers to reading the meter. Customers must continue to allow Otter Tail meter readers onto their premises to read the meter.   | N<br>N<br>N                |
| 3. Customers that want to opt-out of having a communicating advanced meter must not have a history of tampering with meters. Customers also cannot have two or more missed payments in the last 12 months of billing.   | N<br>N<br>N                |
| 4. Customers who opt-out of a communicating advanced meter will not be opted-out of the recovery of the costs of the advanced meter, whether those costs are recovered in the Metering & Distribution Technology (MDT) Cost Recovery Rider or recovered in base rates or elsewhere. Customers who opt-out will have the same meter as those who do not opt-out.   | N<br>N<br>N<br>N<br>N      |
| 5. Customers who opt-out of a communicating advanced meter agree they are ineligible for participation in programs that require a communicating advanced meter. Not only does this exclude these customers from receiving interval usage data, but also excludes these customers from any time-of-use program and any potential future programs dependent on an advanced meter including, but not limited to, Electric Vehicle Charging programs, Net Metering and Storage. | N<br>N<br>N<br>N<br>N<br>N |
| 6. A one-time opt-out fixed charge of \$120.00 will be billed to the customer in addition to the rate and monthly customer charges provided above.  | NR<br>N                    |