

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

LeRoy Koppendrayer

Chair

Ken Nickolai

Commissioner

Gregory Scott

Commissioner

Marshall Johnson

Commissioner

Phyllis Reha

Commissioner

Brian Carlson
Otter Tail Corporation
215 South Cascade Street
PO Box 496
Fergus Falls, MN 56438-0496

SERVICE DATE: APRIL 13, 2004

DOCKET NO. E-017/S-04-247

In the Matter of a Request by Otter Tail Corporation for Approval of its Capital Structure and Permission to Issue Securities for Calendar Year 2004

The above entitled matter has been considered by the Commission and the following disposition made:

Approved Otter Tail's December 31, 2004 estimated common equity ratio of 51.7 percent;

Approved Otter Tail's contingency range or ± 10 percent around its estimated common equity ratio; i.e., a ratio range of 46.5 percent to 56.9 percent. Equity ratios outside this range may not be exceeded for a period more than 60 days without prior Commission approval;

Approved Otter Tail's December 31, 2004 estimated total capitalization of \$677,861,000;

Approved a contingency rate of 10 percent above Otter Tail's total capitalization request, for a cap of \$745,647,000. The Company may not exceed this cap for a period longer than 60 days without prior Commission approval;

Agreed to forego prior Commission approval of any issuance of securities in conjunction with the Rights Plan as long as all other provisions of the Rights Plan remain in place;

Approved Otter Tail issuing long-term debt, preferred shares, preference shares, common shares and short-term debt provided any such issue complies with the identified contingency ranges; and

Approved Otter Tail's request that the capital structure be in effect for one year after the date of the Order, unless the Order specifies a later date.

This decision is issued by the Commission's consent calendar subcommittee, under a delegation of authority granted under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (a). Unless a party, a participant, or a Commissioner files an objection to this decision within ten days of receiving it, it will become the Order of the full Commission under Minn. Stat. § 216A.03, subd. 8 (b).

The Commission agrees with and adopts the recommendations of the Department of Commerce which are attached and hereby incorporated in the Order.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

Burl W. Haar
Executive Secretary

(S E A L)

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