

STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARINGS
FOR THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Application of Otter
Tail Power Company and Others for
Certification of Transmission Facilities in
Western Minnesota

and

FIRST PREHEARING ORDER

In the Matter of the Application to the
Minnesota Public Utilities Commission for
a Route Permit for the Big Stone
Transmission Project in Western
Minnesota

This matter is before Administrative Law Judge Steve M. Mihalchick on Applicants' Motion for a 28-Day Extension to Provide Supplemental Information. The Department of Commerce and Carol Overland submitted e-mail comments on the motion, but did not oppose the motion.

Based upon the written and e-mail submissions, the Administrative Law Judge makes the following:

ORDER

1. Applicants' motion is granted. The supplemental information required by the Commission's Order of December 19, 2005, shall be filed by February 28, 2006.

2. Comments raised by the Department and Carol Overland in their e-mails, and by the Department in its letter of January 26, 2006, may be addressed at the prehearing conference scheduled for February 8, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.

Dated: January 30, 2006

s/Steve M. Mihalchick

STEVE M. MIHALCHICK
Administrative Law Judge

