

OTTER TAIL CORP  
Form 8-K  
December 21, 2004

**Table of Contents**

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**SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549**

**FORM 8-K**

**CURRENT REPORT**

**Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Date of report (Date of earliest event reported): December 16, 2004

**OTTER TAIL CORPORATION**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

|   |                             |   |
|---|-----------------------------|---|
| Minnesota   | 0-00368                     | 41-0462685                              |
| (State or other<br>jurisdiction<br>of incorporation)        | (Commission<br>File Number) | (I.R.S. Employer<br>Identification No.) |
| 215 South Cascade Street, P.O. Box 496, Fergus<br>Falls, MN |                             | 56538-0496                              |

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (866) 410-8780

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Item 8.01 Other Events  
Signature

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**Table of Contents**

**Item 8.01 Other Events**

On December 16, 2004, Standard and Poor's Ratings Services lowered its ratings of the Company's senior unsecured debt from A- to BBB+ and retained a negative outlook. Moody's Investor Service presently rates the Company's senior unsecured debt as A2 with a negative outlook.

**Signature**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized.

OTTER TAIL CORPORATION

Date: December 21, 2004

By /s/ Kevin G. Moug

Kevin G. Moug  
Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer

2