

NELSON KENNETH L
 Form 4
 January 04, 2005

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL

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Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person *
 NELSON KENNETH L

(Last) (First) (Middle)
 215 S CASCADE ST
 (Street)
 FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537-2801

(City) (State) (Zip)

2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol
 OTTER TAIL CORP [OTTR]

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
 (Month/Day/Year)
 12/31/2004

4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)

5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer

(Check all applicable)

Director 10% Owner
 Officer (give title below) Other (specify below)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check Applicable Line)
 Form filed by One Reporting Person
 Form filed by More than One Reporting Person

Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5)	5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4)	6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4)	7. Nature of Ownership (Instr. 4)
Common Stock	12/31/2004		A	444	A \$ 25.305	11,635 ⁽¹⁾	D

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

SEC 1474 (9-02)

Table II - Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned (e.g., puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

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1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction Code (Instr. 8)	5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4, and 5)	6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year)	7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (Instr. 3 and 4)	8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5)	9. Number of Derivative Securities Owned Following Transaction (Instr. 6)
Code	V	(A)	(D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares		

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address

Relationships

Director 10% Owner Officer Other

NELSON KENNETH L
 215 S CASCADE ST
 FERGUS FALLS, MN 56537-2801

X

Signatures

/s/ Kenneth L Nelson by Debra J Lill
 -POA

01/04/2005

__Signature of Reporting Person

Date

Explanation of Responses:

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

These shares of Common Stock were acquired under the 1999 Stock Incentive Plan at fair market value as part of the Compensation Program for Outside Directors: 10,274 shares of this total are held in "street name" through Merrill Lynch. See below for other holdings:

- (1) 1. Direct holding of 917.8084 shares of Common Stock held in the Dividend Reinvestment Plan. 2. Direct holding of 2,675 shares of Common Stock which is a grant of Restricted Stock. 3. Direct holding of 825 shares of Common Stock which no longer carries the restriction. 4. 2,000 stock options with expiration date of 4/9/2010. 5. 2,000 stock options with expiration date of 4/8/2011.

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

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