

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY) OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND) WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER) AGENCY FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR A) 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY AND) ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN GRANT) COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA))	ORDER GRANTING PARTY STATUS
		EL24-015

On March 1, 2023, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota), through its agent, Missouri River Energy Services (MRES) (collectively, Applicants). Applicants propose to construct a 345-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities including substation upgrades (Project) within South Dakota. The Project, known as the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line Project, originates at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation, located approximately 2 miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota in Big Stone Township and connects to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota. The South Dakota portion of the Project consists of approximately 3.5 miles of transmission line beginning in Section 24, Township 121N, Range 47W, Grant County, South Dakota, extending east and south to the Minnesota border. Applicant anticipates construction to commence in 2027 or 2028 and be completed in either 2030 or 2031.

On April 18, 2024, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of June 14, 2024, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings listserv. On April 16, 2024, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order For and Notice of Public Input Meeting; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On May 13, 2024, the Commission received an application for party status from Daniel and Tamra Jurgens. On May 29, 2024, the Commission held a public input meeting in Big Stone City, South Dakota.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22, specifically 20:10:22:40.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on June 17, 2024, the Commission considered this matter. With no objection from the Applicants or Commission staff, the Commission voted unanimously to grant Party Status to Daniel and Tamra Jurgens. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Party Status is hereby granted to Daniel and Tamra Jurgens.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of June 2024.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: [Signature]

Date: 18 June 2024

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature]

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

[Signature]

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

[Signature]

CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner