

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY )</b>	<b>NOTICE OF APPLICATION;</b>
<b>EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER )</b>	<b>ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF</b>
<b>COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR A PERMIT TO )</b>	<b>PUBLIC INPUT MEETING;</b>
<b>CONSTRUCT A WAPA NORTH BEND )</b>	<b>NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY</b>
<b>TO PRATT 230KV TRANSMISSION LINE )</b>	<b>TO APPLY FOR PARTY</b>
<b>)</b>	<b>STATUS</b>
<b>)</b>	
<b>)</b>	
<b>)</b>	<b>EL24-011</b>

On March 22, 2024, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (East River or Applicant). Applicant proposes to construct approximately 500 feet of 230-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and associated facilities (Project) located in Sections 15 and 16 of T110N, R73W, Hyde County, South Dakota. The Project will connect the North Bend Substation owned by the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) with the Pratt Substation owned by East River. The Project will be located on land owned by WAPA or East River, with the exception of the crossing of the public road Right of Way for County Road 649. Applicant anticipates construction to be completed by April 2025. Applicant estimates the total construction cost of the proposed Project to be approximately \$766,000.

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

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public input meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., CDT, in Room 413 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, South Dakota.**

The purpose of the public input hearing will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the hearing, East River will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Hyde County Auditor and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the docket, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's web site at [puc.sd.gov](http://puc.sd.gov) under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2024 Electric Dockets, EL24-011 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD, or by phone at (605) 773-3201.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission Staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. **Applications for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, May 21, 2024.** The Commission will also accept comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail until the time of the

decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct. You do not need to have party status in order to submit written comments.

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider issues raised by any party or the Commission itself. At such a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

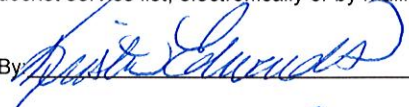
For approval, Applicant must show that the proposed Project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether a permit to construct should be granted, denied, or granted upon such terms, conditions, or modifications of the construction, operation, or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input meeting on the Application and Project on **Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., CDT, in Room 413 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, South Dakota.** It is further

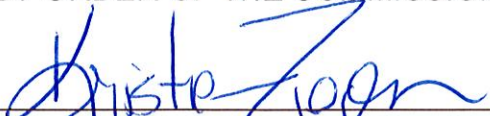
ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, **applications for party status should be filed on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, on May 21, 2024.**

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, these hearings will be held in physically accessible locations. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.


Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March 2024.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
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: <u></u>
Date: <u>20<sup>th</sup> March 2024</u>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner