**Attachment A**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS**

September 22, 2026

**Via Certified Mail**

Re: In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for an Energy Facility Permit to Construct the PowerOn Midwest Project Consisting of a 765 kV Transmission Line, a 345 kV Transmission Line and Associated Facilities

Dear Landowner:

On behalf of Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (together, Applicants), we are providing notice of upcoming public input meetings being convened by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) regarding the PowerOn Midwest Project in South Dakota (Project).

The Project will consist of an approximately 90-mile long 765 kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in Grant, Deuel and Brookings Counties in South Dakota and associated facilities, including the Big Stone Substation Expansion in Grant County, and the 345 kV Brookings County Substation expansion (consisting of an expansion of the current 345 kV Brookings County Substation and a new expansion area to enable the 765 kV connection approximately five miles away) in Brookings County. The Project also includes an approximately five-mile long 345 kV transmission line connecting the Brookings County 345 kV Substation Expansion to the Brookings County 765 kV Substation Expansion.

Enclosed is a copy of the Commission's public input meeting notice, as well as a map showing the location of the Project. As indicated in the enclosed notice, the public input meetings will be held on the following dates and at the locations below:

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. CT**
Brookings Inn
2500 E. Sixth St.
Brookings, SD 57006

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CT**
Milbank School Theater
1001 E. Park Avenue
Milbank, SD 57252

**Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. CT**
Clear Lake Community Center
218 Third Ave. S.
Clear Lake, SD 57226

At the public input meetings, the Applicants will present a brief description of the Project and interested persons may appear to present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Applicants' Application for a Facility Permit (Application) for the Project.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-5.2, the Application is on file in the auditors' offices in Grant, Deuel, and Brookings counties. In addition, the Application and other documents in this docket may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2026 Electric Dockets, EL 26-026.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Tim Rogers*

Tim Rogers
Senior Manager, Siting and Permitting
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall, (GO 6)
Minneapolis, MN 55401

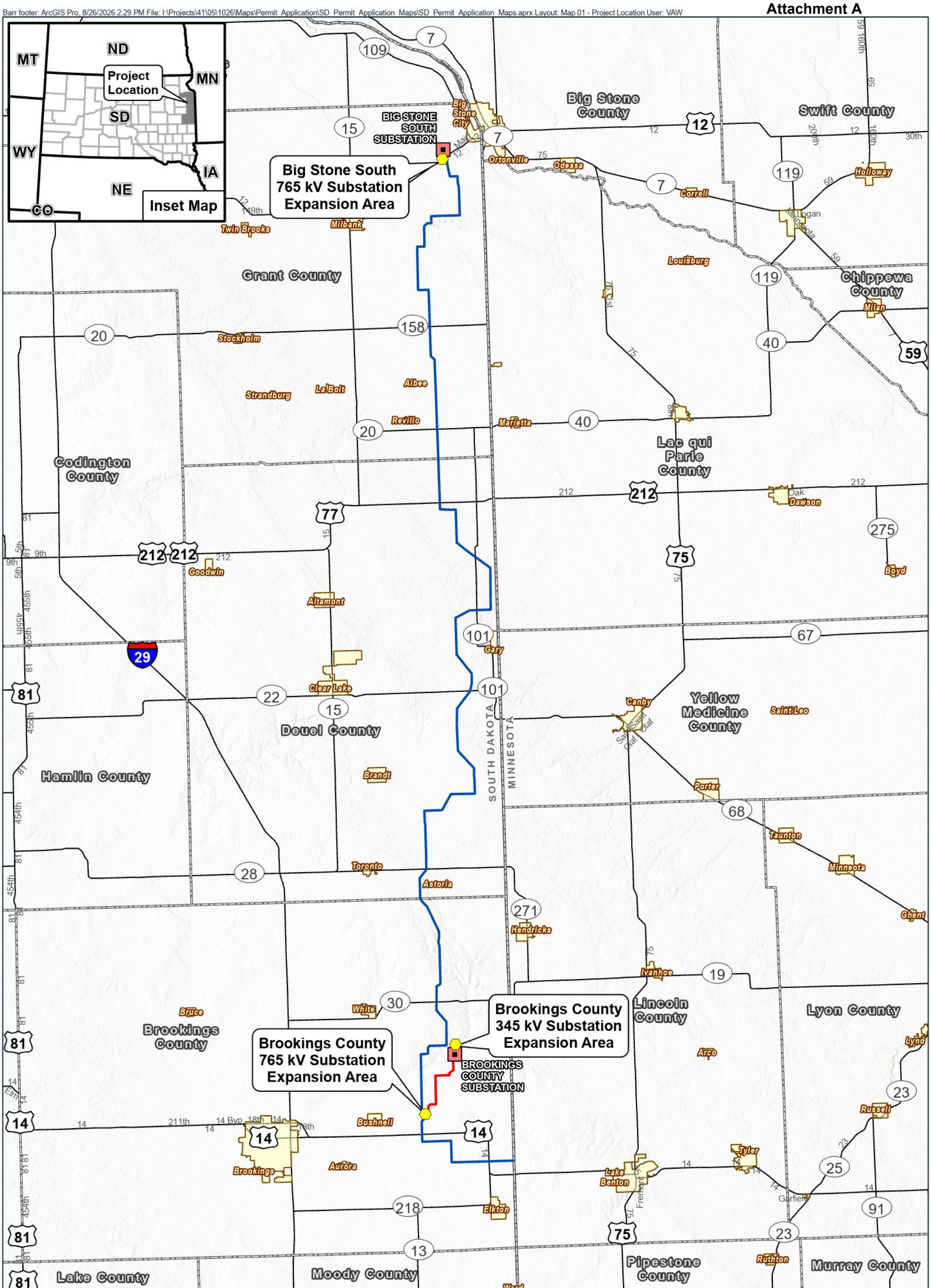
*/s/ Kirk Phinney*

Kirk Phinney
Senior Manager, Project Management Office
Otter Tail Power Company
48450 144th Street
Big Stone City, South Dakota 57216

Enclosures:
Commission's Public Input Meeting Notice
Project Map

Barr footer: ArcGIS Pro, 8/26/2026 2:29 PM File: I:\Projects\41\05\1026\Maps\Permit_Application\SD_Permit_Application_Maps\SD_Permit_Application_Maps.aprx Layout: Map 01 - Project Location User: VAW

**Attachment A**




Existing Substation

Substation Expansion Areas

Big Stone South to Brookings County to Minnesota Border 765 kV Route

345 kV Connector Route

Municipal Boundary

County Boundary

N

0 6 12

Miles

**PROJECT LOCATION**
South Dakota

MAP 1

PowerOn Midwest
Big Stone South to Brookings

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

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|---|---|---|
| **IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF XCEL ENERGY AND OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR AN ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THE POWERON MIDWEST PROJECT CONSISTING OF A 765-KV TRANSMISSION LINE, A 345-KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES** | ) ) ) ) ) ) ) ) | **NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT MEETING; NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR PARTY STATUS**<br><br>**EL26-026** |

On September 4, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a facility permit application (Application) from Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Otter Tail Power Company, (collectively, Applicants) for the PowerOn: Big Stone South to Brookings County to South Dakota/Minnesota Border Project (Project). The Project will consist of an approximately ninety-mile long 765 kilovolt (kV) transmission line located in Grant, Deuel and Brookings Counties in South Dakota and associated facilities including the Big Stone Station Expansion in Grant County, and the 345 kV Brookings County Substation expansion (consisting of an expansion of the current 345 kV Brookings County Substation and a new expansion area to enable the 765 kV connection approximately five miles away) in Brookings County. The Project also includes an approximately five-mile long 345 kV transmission line connecting the Brookings County 345 kV Substation Expansion to the Brookings County 765 kV Substation expansion. Applicants anticipate construction to be completed and in service in 2034. Applicants estimate the total construction cost of the proposed Project to be approximately $1.3 billion to $1.7 billion.

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 hereby provides Notice that **the Commission will hold the following public input meetings:**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. CT**
**Brookings Inn**
**2500 E. Sixth St.**
**Brookings, SD 57006**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CT**
**Milbank School Theater**
**1001 E. Park Avenue**
**Milbank, SD 57252**

**Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. CT**
**Clear Lake Community Center**
**218 Third Ave. S.**
**Clear Lake, SD 57226**

The purpose of the public input meetings will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, Applicants 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 Grant, Deuel and Brookings County Auditors 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 website at puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2026 Electric Dockets, EL26-026.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicants 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 website or by contacting the Commission. **Applications for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CT, November 3, 2026.** 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 public input meetings on the Application and Project on the following dates:

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. CT at the Brookings Inn, 2500 E. Sixth St., Brookings, SD 57006;**

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. CT at the Milbank School Theater, 1001 E. Park Avenue, Milbank, SD 57252; AND**

**Thursday, October 22, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. CT at the Clear Lake Community Center,**

**218 Third Ave. S., Clear Lake, SD 57226.** 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., CT, on November 3, 2026.**

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 meeting if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of September 2026.

**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: Kristy Sumner

Date: 9 Sept 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner