

October 20, 2026

PUC  
500 E. Capitol Ave  
Pierre, SD 57501

Subject: Request to bury transmission line project

Dear Public Utilities Commissioners,

As a land and homeowner directly impacted by the Poweron Midwest Proposal, I respectfully ask you to reject or only approve underground power transmission lines.

On June 18, 2026, my husband and I purchased 40 acres east of White, SD. We have been excited to teach our eight-year-old son how to farm, to see blue skies, starry nights, the quiet and pristine of South Dakota's beautiful ridge and its rolling hills. We were conscious of the 345vK powerlines on property to our west and of Coyote Wind Energy windmills; but recognized that we used electricity so we can shoulder its infrastructure. Can you imagine our shock to learn that a much larger, even conspicuous property defacing powerline was recently proposed for approval from the Public Utilities Commissions? While the proposed route is not on our property, it could stand about 1400 feet from our home. Unlike all our neighbors, we did NOT receive official notice by the certified letter legally required to all affected land owners. We left a Minnesota suburb to build a family farm, and we feel robbed, cheated and blindsided by a state we thought was sensible. We expected better stewardship by South Dakota.

We also find it underhanded and manipulative that the route for the proposed power lines only impacts rural constituents because there are fewer of us, is this to imply that we are less important than urban citizens? Would one ever consider running this right through Sioux Falls or Brookings.

Common sense would tell you that anyone who lives next to the proposed 765kV lines are opposed, so of course you need to route them through rural areas where not as many citizens are impacted; so does that imply that our lives don't matter?

My concerns are:

- **Health** - Are there long-term studies and evidence that prove prolonged exposure to electromagnetism will not increase risks of auto-immune diseases, childhood leukemia, cancer, reproductive health, muscle fatigue, insomnia, headaches, concentration? Be aware that if future symptoms and diagnosis are tied to exposure of electromagnetism, major lawsuits may ensue.

- **Disruption of wildlife habitats** - What reassurance do we have that the wildlife that resides in our wetlands (among many others) ~1000' adjacent to the proposed route will not be negatively impacted? What will happen to the deer, pheasant, duck, bird and butterfly populations?
- **Disruption of farming by a 19-story tower footprint** - How will this impact our spring 2027 bee farm to be located about 1000' from the proposed route? Will the flight patterns and reproduction be impacted? Can we expect mobile chicken tractors, goats and sheep production to be negatively impacted? Because the proposed structure is to be adjacent to our property—1000' to the west—we have absolutely no incentive, only the negative impacts. However, let it be clear, no amount of money would rectify the disruption.
- **Serenity and landscape** - We already have 345kV lines running parallel to our property, why should we have to shoulder any even larger destruction to the serenity and beauty of South Dakota? Further, why are underground alternatives not being proposed that don't disrupt the long-term quality of life for Brookings County and South Dakota residents?
- **Where is this power going?** The overarching proposed project routes all power east. What benefit is South Dakota and its residents receiving? If Minnesota has passed legislation to shut down coal-powered power plants and doesn't have enough power, it is not South Dakota's problem. I don't want lies, or hypotheticals, but real actual evidence that proves South Dakota residents need **all** this generated power.
  - Sherco Power Plant located in Becker, MN, formerly Minnesota's largest coal-fired power plant and owned by Xcel Energy, is being decommissioned due to the MN green energy policies, with final retirement in 2030. Is this a coincidence? I think not.
  - It may cost Poweron Midwest more money to bury the lines, but in the end it will be less disruptive to South Dakotans, especially when it doesn't benefit us.
- **Noise & vibration** - What noise disruption can we anticipate to quiet days and evenings?
- **Property values** - How much will this devalue my property and decrease my quality of life? How much decrease in cash rent can I expect for my tillable acres?

I respectfully request that you reject any overhead transmission line applications that harm rather than benefit South Dakotans.

Sincerely,  
Rebecca DeWilde

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

**DOCKET EL26-026** – POWERON MIDWEST PROJECT

Landowner/Farm Family: DeWilde Derrick R Revocable Trust, DeWilde Rebecca M Revocable Trust

Township: Sherman

Approximate acres owned: 40

Approximate acres farmed: 30

Owner-operated/rented/both: both

Years family has owned or farmed this property: 1