

From: star flakes [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, October 13, 2026 2:34 PM
To: PUC-PUC <PUC@state.sd.us>
Subject: [EXT] Ottetail Transmission Line Easement

Dear PUC,

I am writing to notify you of something which you are not aware of concerning the proposed Ottetail Transmission Line Easement in conflict with historical protection of lands.

To the point, my Grandfather's farm is on the Whetstone breaks and our family manages that property in maintaining the ecosystem for native plains plants and wildlife from the river otter to what I am going to address.

In the period from 1836 to 1839, Joseph Nicollet was contracted by private parties and the United States Government to map this region. In studying his maps of the Couteau des Prairie and the Whetstone breaks, they are detailed and trace his travel routes, which included the legendary John Charles Fremont, and a German botanist, Charles Geyer. According to the map trace, the Nicollet expedition made camp on my Grandfather's acreage. The reason this matters is in the late 1960's my Uncle showed me a huge black walnut tree which fascinated me. It was at the head of a draw in these breaks. I always wondered how it got there. In research, this tree was in the age range of 150 to 200 years. That mean it was not native as walnuts only grew in the Mississippi basin, and as this was before settlement, Americans had to have planted that tree. In further research, these expeditions took along black walnuts to combat scurvy and they often planted them as living markers, akin to the lead plates found at Fort Pierre in the Verendrye making that is French territory.

That walnut tree was a marker of a historical expedition for the United States of America. It still has seedlings growing on this property. This is a historical location. Nicollet all have stated the Coteau and the Whetstone Valley is one of the most lovely vistas on earth. It is become despoiled by these windmills on the hills and Grant and Roberts County now look like a spider web of transmission lines. This Ottetail line is of zero benefit to South Dakotans. It pollutes our state, uses our water and sends the electricity to North Dakota for sale. This corporate footprint is demanding us to be stuck with this ugly horizon and have people and animals exposed to these high transmission lines. The question each commissioner should ask is, "Do each you want a high voltage line beside your house?" My Grandfather's homestead home is centered 200 yards from the south line and 200 form the north. This line is to go south, apparently through the breaks in the pasture where cattle graze, and where the Whetstone floods often and wildlife is under constant exposure.

I do not want this line anywhere near us.

That is why I am working with the Federal to establish that this land is historical and must be protected. Ottetail does not build transmission lines on top of Mount Rushmore and this area is just as significant in Indian burial mounds and as I have stated the living Nicollet expedition trees.

I would urge the PUC to examine the reality of the future. President Trump has coming online this year the first micro reactors which are going into serial production in Texas. These reactors are going to make long distance high voltage transmission lines obsolete in the near future. Ottetail should not be allowed to abuse and bully it's way through historical lands and over the people who do not receive any benefit from this line and are going to be harmed by it.

Thank you for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,

Jess Reil

[REDACTED]
Corona SD, 57227

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