

Sheila Olauson
[REDACTED]
White, SD 57276
10/11/2026

RECEIVED
OCT 19 2026
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Re: Proposed 765-kV Transmission Line Project

Subject: Fairness, Project Costs, and Benefits to South Dakota Communities

Dear Public Utilities Commissioners,

I am writing to ask the Commission to carefully examine who will pay for Xcel proposed 765,000-volt transmission line, who will benefit from it, and what the project will mean for South Dakota residents and rural communities.

This is a major infrastructure project with substantial costs. Those costs should be explained clearly, including how they will be allocated among utilities, regions, and ultimately the customers who pay electric bills.

I am particularly concerned about the burden placed on rural landowners whose farms and homes may be directly affected. These residents could face permanent changes to their property, disruption to their farming operations, and changes to the rural landscape, even if the electricity is primarily intended to serve needs elsewhere, why does South Dakota need to carry the burden of this project. When Xcel continues to say it is for the infrastructure. It is for eastern infrastructure not our own. The only reason it is coming into our area is because someone is going to make a lot of money. My sincere guess is the Data Center executive and Xcel share holders. As a state we need to stand strong against corruption.

Our local electric cooperative, Sioux Valley Energy, is not identified as a builder or owner of this proposed transmission project. I want the Commission, to support local providers such as Sioux Valley Electric and keep these other companies out of Brookings County. I feel Sioux Valley Electric is doing an amazing job providing sound electric service to the region. I know that Xcel is a transmission company designed to make its share holder over 10% of profits on that they produce. So it is my concern that they are not looking at the 525 underground systems because it does not provide high enough profits for them. 10% of \$5 Billion is way less the 10% of \$3 billion.

I am not claiming that a specific increase in our electric bills has been established. Rather, I am asking the Commission to require a transparent explanation of the expected cost allocation and the potential effects on customers served by local utilities. My family has been at every meeting and have spoke to the Xcel representatives and are puzzled by the range of answers we get on the same questions. This is not a company the commission should not pay close attention too. I personally do not want to be a open for business state if we are letting less than honest companies use our land..

Please require the applicants to explain:

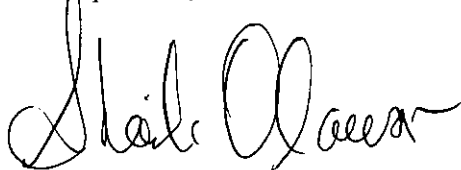
- The estimated total project cost and the expected cost of any associated substations.
- How the costs will be allocated among the participating utilities and regions.
- What benefits South Dakota communities and electricity customers can reasonably expect. From all the research I have done, I cannot find benefit except for Xcel and maybe people in our own state pocketing money.
- Whether less expensive or less damaging alternatives were evaluated. I know this has not been an option because it was quickly dismissed by their representatives when asked.
- How the project will affect rural landowners who bear the direct physical impacts. This is so scary to me, our family land is being split down the center and I have not had good reports on how they decommission projects and how they handle the damage they cause in putting them up.

A project of this magnitude should not move forward without a clear explanation of its costs, benefits, and alternatives.

I ask the Commission to ensure that the interests of rural South Dakota residents are considered alongside the interests of the larger regional transmission system.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sheila Olauson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sheila Olauson

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET EL26-026 — POWERON MIDWEST PROJECT

Landowner/Farm Family: LANDSMAN FARMS

Township: Alton

County: Brookings

Approximate acres owned: 60

Approximate acres farmed: 60 Rented

Owner-operated / rented / both: _____

Years family has owned or farmed this property: 58 YRS