

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

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2026

Subject: Request for Fair Consideration of Alternative Routes

**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Dear Public Utilities Commissioners,

I am asking the Commission to carefully review the proposed route for the 765 transmission line and to ensure that rural landowners have a meaningful voice in the decision.

The proposed towers would be enormous structures in a landscape where farming, open views, and rural living are part of everyday life. Xcel keeps stating this will not limit the farming of the land beneath the line. But I do not feel that is a true statement and they have not proof. I would appreciate the PUC making Xcel prove their every changing statement. I feel my farming will become truly affected. I started farming my land in 1968 and I am concerned how well it will rent (income) after these lines are installed. I am also concerned how nearby homes, farms, roads, and the surrounding countryside could also be affected.

I am concerned that our community is being asked to accept a permanent change to our landscape without sufficient public understanding of why this route is necessary and whether better alternatives exist. I am confident that if you would make them change the plan to an underground 525 and follow the already existing right of ways of the interstate and county roads your residents would be much more agreeable of what is happening.

I ask the Commission to require a genuine comparison of alternative routes, including options that avoid homes and productive farmland wherever reasonably possible. The applicants should explain the reasons for their preferred route and demonstrate how they evaluated the impacts on individual property owners.

I also ask that the Commission examine the width of the proposed right-of-way and easement. I understand that a narrower easement has been discussed in connection with the planning process. Please require the applicants to explain the right-of-way widths originally considered, why the proposed width is necessary, and whether a narrower easement or different design could reduce the impact on landowners. I would like the commission to ensure that substations are no closer than 1 mile to any home or animal units. I am confident that Xcel cannot prove their safety unless they bring in other experts with no contact with this size of electrical lines

Rural communities should not be treated as empty space through which infrastructure can simply be routed. Our homes, farms, families, and livelihoods matter.

I respectfully ask the Commission to carefully examine the alternatives, require full disclosure of the project's impacts, and decline to approve a route that unnecessarily harms our farms and homes.

Thank you for listening to the people who will live with the consequences of this decision.

Respectfully,

W. M. Landman

10-12-2026

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET EL26-026 — POWERON MIDWEST PROJECT

Landowner/Farm Family: LANDSMAN FARMS

Township: Alton

County: Brookings

Approximate acres owned: 1200
we farm this land for years

Approximate acres farmed: 1000 and we rent: Tort
now

Owner-operated / rented / both: Farm Land all Rented out now

Years family has owned or farmed this property: 58 yrs To over 125 years

W.M. Landman
10-12-2024

Landsman

DAKOTA CENTRAL 573

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