

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

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)

**ORDER ASSESSING
FILING FEE; ORDER
AUTHORIZING EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO
CONSULTING CONTRACTS**

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 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 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 \$1.284 billion with the potential costs to hit \$1.666 billion as calculated with contingencies. As calculated pursuant to statute, the maximum fee chargeable without contingencies is \$842,000, the maximum fee including contingencies is \$1,033,000.

On September 10, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 3, 2026, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. As of the date of this order, no petitions to intervene have been filed. Comments were received from a number of persons, all of which are available for review on the Commission's web site for this docket.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum filing fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent for the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs plus one-twentieth of one percent of all additional estimated construction cost of the Project, with the minimum total fee chargeable of not less than twenty thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in a subfund in the Commission's Regulatory Assessment Fee Fund to reimburse the Commission's actual costs incurred in investigating, reviewing, processing, and serving notice of the Application. The maximum fee amount, calculated pursuant to statute, is \$1,033,000.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-12 and 49-41B-26 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on September 22, 2026, the Commission considered Staff's request to assess a filing fee and to authorize the executive director to enter into necessary consulting contracts. The Commission voted unanimously to assess a filing fee of the statutory maximum of \$1,033,000 for actual expenses incurred in processing this Application and to give the executive director authority to enter into consulting contracts. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant shall be assessed a filing fee up to the statutory limit of \$1,033,000, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12 to reimburse the Commission's actual costs incurred in investigating, reviewing, processing, and serving notice of the Application. It is further

ORDERED, that the executive director shall have the authority to enter into necessary consulting contracts.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24th 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: Rob M. Reiss

Date: 9/24/2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner