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

PARTY STATUS APPLICANT MARY NOSBUSH'S RESPONSE TO POWERON MIDWEST'S OBJECTION FOR PARTY STATUS FILED ON NOVEMBER 4, 2026 EL26-026

My personal and direct interest in this docket includes:
I reside in the municipality of Gary, SD. City limits are 1.3 miles from the proposed route. My own home is 1.8 miles from the proposed route.
Although the record shows that the City of Gary was notified of its right to be an Intervener in this Docket, no public discussion was ever held by the City Council to pursue Party Status.
The final siting area of the project remains indefinite due to uncertainty of setback requirements in two of the three counties.

The Comprehensive Plan for Deuel County states:
Agriculture is the major land use in the approximately 640 square miles of Deuel County. This basic land use has been altered very little through urbanization or the development of communities.
Agricultural Preservation Policies
The premature development of agricultural land should be discouraged…. Discourage development patterns that require public improvements financed in part by the farming community but which are not necessary to support agriculture…. Preserve agricultural lands and protect the rural area from uses which interfere with and are not compatible with general farming practices. Recognize and improve upon regulations which have a negative impact on farming operations…. When considering future land use decisions, the preservation of agricultural land should be of significance.
Discourage the random and haphazard siting of commercial and industrial uses within the rural area where such uses do not support the agricultural industry.
Deuel County encourages the identification and retention of historic and cultural resources – i.e. historic farms, cemeteries, etc.
Deuel County has and will continue to use zoning to promote the continuation of agricultural activities in the rural area and to minimize…. land uses that are incompatible with farming… the county should assist the agricultural sector in exploring methods for preserving and protecting agricultural resources.

Deuel County exists because of farms. We want to maintain agriculture. We want to continue generational agriculture. We want human families to live on and steward the land. My family has had eight generations in South Dakota agriculture, beginning in 1870. When the best crop and rangeland has been overrun by industrial energy projects, where will the grain come from? Where will the beef and pork come from? Where will the dairy products come from?
The far reaching socio-economic impacts of this project cannot be understated.

The swath of the project falls between 482nd Ave and 487th Ave, running north and south. All of the local routes that connect me with my family run in this same path. I am concerned that travel along the route will be difficult or impossible during the construction phase. In our area we have already lived through years of construction of wind energy projects which made roads perilous or impassable for months at a time. I am mainly referring to the Deuel North Wind project.

For the past 40 years I have been a member of the Gate City Development Association, including having been a founding incorporator. This organization works to assist businesses within 10 miles of the town of Gary. This project has the potential to directly affect agricultural development in our area, in particular livestock production due to the adverse effects of stray voltage.

Lastly, I have concerns for the protection of our cultural and natural resources. Within the project area there are small cemeteries, public golf courses, Native American burial grounds, undisturbed native prairie, continuously flowing wells and springs and the headwaters of the West Branch Lac qui Parle River.

This is why I am requesting to be an Intervener in Docket EL26-026, PowerOn Midwest.

Dated: November 12, 2026

By /s/ *Mary Nosbush*

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