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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Print Form

*This form is **only** for persons who wish to be an active party in this docket. You do NOT need to be a party to submit comments.*

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

APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS

EL26-026

Daniel Bauer, petitions the Public Utilities Commission to be granted party status in this proceeding.
(Name of Applicant. This will be the person or entity named as a party.)

Place a check mark next to each item below that applies to you, adding a mileage number where requested.

☒ I am a person or organization that received official notification of the project via U.S. mail from the siting permit applicant.

☒ I reside within 1/2 miles of the proposed project.

Residential address if different from your mailing address:

_____

☒ I own land within 1/2 miles of the proposed project.

Legal description: S 1164.5' of W 1047.4' of SW 1/4 sec 23-110-48 &
S 576' of W 1134' of SE 1/4 sec 25-110-48W

☐ I officially represent a municipal, city, township, county or other affected governmental agency within _____ miles of the proposed project.

☐ *I represent a utility company with facilities within* _____ *miles of the proposed project.*

Explain your interest in applying for party status below.

Attached File

This section is to be completed by the person requesting party status. **All fields are required.**

Daniel P. Bauer
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

Daniel P. Bauer 10-30-2026
Signature of Applicant Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (if Applicable)

48214 US HWY 14
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

Elkton SD 57026
Applicant's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

605-690-7917
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

bauersangus2@icloud.com
Applicant's E-mail Address* or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's E-mail Address*

The section below is to be completed by the Applicant's attorney, if represented. All fields are required.

_____
Attorney's Printed/Typed Name

_____
Signature of Attorney Date Signed

_____
Attorney's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

_____
Attorney's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

*The Commission processes its dockets electronically for time and cost efficiencies. Communication on the docket will be done via email to parties to this docket. Failure to provide an email address may result in documents being served upon the county auditor rather than sent directly to the party, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1.

Deadline: This application must be filed with the Public Utilities Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. CT, Nov. 3, 2026, File this completed form electronically at puc.sd.gov/EFilingOptions.aspx

If your submitted form is incomplete, you risk not being granted party status.

For approval, party status applications must meet the requirements of SDCL 49-41B-17

Docket Number: EL26-026 Last Name: Bauer First Name: Daniel Company: Farmer Address: 48214 US HWY 14 City: Elkton State: SD Zip: 57026 Phone: 6056907917 Email: bauersangus2@icloud.com

Comments:
Statement of Dan Bauer

Request to Intervenor Status – Proposed 765-kV Transmission Line

My name is Dan Bauer, and I am requesting intervenor status on behalf of myself, my family, and my parents, Tim and Toni Bauer. My parents own and operate a family farm that has been in our family for approximately 40 years. Farming has been my father's entire life. He began farming alongside his father, Roger, on land approximately one mile from my home, before establishing the family operation at their present location. This farm represents generations of hard work, sacrifice, and dedication. It is more than a business. It is our family's livelihood and our legacy. The proposed 765-kV transmission line is projected to run between my parents' home and the home of Jeremy Javers. These homes are approximately one-quarter mile apart. Depending on the final angle and placement of the transmission line, the towers and conductors could be approximately 510 feet from either home. We have been told that the proposed route was designed to minimize impacts on people. I have a difficult time understanding how placing a massive transmission line, with towers approaching 150 feet in height, approximately 510 feet from someone's home can reasonably be considered low impact. My family's home, I share with my wife Amanda and our children Dalton and Stetson show we would be approximately one-half mile from the proposed line on either side, depending on the final route.

Safety Concerns and Stray Voltage

One of my greatest concerns is stray voltage and its potential effects on livestock and farming operations. My father and I do a considerable amount of ditch swathing, baling, and hauling. These activities require operating large equipment in and around ditches, waterways, and areas where the transmission line may cross or run alongside our working ground. I am concerned about electrical interference, stray voltage, grounding, and the potential effects on both people and livestock while operating equipment.I understand that stray voltage may be less common with 765-kV transmission lines, but I do not believe that is a sufficient reason to dismiss the concern. These lines are new and cause a lot of concern for our farming operation and our health. We did not sign up for this; it is being throw in our laps and to be frank scares us all. I believe the PUC needs to take a much deeper look at the available research, long-term data, and potential risks before allowing this project to move forward. I would like to see independent experts evaluate the potential for stray voltage and electrical effects on livestock, farm equipment, buildings, water systems, and people. I also want to know what testing, monitoring, and protections will be required before construction and throughout the life of the project.

Fire Risks and Emergency Response

Our family makes its living through cattle and hay production. If a hay field or hay storage area catches fire, the consequences could be devastating. We also do not have the large fire and rescue departments that major cities have available to respond to emergencies. The PUC needs to consider the practical realities of rural emergency response. What happens if a transmission line comes down, equipment contacts an energized conductor, or a fire starts beneath or near the line? Are our local fire departments adequately trained and equipped to respond to a 765-kV emergency? These are not hypothetical questions that should be brushed aside. They are real concerns for the families who live and work beneath these lines.

Protecting the Family Farm and Accountability

Farming is a business with very small margins for financial error. We work hard to manage the risks we can control. If I make a mistake in my farming operation, I accept responsibility for it. However, if a large corporation with little long-term investment in Brookings County or South Dakota creates damage to our property, livestock, crops, or livelihood, that company must be held fully accountable. I want to know exactly how that accountability will work. Who pays if they ruin my farming operation? Farmers should not have to spend years fighting a large corporation to prove that they deserve compensation for damages caused by its project. There must be clear, enforceable protections in place before construction begins. The burden should not fall on individual farm families to absorb the financial consequences of a project they did not ask for.

Respectfully,

Dan Bauer

On behalf of my family and parents,

Tim and Toni Bauer
605.690.7917

Dan and Amanda Bauer
48214 US Hwy 14
Elkton, SD 57026

Tim and Toni Bauer
48360 213th Street
Elkton, SD 57026