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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

Donald Bauman, 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: See 24 T110N R048W Alton township / Brookings County

☐ 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.

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

Donald Bauman
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

Don Bauman 11-1-24
Signature of Applicant — Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (if Applicable)

48324 US Hwy 14
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

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

605-542-3041
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

dsbauman@itctel.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: Bauman First Name: Donald Company: Farmer Address: 48324 US HWY 14 City: Elkton State: SD Zip: 57026 Phone: 6055423041 Email: dsbauman@itctel.com Comments: My name is Don Baumen, and I am requesting intervenor status because I have serious concerns about the proposed 765-kV transmission line and the impact it could have on my health, my property, and the future of our farmland.

My biggest concern is health. I have existing health issues, and the thought of having a massive high-voltage transmission line running near my property raises serious concerns about exposure to electromagnetic fields (EMF), magnetic fields, and the potential long-term effects. I want a better understanding of what these lines mean for people living nearby. I believe landowners deserve clear, independent scientific information about potential health risks before being asked to accept this infrastructure in their backyards.

I also want answers about why underground transmission lines are not being seriously considered. We need to understand the alternatives, the costs, and why productive farmland must bear the burden of this project.

There are real concerns about declining property values, reduced land use, and the long-term impact on the marketability of our homes and farms. These are not temporary concerns. Once this infrastructure is placed on our land, the consequences can remain for generations.

Why should family farms be forced to surrender valuable agricultural land to an outside company? Our farmland is one of South Dakota's most valuable resources. It should remain in production, supporting farm families, our communities, and future generations.

I also question why existing transportation and utility corridors, particularly along interstate highways, are not being given priority. We should be looking at ways to use existing corridors and minimize the destruction and fragmentation of productive farmland before taking new agricultural land.

I am concerned that the growing demand for electricity from data centers and other large industrial users is driving projects of this scale, while rural landowners are being asked to carry the burden. If this electricity is primarily intended to serve development elsewhere, why should our farms and communities have to sacrifice?

I am not against progress. I am against progress that comes at the expense of people's health, property rights, property values, and the future of agriculture without fully examining better alternatives.

I am requesting the opportunity to participate as an intervenor, ask questions, review the evidence, and hold the company accountable for demonstrating that this project is necessary, safe, and in the best interests of the people and communities affected. I feel it

is not necessary unless the state is planning on Data Centers, which our farmers do not want.

Our farmland should be protected and kept in production, not treated as an available pathway for infrastructure when other alternatives may exist.

--
Donald Bauman
605-542-3041