Print or Type

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

*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

Michelle Oftedahl, 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 4 miles of the proposed project.

Residential address if different from your mailing address:

_____

☒ I ~~own~~ *lease* land within 0 miles of the proposed project.

Legal description: NE 1/4 of Section 10, T113N, R48W

Deuel County, South Dakota

☐ 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.

Please see attached statement.

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

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

Michelle Oftedahl
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

Michelle Oftedahl 11-1-2026
Signature of Applicant Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (If Applicable)

47768 193rd St
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

Toronto, SD 57268
Applicant's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

605-794-3544
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

Michelleoftedahl@protonmail.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.

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 EL26-026
Statement of Interest in Support of Application for Party Status
Michelle Oftedahl

Residence

I reside at 47768 193rd St, Toronto, South Dakota, on land we own. Our home is approximately 4.2 miles from the proposed 765 kV transmission line.

Leased Land

We rent and farm the NE 1/4 of Section 10, Township 113 North, Range 48 West, Deuel County, South Dakota, which is owned by my brother, Jesse Thompson. The proposed 765 kV line runs along 482nd Avenue, immediately east of this quarter, about 260 feet from its east edge. The 250 foot right-of-way would come within about 135 feet of it.

The applicants' official notices of this project, addressed to Jesse Thompson as the owner of this land, are delivered to our address because we handle his correspondence. I did not receive notice in my own name, and I do not apply on his behalf.

Interest in This Proceeding

I am applying for party status because we currently rent and farm ground owned by my brother, Jesse Thompson, that will be affected by this project. We also have plans to build a house on the building site within the next five years, as well as plans to run cattle in the pastures there in the near future.

This project will potentially have a very negative socio-economic impact not only on us but also on our area's agricultural economy. It will create an incredible burden on the next generation of young farmers trying to compete for land with much wealthier investors and corporations.

We also feel our area has already been overly burdened by energy infrastructure, and it has begun to destroy our rural character.

Basis for Party Status

I qualify under SDCL 49-41B-17(4) on two independent grounds. First, I am a "person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited": our home is approximately 4.2 miles from the proposed line. Second, I am a "directly interested person." The statute does not limit party status to landowners. We farm the NE 1/4 of Section 10, T113N, R48W as tenants, and the proposed line would run about 260 feet from that ground, with its right-of-way within about 135 feet. We also own our home property, described above.

Under ARSD 20:10:01:15.05, I will be bound and affected by the outcome of this proceeding with respect to an "interest peculiar to the petitioner as distinguished from an interest common to the public," because the line would run next to ground we farm and plan to build on.

My interests go directly to the findings the applicants must prove under SDCL 49-41B-22: whether the facility will pose a threat of serious injury "to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area" (our farm operation and planned home, and the area's agricultural economy); whether it will "substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants" (including emergency response in our area); and whether it will "unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region" (our plans for the building site and pastures).

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Oftedahl November 1, 2026

Michelle OftedahlDate