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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

Thijs Reuvekamp, 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.

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

[X] I reside within 2 miles of the proposed project.

Residential address if different from your mailing address:

_____

[X] I own land within 2 miles of the proposed project.

Legal description: SW 1/4 S 24 SE 1/4 S 19 SE 1/4 S17 S29 30,31 NW 1/4 32 — Owned T-110-11-N Rented R48W

[ ] 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.

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.**

Thijs Reuvekamp
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

TR
Signature of Applicant — 10/30/26 Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (if Applicable)

48514 US Hwy 14
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

Elkton, SD 57024
Applicant's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

605 - 691 - 1654
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

thijs.reuvekamp@gmail.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

PUC Intervener Request for EL26-026

Thijs Reuvekamp, Brookings County, SD

I would like to ask the PUC to have me act as an intervener in Docket EL26-026. My name is Thijs Reuvekamp and I run Hilltop Dairy with my father, this my future and the operation I intend to take over and continue to build for my family and hopefully generations to come.

My father has spent 39 years building this dairy operation. We currently care for approximately 1,800 cattle and 1,000 heifers. There is an enormous amount of work, investment, responsibility, and sacrifice behind an operation of this size.

My goal is to continue this operation, take responsibility for it, and expand it over the years. I want the opportunity to build upon what my father has worked so hard to establish.

Farming is a difficult business even under the best circumstances. Margins can be tight, expenses continue to rise, equipment is expensive, and the demands of caring for livestock never stop. There are already enough challenges in agriculture without introducing additional obstacles that could affect our ability to operate.

A massive 765-kV transmission line running through our agricultural community creates serious concerns for the future of farming.

Every farming operation depends on being able to work its land, operate equipment, maintain drainage, move machinery, and use increasingly sophisticated technology. Dairy operations depend on electronic sensors, computers, monitoring systems, and reliable communications to manage livestock and daily operations. We already experience disruptions in cell service and our sensors and monitors with the small line that is approximately 2 ½ miles away.

What happens when a transmission line of this magnitude is introduced? What happens if equipment does not function properly, if communication systems are affected, or if electrical problems develop around livestock and water systems? Who will be held accountable? I feel pre-reading of Electromagnetic Fields should be tested pre-765 and then afterwards. If these numbers are largely affected (I feel there should be a range set) Xcel should have to pay for equipment upgrades or modifications. I believe that they are suppose to DO NO HARM to SD citizens or their livelihood, but if these fields are highly changed Xcel should be responsible for making restitution.

These are not small inconveniences. They could affect our ability to manage thousands of animals and operate a business that depends on reliability every single day.

I also worry about the long-term impact on the value and usefulness of our land. If I am going to take over this operation, I need to know that I can continue farming, make improvements, invest in new facilities, and expand without having a massive transmission corridor creating additional restrictions and uncertainty.

Why should the next generation of farmers inherit additional problems instead of opportunities?

We are not asking for special treatment. We are asking to be allowed to continue producing food and operating our farms without unnecessary interference.

These transmission lines may serve electrical needs far beyond our local community, but the people who live here will carry the permanent consequences of having them in our backyard.

The countryside is not an empty space on a map. It is where families live, where businesses operate, where livestock are raised, and where the next generation hopes to make a living.

I believe underground installation must be seriously considered so that farming operations can continue with as little disruption as possible. If you are going to run lines that are not needed through our fields at least they should be underground so we can do our job.

I also support a mandatory, independent safety and environmental baseline inspection of every property within two miles on both sides of the proposed line before construction begins, followed by ongoing testing and enforceable protections.

I want to take over this farm. I want to invest in it, improve it, and expand it. I want my children and grandchildren to have the same opportunity.

Please do not make it harder for the next generation to farm.

We should be encouraging young people to stay in agriculture, not placing additional obstacles in front of those who want to carry on a family farming operation.

Our family has invested generations of work into this land and this business. We want the opportunity to continue that work.

The future of farming in South Dakota deserves consideration before decisions are made that cannot easily be undone. "Why should the next generation of farmers inherit additional problems instead of opportunities?"

Thijs Reuvekamp

605.691.1654

PUC Docket EL26-26