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	))))))	**APPLICANTS' REPLY TO LAKE COCHRANE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION'S RESPONSE TO APPLICANTS' OBJECTION**

EL26-026

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy, and Otter Tail Power Company (collectively, Applicants) submit this Reply to Lake Cochrane Improvement Association's (LCIA) Response to Applicants' Objection to LCIA's Application for Party Status (Petition). Applicants appreciate this opportunity to correct several statements contained in LCIA's response.

First, LCIA misstates the Applicants' position and applicable statute. LCIA asserts that "Applicants' denial seems premised on the concept that LCIA does not reside within the area where the Project is to be sited, and thus cannot be a directly interested person."[1] As Applicants stated in their initial objection, SDCL § 49-41B-17(4) requires a potential intervenor to be a "person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited," *or* a "directly interested person." LCIA has failed to demonstrate it meets either prong of the statute.

Second, the fact that Mr. Holden received a mailer inviting him to an open house discussing the Project does not establish that he resides within the area where the Project is proposed to be sited. The open-house mailer is separate and distinct from the notice of application filing that was sent to landowners within the one-mile Notice Area when the Application was filed with the

[1] LCIA Response to Objections of Applicants, at 1 (Oct. 26, 2026).

Commission. Accordingly, Mr. Holden's receipt of the open-house mailer does not establish that LCIA satisfies the residency requirement of SDCL § 49-41B-17(4).

Finally, while the Applicants are aware LCIA intervened in a prior wind energy facility permitting docket, party status in a separate proceeding does not establish that LCIA has a direct interest in this Project. LCIA must demonstrate its direct interest in this docket, which it has not done.

The Applicants appreciate the opportunity to submit this response. For the reasons discussed above and in the Applicants October 14, 2026 filing, the Applicants respectfully request that LCIA's Petition for party status be denied.

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