

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH
DAKOTA**

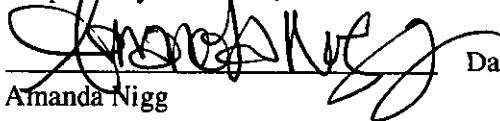
Docket EL26-028, Otter Tail Power Company, Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison 345 kV
Transmission Line

Written questions submitted at the public input meeting, Milbank, October 21, 2026

I am a resident of Easter Township, Roberts County. The Applicant's Table 9-1 (Application, printed page 27) lists Sections 28, 33 and 34 of Township 125 North, Range 50 West, where my husband and I live and farm. I respectfully ask that the Applicant answer the following questions in writing in this docket.

1. Preemption. The Application states at printed page 75: "At this time, the Applicant does not expect to ask the Commission to preempt any local land use controls." Does that statement still hold? Roberts County's board has settled on one-half mile as its basic setback distance for transmission lines. If Roberts County adopts that setback, will the Applicant route the Facility in compliance with it, or ask the Commission to supersede or preempt it under SDCL 49-41B-28?
2. The half mile. The Application uses one-half mile on either side of the Facility as its study area for visual effects (printed pages 93 and 94), inventories aggregate sites within approximately 0.5 mile (2,640 feet) of the centerline (printed page 36), and conditions route adjustments on notice to landowners within one-half mile (printed page 27; SDCL 49-41B-5.2). Why is one-half mile an appropriate distance for study and notice, but not for separation from occupied homes?
3. Aerial and drone application. The words "aerial application" and "drone" do not appear in the Application. The farming operations discussion (Section 25.3.5, printed pages 106 to 108) addresses ground equipment. Will the Applicant study and report the Facility's effects on aerial and drone application of crop inputs on the land it crosses and the land nearby?
4. Need and load. Is any part of the need for this Facility tied to planned data center load in Roberts County or Grant County, South Dakota? If so, please identify it.
5. Local government views. How has the Applicant given due consideration to the views of Roberts County, as SDCL 49-41B-22(4) requires, including the county's October 20, 2026 setback study and its board's choice of one-half mile as the basic setback distance?

Respectfully submitted,



Date: October 21, 2026

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