To the PUC regarding Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison project docket is EL26-028;

I was in attendance at the October 21, 2026 meeting held at the Milbank School Theater. The question "is this transmission line for the Data Center" was never really answered, so therefore, I will take it as it is and I am not in support of this transmission line.

Take care of what we have. God provided this land for us to take care of and putting up this transmission line is not taking care of the land. We are here to do disciple work for God, and I do not believe a Data Center is in favor of that.

Our energy bills have been increasing and, in a write up, on the **South Dakota Searchlight part of States Newsroom by Makenzie Huber and Joshua Haiar on January 30, 2026,** states that Customers of Montana-Dakota Utilities, which is where Applied Digital purchases energy for its facilities, received credits on their energy bills due to data centers purchasing more energy from the grid and thereby increasing the utility's revenue. Regulated utilities in North Dakota are required to provide the credits because of a return on equity cap set by the North Dakota Public Service Commission. Ellendale, ND Mayor Don Flaherty said there is "more than enough power in our area to absorb what they're taking". Why then do we need this new power line to be built and affect our land, scenery, and us landowners to absorb this for years with no end?

I would think since North Dakota built this Data Center, they should be the state to support it and/or the Data Center can find a way to support their own water and electricity.

South Dakota is behind on setting rules, laws and policies, is that why this transmission line is coming through South Dakota instead of Minnesota or having North Dakota care for it themselves?

At least 37 states offer some sort of data center incentive, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures. Data centers would be required to have an electric service agreement that avoids shifting costs to other utility customers, but why should we absorb the cost of this transmission line to come through our land or even South Dakota?

How is it that you can avoid going through Native American Tribal Land **but** not our land?

How is it that you can avoid going through State Parks, National Wildlife Habitat **but** not our Conservation Reserve Program, pastures or homes?

Transmission lines emit waste with faint humming or buzzing sounds, and they do affect our lives and animals. South Dakota is an agricultural state, and I would like to keep it that way, wouldn't you?

This easement will not cover our land displacement, disruption, our time that has been taken away and continue to be taken away on this matter, our taxes and future loss of land value. No money will be enough to make up for the impact this will have on our land, scenery, livelihood and state.

Melissa Remund
[redacted]
Wilmot SD 57279
[redacted]