

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	)	ORDER GRANTING IN PART
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A	)	MOTION TO EXTEND DEADLINE
FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE BIG STONE	)	
SOUTH TO HANKINSON TO BISON 345 KV	)	
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT	)	EL26-028
	)	

On September 8, 2026, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an Application from Otter Tail Power Company (Applicant) for a Transmission Facility Permit for an electric transmission line in Grant and Roberts Counties, South Dakota. Specifically, Applicant proposes to construct a new 345kV electric transmission line ("the Project"). The South Dakota portion of the Project consists of approximately 71 miles of 345 kV transmission line that runs from the existing Big Stone South Substation located west of Big Stone City, South Dakota, to the South Dakota – North Dakota border at a location northeast of New Effington, South Dakota. Additional details of the Project, as well as an interactive route map, can be found on the Commission's website at <https://puc.sd.gov/Dockets/Electric/2026/EL26-028.aspx>. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-24, the Commission must issue its decision within twelve months of the filing of the Application unless the Applicant requests and is granted an extension pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-24.1.

On September 10, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 9, 2026, to interested persons and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene have been filed. On September 11, 2026, the Applicant filed a Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission to Render Decision on Application (Motion to Extend Deadline).

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-24.1.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2026, the Commission considered this matter. No party objected to Applicants' Motion to Extend Decision Deadline. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the request in part by granting the waiver of the twelve-month deadline, and deferring a decision on establishing a decision date until a future commission meeting when a procedural schedule is brought forth. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the twelve-month deadline of September 8, 2027, established by SDCL 49-41B-24, is hereby waived. It is further

ORDERED, that the Commission's decision on establishing a decision date pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-24.1 is hereby deferred until a future commission meeting when a procedural schedule is brought forth.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of October 2026.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically or by mail.

By: Kristie Fiegen

Date: 7 Oct 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary W. Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner