BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE BIG STONE SOUTH TO HANKINSON TO BISON 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT	)))))	**ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF HEARING ON PARTY STATUS APPLICATIONS** **EL26-028**

On September 8, 2026, the 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.

On September 10, 2026, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of November 9, 2026, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv.

On October 7, 2026, the Commission issued an Order Granting In Part Motion to Extend Deadline, which waived the twelve-month deadline of September 8, 2027. Between October 27, 2026, and November 9, 2026, the Commission has received multiple party status applications. On November 10, 2026, Commission staff (Staff) requested a hearing on the party status applications received as of November 9, 2026, to occur during the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting of December 4, 2026.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:01. The Commission now provides notice that a hearing will occur on the party status applications received as of November 9, 2026, during the Commission's December 4, 2026, meeting. At this hearing, the Commission will determine whether the party status applications are granted, denied, or deferred to a future meeting.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that a hearing on the party status applications will be held during the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on December 4, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. CT in the Matthew Training Center, Foss Building, Pierre, South Dakota. It is further

ORDERED, that the Applicant and Staff may file responses no later than 5:00 p.m. CT, November 20, 2026. It is further

ORDERED, that party status applicants whose applications were objected to may file replies regarding their application no later than 12:00 p.m. CT, December 1, 2026.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 12th day of November 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: Kristen Edwards

Date: 12 Nov 2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

CHRIS NELSON, Chairperson

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

GARY HANSON, Commissioner