

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF	)	ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY FOR A	)	HEARING ON MOTION TO
FACILITY PERMIT FOR THE BIG STONE	)	EXTEND DEADLINE
SOUTH TO HANKINSON TO BISON 345 KV	)	
TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT	)	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, between Lien and Victor Townships. The Project will consist of single-circuit transmission structures constructed on steel, single-pole (monopole) structures. The Project will also involve modifications to the existing Big Stone South Substation to accommodate new breaker positions, switches for the new single-circuit 345 kV transmission line, and relocation of the 345 kV Big Stone South to Ellendale termination into the substation. Facility components will also include temporary laydown/staging areas, pulling/tensioning sites, and access roads. The Project is expected to be located along 1,286.4 acres of right-of-way located in South Dakota. The Project would have a 150-foot right-of-way along the length of the transmission line. The Project estimates construction costs between \$190.6 to \$228.7 million and is expected to start construction in 2030, complete in 2033, and in service by the first quarter of 2034.

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 September 11, 2026, Applicant filed a Motion to Extend Deadline for Commission to Render Decision on Application (Motion) and Certificate of Service. In the Motion, Applicant requests the Commission extend the 12-month deadline imposed by SDCL 49-41B-24 by up to an additional 12 months.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 1-26 and 49-41B, specifically SDCL 49-41B-24.1. Applicant and Commission staff, the current parties in this docket, have communicated to commission counsel their intent to waive the ten-day notice requirement so that this Motion may be heard at the Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2026.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that a hearing on the Motion will be held during the Commission’s regularly scheduled meeting on October 6, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. CDT in room 413 of the State Capitol Building, 500 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, South Dakota. It is further

ORDERED, that parties may file responses no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT, September 29, 2026.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 23rd day of September 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: Dani L. Fuerst

Date: 09/23/2026

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner