BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company) APPLICATION FOR
For a Facility Permit for the Big Stone South to Hankinson to) PARTY STATUS
Bison 345-kV Transmission Line Project)

EL26-028

RICHARD FONDER, TRUSTEE of the DENNIS FONDER AND ARLENE FONDER REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST, dated January 28, 2011, 14183 477th Avenue, Milbank, SD 57252 (the "Trust" or "Applicant"), hereby applies on behalf of the Trust to the Public Utilities Commission for party status in this matter (the "Project").

The Trust received official notification of the project via U.S. mail from the siting permit applicant.

The Trust holds title to **organic** agricultural lands in Township 121 North, Range 48, and Range 47 West of the 5th P.M. Melrose Township, Grant County, South Dakota.

The Trust's lands are used for **organic cropland** and **organic pasture** that supports **organic dairy cows** and **several growing families**. **Electric fencing** is used extensively to move the organic dairy cattle through the various paddocks. The Project's imposing presence near or over the Trust's lands is a clear detriment, hindrance, and danger to the use of those lands.

Applicant further states and alleges: the Project's route, as presently understood by the Trustee, is proposed to pass upon and through the lands owned by the Trust (SE1/4NW1/4; NE1/4SW1/4, and Govt Lots 2 & 3 SEC 7, TWP 121, R47W). Additional Trust agricultural land is located within a half (1/2) mile of the Project's proposed route in Section 12 and within one (1) mile in Section 1 in Melrose Township, Grant County. The Trustees are *not* inclined to volitionally provide any easement or privilege.

Applicant submits it is entitled to party status in this matter and that it be afforded all rights of a contested case hearing.

Respectfully submitted,
DENNIS FONDER AND ARLENE FONDER
REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST,
Applicant for Party Status:

Date: 11-7-26, 2026

By: /s/ Richard Fonder

RICHARD FONDER, TRUSTEE
14183 477th Ave, Milbank, SD 57252
(605) 432-4470
fonderfam@hotmail.com

Certificate of Service

Undersigned, as an *Applicant for Party Status,* certifies, on the date below, a true and correct copy of the foregoing Application for Party Status was served by electronic mail on each of the following known parties of interest in **Docket EL26-028**, namely:

Leah.Mohr@state.sd.us
Logan.Schaefbauer@state.sd.us
Jon.Thurber@state.sd.us
Amija.Oke@state.sd.us
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Amanda.LaCroix@state.sd.us

Date: 11-7-26

/s/ Richard Fonder

Richard Fonder, Trustee
DENNIS FONDER AND ARLENE
FONDER REVOCABLE LIVING TRUST
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