Print or Type

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Print Form

*This form is **only** for persons who wish to be an active party in this docket. You do NOT need to be a party to submit comments.*

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

APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS

EL26-028

DARIN FONDER, petitions the Public Utilities Commission to be granted party status in this proceeding.
(Name of Applicant. This will be the person or entity named as a party.)

Place a check mark next to each item below that applies to you, adding a mileage number where requested.

☒ I am a person or organization that received official notification of the project via U.S. mail from the siting permit applicant.

☒ I reside within less than 1 miles of the proposed project.

Residential address if different from your mailing address:

_____

☐ I own land within _____ miles of the proposed project.

Legal description: _____

_____

☐ I officially represent a municipal, city, township, county or other affected governmental agency within _____ miles of the proposed project.

☐ I represent a utility company with facilities within _____ miles of the proposed project.

Explain your interest in applying for party status below.

See Attached DJF Statement

Deadline:This application must be filed with the Public Utilities Commission on or before 5:00 p.m. CT, Nov. 9, 2026, File this completed form electronically at puc.sd.gov/EFilingOptions.aspx

This section is to be completed by the person requesting party status. **All fields are required.**

DARIN FONDER
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

Darin Fonder
Signature of Applicant

Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (if Applicable)

46269 EASTMAN RD
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

SISSETON SD 57262
Applicant's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

605-880-3252
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

fondertrucking@hotmail.com
Applicant's E-mail Address* or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's E-mail Address*

The section below is to be completed by the Applicant's attorney, if represented. All fields are required.

_____
Attorney's Printed/Typed Name

_____
Signature of Attorney

Date Signed

_____
Attorney's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

_____
Attorney's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

*The Commission processes its dockets electronically for time and cost efficiencies. Communication on the docket will be done via email to parties to this docket. Failure to provide an email address may result in documents being served upon the county auditor rather than sent directly to the party, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1.

If your submitted form is incomplete, you risk not being granted party status.

For approval, party status applications must meet the requirements of SDCL 49-41B-17.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
Docket EL26-028: Otter Tail Power Company, Big Stone South to Hankinson to Bison 345 kV Transmission Line
Application for Party Status of Darin Fonder: Detailed Statement of Interests and Reasons (SDCL 49-41B-17(4))

I ask to be made a party to this proceeding. I reside in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, and I am directly interested in it, for the following reasons.

1. My home

I live at 46269 Eastman Road, Sisseton, South Dakota, in Easter Township, Roberts County. My home is less than one mile from the proposed route, about 500 feet from the proposed right-of-way. The proposed line would run next to my home.

2. The land I farm

I farm land in Section 17, Township 125 North, Range 50 West, Easter Township, Roberts County, under written farm leases with the landowner, my sister, Janel Trego-Groth. I have farmed this land under written leases since at least 2024, and the lease is being renewed. It includes about 228 tillable acres of cropland in Section 17, pasture in Section 17, and hay land in Section 7 of the same township. Otter Tail's Application, Table 9-1 (page 27), lists Section 17 of Township 125 North, Range 50 West among the sections the proposed centerline and right-of-way cross. I received notice of this project from Otter Tail by U.S. mail.

3. How the proposed line would affect me

- Structures and right-of-way on the cropland, pasture and hay ground I farm, which I would have to farm, graze and hay around for as long as the line stands.
- Field operations under and near the line: planting, spraying, harvest, haying, and moving large equipment.
- GPS guidance and other field technology that I rely on.
- My home, its use and enjoyment, and its value, with a 345 kV line running next to it.
- Construction access, crop loss, soil compaction, and damage to fields and fences during construction and maintenance.

4. Why I need to be a party

These interests belong to me as a resident and as the operator of this land, apart from the landowner's ownership interest. My sister, as the landowner, is filing her own application. I have taken part in the Roberts County Commission's public meetings on a transmission line setback. As a party, I intend to take part in discovery and the evidentiary hearing, question the Applicant's evidence on its effects on my home and my farming operation, and ask the Commission to deny the permit or, if a permit is granted, to impose conditions that protect my home and my farming operation, including compliance with any Roberts County setback.

I respectfully ask that the Commission grant me party status.

Darin Fonder

Darin Fonder

11-3-26

Date