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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

Janel Trego-Groth, 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 _____ miles of the proposed project.

Residential address if different from your mailing address:

_____

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

Legal description: 8-125-50 AND 17-125-50 Roberts County, SD

☐ 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 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.**

Janel Trego-Groth
Applicant's Printed/Typed Name

Janel Trego Groth
Signature of Applicant — Date Signed

_____
Name of Applicant's Organization (if Applicable)

38468 210th Ave
Applicant's Address (PO Box/St/Ave/Road)

Ogema MN 56569
Applicant's Address (City, State, ZIP Code)

605-881-1819
Applicant's Phone Number or, if represented, Applicant's Attorney's Phone Number

fonderjb@gmail.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 Janel Trego-Groth: Detailed Statement of Interests and Reasons (SDCL 49-41B-17(4))

I ask to be made a party to this proceeding. As the owner of land the proposed facility would cross or border, I am directly interested in it, for the following reasons.

1. My land

I own land in Sections 8 and 17, Township 125 North, Range 50 West of the 5th P.M., Easter Township, Roberts County, South Dakota, about 650 acres in total. My land is less than one mile from the proposed route. Otter Tail's Application, Table 9-1 (page 27), lists both Section 8 and 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.

2. How my land is used

My land is farmed by my brother, Darin Fonder, under written farm leases, as cropland, pasture and hay ground. His home at 46269 Eastman Road sits near the proposed route. He is filing his own application for party status.

3. How the proposed line would affect me

- A permanent easement, transmission structures and right-of-way on or next to my land, for as long as the line stands, and the possibility that the Applicant will seek to take an easement by eminent domain if I do not grant one.
- The value of my land, and my ability to sell, lease, divide or build on it in the future.
- The farming use of my land and the income it produces, including structures in fields and pasture, and limits on equipment and field work near the line.
- Crop loss, soil compaction, and damage to fields, fences, drainage and access during construction and maintenance.

4. Why I need to be a party

These are my interests as the landowner, separate from my tenant's interests. I do not support the Facility as proposed. As a party, I intend to take part in discovery and the evidentiary hearing, question the Applicant's evidence on its effects on my land, and ask the Commission to deny the permit or, if a permit is granted, to impose conditions that protect my land and the people who live and farm on it, including compliance with any Roberts County setback.

I respectfully ask that the Commission grant me party status.

Janel Trego-Groth — 11-3-26

Janel Trego-Groth — Date