BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
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	APPLICATION FOR PARTY STATUS
	EL26-028

LOUIS NIGG, TRUSTEE OF THE LYNN NIGG FAMILY DISCLAIMER TRUST, 46356 125th St., Sisseton, SD 57262 (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 holds title to agricultural lands in Township 125 North, Range 50 West of the 5th P.M., Easter Township, Roberts County, South Dakota, conveyed to it by Personal Representative's Deed of Distribution recorded March 30, 2012, in Book 97, pages 248 to 250, in the office of the Roberts County Register of Deeds. These lands include the SW1/4NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SE1/4 and W1/2SE1/4 of Section 33, and the N1/2SW1/4 of Section 34. These lands lie within one-half (1/2) mile of the proposed Project's route.

The Trust's lands are used for cropland and pasture, and include a stock pond in Section 33, near the proposed route. Crop inputs on these lands are applied by aerial or drone application, and the farm equipment used on these lands relies on GPS guidance. The drone applicator who serves these lands had a drone lose power and fall while operating above a power line in 2025, and has had a drone lose communication with its remote near a high-voltage line. He flies autonomously most of the time and is concerned that power lines can interfere with the RTK system that guides the drone through a field, and with his ability to take manual control. The manufacturer's manual for his drone directs operators to keep the operating area "clear of electromagnetic interference sources including high-voltage lines." Working around power lines requires him to move his base to finish a field, which is time consuming and not always possible, because a flat site with visual line of sight is hard to find. 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 Trustees, is either proposed to pass upon and through the lands owned by the Trust, or by means of a route immediately adjacent to the Trust's lands. There is presently *no* known easement to accommodate this intended land use by Otter Tail Power Company, and the Trustees are *not* inclined to volitionally provide any such 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,
LYNN NIGG FAMILY DISCLAIMER TRUST,
Applicant for Party Status:

Date: 10-28, 2026

By: /s/ Louis Nigg
LOUIS NIGG, Trustee
46356 125th St., Sisseton, SD 57262
E-mail: niggfarms1910@gmail.com

Certificate of Service:

Undersigned, as a Trustee of the *Applicant for Party Status*, certifies on the date below entered 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:

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Date: 10-28, 2026

/s/ Louis Nigg

Louis Nigg, Trustee
Lynn Nigg Family Disclaimer Trust