BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE 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

SAMUEL FONDER, 47734 142nd Street, Milbank, SD 57252 ("Applicant"), hereby apply to the Public Utilities Commission for party status in this matter (the "Project"). SAMUEL FONDER received official notification of the project via U.S. mail from the siting permit applicant.

Applicant resides at the address stated below, within the SW4SE4 of Section 35-Township 122 North-Range 48 West of the 5th P.M.- Genesco Township, Roberts County, South Dakota. Applicant's home is approximately within one (1) mile of the proposed Project's route.

Applicant rents **organic** acres within a half (1/2) mile of the Project's proposed route in Section 12 (N2NW4 Ex 1 A 12-121-48) and within one (1) mile in Section 1 (S2SE4 1-121-48) in Melrose Township, Grant County, South Dakota.

Applicant's rented agricultural acres consists of **organic cropland** and **organic pasture** that supports **organic dairy cows, organic beef cattle,** and **a growing family**. **Electric fencing** is used extensively to move the **organic** cattle through the various paddocks. The Project's imposing presence near the rented lands is a clear detriment, hindrance, and danger to the use of those lands.

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,
Applicant for Party Status:

Date: 11-9-2026

By: /s/ Samuel Fonder

SAMUEL FONDER
47734 142nd Street, Milbank, SD 57252
(605) 467-3889
samuelfonder@gmail.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
Anuja.Oke@state.sd.us
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Amanda.LaCroix@state.sd.us

Date: 11-9-2026

/s/ Samuel Fonder

Samuel Fonder