BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION BY OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND WESTERN MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY FOR A FACILITY PERMIT FOR A 345-KV TRANSMISSION FACILITY AND ASSOCIATED FACILITIES IN GRANT COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA	))))))	**EL 24-015**

AFFIDAVIT OF ROGER HARGREAVES

STATE OF MINNESOTA)
) ss.
COUNTY OF HENNEPIN)

Roger Hargreaves, being first duly sworn upon oath, states and alleges as follows:

1. I am the Project Director of Transmission Engineering and Asset Management for Northern States Power Minnesota d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy), and I have authority to provide this Affidavit on behalf of Xcel Energy.

2. Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) are co-owners of the existing 345-kilovolt (kV) Big Stone South to Brookings Transmission Line (BSSB Transmission Line) that interconnects to the Big Stone South Substation in Grant County, South Dakota.

3. On January 16, 2007, in docket EL06-002, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued to Otter Tail, on behalf of itself and six other regional utilities, a permit to construct approximately 28 miles of the BSSB Transmission Line and other facilities from the Big Stone South Substation to a point north of Gary, South Dakota, located in Grant and Deuel Counties (northern portion).

4. On July 31, 2012, in docket EL12-045, the Commission granted a request to transfer the permit issued in docket EL06-002 solely to Otter Tail.

5. On May 10, 2013, in docket EL12-063, the Commission issued an order approving Otter Tail's certification request that the northern portion of the BSSB Transmission Line and other facilities continue to meet the conditions of the permit issued in docket EL06-002.

6. On February 20, 2014, in docket EL13-020, the Commission issued a permit to Otter Tail and Xcel Energy to construct the southern portion of the BSSB Transmission Line and other facilities located in Deuel and Brookings Counties, South Dakota.

7. On October 31, 2014, in docket EL14-083, the Commission issued an order transferring ownership of the portion of the permit issued in EL06-002 covering the northern portion of the BSSB Transmission Line from Otter Tail to Otter Tail and Xcel Energy as joint permittees.

8. The BSSB Transmission Line was constructed between 2015 and 2017 and became operational in September 2017.

9. Otter Tail and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (WMMPA) are proposing to construct the Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line (BSSA Project), a portion of which is located in Grant County, South Dakota, and is the subject of the above-captioned docket.

10. In order to facilitate interconnection of the BSSA Project at the Big Stone South Substation, Otter Tail and WMMPA propose to modify the location of the BSSB Transmission Line interconnection at the Big Stone South Substation, which will involve removing a short segment of the existing BSSB Transmission Line, building a short segment of new line to intersect the existing BSSB Transmission Line and interconnecting the modified BSSB Transmission Line to the Big Stone South Substation at a new location south of its current location. The current location and the proposed location of the BSSB Transmission Line and interconnection are depicted on **Exhibit A**. Modifications to the BSSB Transmission Line would occur wholly on the Big Stone South Substation parcel owned by Otter Tail.

11. Xcel Energy and Otter Tail, as joint owners of the BSSB Transmission Line, have discussed the proposed modification to the BSSB Transmission Line, as depicted on **Exhibit A**, and Xcel Energy does not object to the proposal. Otter Tail and Xcel Energy plan to update the appropriate co-ownership agreements once final design is complete.

12. Xcel Energy authorizes and provides this Affidavit in support of Otter Tail and WMMPA's request in the above-captioned docket for Commission approval to construct the modifications to the BSSB Transmission Line, as depicted on **Exhibit A**, including any modification needed to the permit issued in EL06-002 currently held by Xcel Energy and Otter Tail.

Dated this 24 day of October, 2024.

Roger Hargreaves

Roger Hargreaves

Subscribed and sworn to before me on this 24th day of October, 2024.

Kristin J. Anderson

NOTARY PUBLIC
Notary Print Name:
My commission expires:

(Seal)

Kristin Janet Anderson
Notary Public
Minnesota
My Commission Expires January 31, 2025

Exhibit A - Current Location and Proposed Location of the BSSB Transmission Line within the Big Stone South 345 kV Substation

