

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

WHAT: Permit for Otter Tail Power Company and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency to Construct a 345kV transmission line from the Big Stone South Substation to the Minnesota border in Big Stone Township, Grant County, South Dakota

WHEN AND WHERE: Wednesday, May 29, 2024, at 5:30 p.m., CDT, at the Big Stone American Legion, 14521 485th Ave., Big Stone City, South Dakota.

Pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input meeting at the above time and place on an Application filed by Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) and Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency (Western Minnesota) (collectively, Applicants) to construct a 3.5-mile 345 kV transmission line and associated facilities including substation upgrades (Project) in Big Stone Township, Grant County, SD. The Project originates at Otter Tail's existing Big Stone South Substation, located approximately 2 miles west of Big Stone City, South Dakota in Big Stone Township and connects to a substation near Alexandria, Minnesota.

The purpose of the public input meeting will be to hear public comments regarding the Application and the Project. At the meeting, Applicants will present a brief description of the Project, after which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments, and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Grant County Auditor and at the Commission's office in Pierre. The Application and all other documents in the docket, including detailed maps of the Project, may be accessed on the Commission's website at puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2024 Electric Dockets, EL24-015 or by contacting the Commission in person at the Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicant and the Commission Staff. Each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited; or any person residing in the area where the facility is proposed to be sited, or any directly interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making timely written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input meeting or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be filed with the Commission on or before 5:00 p.m., CDT, June 14, 2024. The Commission will also accept comments in writing from anyone, either by mail, personal delivery, or e-mail until the time of the decision. You only need to apply for party status if you want to participate formally in the case by putting on actual testimony or other factual evidence, conducting discovery, cross-examining witnesses, making legal arguments, and to preserve your right to appeal to the courts if you do not believe the Commission's decision is legally correct. You do not need to have party status in order to submit written comments.

Following the public input meeting, the Commission may schedule a formal evidentiary hearing conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider issues raised by any party or the Commission itself.

At such a formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence, and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1, and 49-41B and ARSD Chapters 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the input meeting will be held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at (605) 773-3201 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.