

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA
PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Otter Tail Power Company/Montana-Dakota
Utilities Co. 345kV Transmission Line-Jamestown
to Ellendale Public Convenience & Necessity

Case No. PU-24-91

DECLARATION OF PHYLLIS P. OTTERNESS

1. My name is Phyllis P. Otterness, and I submit this declaration on behalf of myself and my sister, Patricia A. Vick. We own property located at NE $\frac{1}{4}$ 9-134-63 and NW $\frac{1}{4}$ 10-134-63 in LaMoure County, North Dakota. We are Petitioners in this proceeding. In or around November 2023, I was contacted by a representative of Otter Tail Power Company seeking permission to conduct soil sampling on our land in preparation for construction of an electric transmission line.

2. In early 2024, I received numerous calls attempting to arrange meetings to explain the JETX Project from Jamestown to Ellendale and to request that we sign an easement. We declined to meet, and the calls eventually stopped. In May and June 2025, we received two additional calls asking whether we would be more willing to sign an easement if the proposed line were moved east along the section line, which is a prairie field road. We

declined. At no point were we informed that Otter Tail Power had obtained siting authority from the North Dakota Public Service Commission.

3. My sister, Patricia, resides in Florida. On May 21, 2024, Mark Mendez, Senior Real Estate Services Acquisition, came to her home. Mr. Mendez stated that he had been hired by Jodie Mosher of Otter Tail Power Company to present a proposed contract option agreement for an easement on the Wano property. He turned to the final page of the paperwork and referred to the compensation, saying “money talks.” The proposed easement did not disclose that Otter Tail had not yet received siting authority to proceed with the project. Patricia declined to sign.

4. I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signed on the 12th day of June, 2025, in Barnes County, State of North Dakota.

Respectfully submitted,

By: /s/ Phyllis P. Otterness
Phyllis P. Otterness