



March 11, 2025

Mr. Steve Kahl
Director of Administration/Executive Secretary
ND Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building
Bismarck, ND 58505

**RE: NOTICE OF INTENT TO CONSTRUCT, OWN AND OPERATE THE BIG STONE
SOUTH – HANKINSON – BISON 345 KILOVOLT (kV) TRANSMISSION PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Kahl:

Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power) and Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy) (collectively, Utilities) hereby notify the North Dakota Public Service Commission (Commission) that the Utilities intend to jointly construct, own, and operate a new Hankinson – Bison 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line. Additionally, Otter Tail intends to solely construct, own, and operate a new Big Stone South – Hankinson 345 kV transmission line. These two distinct transmission lines are segments of the larger Big Stone South – Hankinson – Bison 345 kV transmission project, as further described herein.

On December 12, 2024, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator, Inc. (MISO), a federally registered planning authority and regional transmission organization, approved the Joint Targeted Interconnection Queue (JTIQ) portfolio of projects as part of its 2024 Transmission Expansion Plan (MTEP24). The JTIQ portfolio is made up of five projects, including the Big Stone South – Hankinson – Bison 345 kV transmission line with connected and associated underlying facilities (Project).

As part of the Project, a new 345 kV transmission line will be constructed between Otter Tail Power's existing Big Stone South Substation near Big Stone City, SD, Otter Tail Power's existing Hankinson Substation near Hankinson, ND, and Xcel Energy's existing Bison Substation near Fargo, ND. Depending on the final route, approximately 90 miles of this new 345 kV transmission line is estimated to be located in North Dakota with approximately 60 miles located in South Dakota.

Pursuant to Chapter 49-03-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, the Utilities are electric public utilities in the State of North Dakota. The Utilities are in the initial stages of development efforts for the Project at this time and will update the Commission through future correspondence and/or filings.

Please contact Jason Weiers at jweiers@otpc.com or Jody Londo at jody.l.londo@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this notice.

Sincerely,

/s/ JOANN THOMPSON

JoAnn Thompson
Vice President, Asset Management
Otter Tail Power Company

/s/ Bria Shea

Bria Shea
Regional Vice President, Regulatory Policy
Northern States Power Company