



OCETI SAKOWIN POWER AUTHORITY

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By Email

August 31, 2026

To: The North Dakota Public Service Commission

Re: Support for the North Plains Connector Transmission Line (Case No. PU-26-82)

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Oceti Sakowin (pronounced O-CHET-ee Sha-KO-wee) Power Authority (OSPA), we send you greetings in a good way, and we thank you for this opportunity to express our support for the North Plains Connector transmission line. OSPA is a federally chartered Tribal energy and transmission developer, 100% owned by 7 Sioux Tribes that share territory with North Dakota and South Dakota. OSPA was formed in 2015, and our mandate is to bring economic development to our Tribes by developing the substantial energy resources on our reservations.

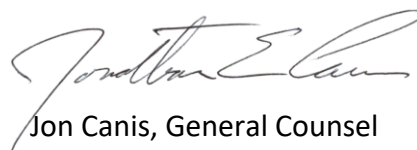
We have found that vast areas of southern North Dakota and West River South Dakota are severely lacking in energy transmission infrastructure. Over the last five years, four utility-scale energy projects on OSPA member Tribes' reservations have been put on hold because there is not enough transmission capacity – if these four projects were operating today, they would be driving literally hundreds of millions of dollars to Tribal, State and local jurisdictions in the Dakotas, and would be making a valuable contribution to meeting the nation's critical energy needs.

In addition, the North Plains Connector is doing something historic – it is building the first extra high voltage transmission line that makes a connection between the U.S. eastern and western power grids. This line will increase grid reliability and resiliency in a monumental way. It will also open up markets in the West to power produced in the Dakotas, providing opportunities for economic development. The future prosperity of our region depends on building the type of new, high-capacity transmission that the North Plains Connector represents.

We also appreciate the way the North Plains Connector project has approached planning and permitting. The developers reached out to Tribes and other communities early in the transmission planning process, proactively sought community input over the preferred transmission routes, and included funding for local community projects in multiple grant applications. This show of respect and corporate responsibility is unusual for such a big project, and we want to reward this conduct with our support. For all these reasons, we urge you to vote to approve the project without delay. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,


Lyle Jack, Chairman


Jon Canis, General Counsel

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Letter in Support of North Plains Connector's
Application

Oceti Sakowin Power Authority

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