

BEFORE THE
MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF MINNESOTA

In the Matter of the Application of Great River Energy, Otter Tail Power Co., Western
Minnesota Municipal Power Agency, Agralite Electric Coop., and the City of Benson for
a Certificate of Need and Route Permit for the Appleton to Benson 115 Kilovolt
Transmission Line Project

MPUC DOCKET NO. ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/ CN-24-263; and
ET-2, E-017, ET-6135, E-100/TL-24-264
OAH DOCKET NO. 23-2500-40748

DIRECT TESTIMONY OF GEORGE VINSON

August 14, 2025

1 I. INTRODUCTIONS AND QUALIFICATIONS

2

3 **Q. Please state your name, employer, and business address.**

4 A. My name is George Vinson. I am a Senior Transmission Project Developer with
5 Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail Power). My business address is 215 S.
6 Cascade St., Fergus Falls, MN 56537.

7

8 **Q. Please briefly describe your educational and professional background and
9 experience.**

10 A. I have been with Otter Tail Power since 2023. I started as a land rights supervisor,
11 where I was responsible for leading a team of land rights agents and contractors
12 in land acquisitions for transmission projects. In March 2025, I assumed a role as
13 a senior transmission project developer, where I am responsible for development
14 of transmission lines and associated permitting efforts at federal, state, and local
15 levels, as well as coordinating environmental reviews/surveys and contractors, and
16 working with landowners. Prior to joining Otter Tail Power, I spent nearly 20 years
17 working for the Fargo Police Department. I obtained a bachelor's degree in criminal
18 justice from Minnesota State University Moorhead, and obtained a master's degree
19 in law enforcement and public safety from the University of St. Thomas.

20

21 **Q. What is your role with respect to the Appleton to Benson 115 kilovolt (kV)
22 transmission line project (Project)?**

23 A. I am responsible for routing and permitting the portions of the Project that will be
24 constructed, owned, and operated by Otter Tail Power.

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26 **Q. What is the purpose of your Direct Testimony?**

27 A. The purpose of my Direct Testimony is to describe Otter Tail Power's role in the
28 Project, describe the portions of the Project that will be constructed, owned, and
29 operated by Otter Tail Power, and provide any updates related to those portions
30 of the Project.

II. OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY

Q. Please describe Otter Tail Power.

A. Otter Tail Power is an investor-owned electric utility headquartered in Fergus Falls, Minnesota, that provides electricity and energy services to over 133,000 customers spanning 70,000 square miles in western Minnesota, eastern North Dakota, and northeastern South Dakota. Otter Tail Power wholly or jointly owns approximately 6,000 miles of transmission lines and approximately 1,100 megawatts (MW) of generation capacity in these three states and is a transmission-owning member of the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO).

Q. What is Otter Tail Power's role in the Project with respect to the transmission line?

A. Otter Tail Power will construct and own a new 115-kV line that runs approximately 6.8 miles along 60th Street Southwest between the Shible Lake Substation and the Moyer Substation.

The Project also proposes changes to an existing line owned by Otter Tail Power that Otter Tail Power will retain ownership of. This change will involve an upgrade to approximately 10.0 miles of 41.6-kV transmission line to 115-kV transmission line from the Moyer Substation to the Danvers Substation.

Q. Does Otter Tail Power plan to construct or upgrade substations as part of the Project?

A. Yes. Otter Tail Power plans to decommission the existing Appleton Distribution Substation and construct a new Appleton Distribution Substation with a 115-kV connection to the new Appleton Transmission Substation that will be owned by Western Minnesota Municipal Power Agency. Otter Tail Power will also modify and expand the existing Danvers Substation, or relocate the Danvers Substation, and decommission the existing substation.

1 **Q. If a new Danvers Substation is constructed, has the location of a new site**
2 **been determined yet?**

3 A. Otter Tail Power is considering constructing a new Danvers Substation and is
4 coordinating with a landowner near the existing substation regarding land
5 acquisition for the new substation site. These discussions are ongoing at this time.
6

7 **III. CONCLUSION**
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9 **Q. Does this conclude your Direct Testimony?**

10 A. Yes.
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