

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY DBA)
XCEL ENERGY AND OTTER TAIL POWER)
COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT)
THE BIG STONE SOUTH TO BROOKINGS)
COUNTY 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)**

**ORDER GRANTING
APPLICATIONS FOR PARTY
STATUS**

EL13-020

On June 3, 2013, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) and Otter Tail Power Company (Otter Tail) (Applicants) jointly filed with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an Application for a Project Permit for the Big Stone South to Brookings County 345 kV Transmission Line Project (Application). The Application requests Commission approval of a permit to construct the southern portion of the Big Stone South to Brookings County Substation transmission line in Deuel and Brookings Counties and make modifications to the existing Brookings County Substation (Project).

On June 5, 2013, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status. On June 6, 2013, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of August 2, 2013, to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. On July 31, 2013, the Brookings County Commission and Basin Electric Power Cooperative filed Applications for Party Status. On August 5, 2013, Dakota Rural Action filed an Application for Party Status dated August 1, 2013.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A and 49-41B, specifically 49-1A-8, 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-5.2, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-14, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-19, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-24, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-35, 49-41B-36, 49-41B-38 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on August 13, 2013, the Commission considered this matter. Applicants did not object to the Commission granting the Applications for Party Status. The Commission unanimously voted to grant party status to the Brookings County Commission, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Dakota Rural Action. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Brookings County Commission, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and Dakota Rural Action's Applications for Party Status shall be granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 15th day of August, 2013.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.
By: <u>Joy Lashley</u>
Date: <u>8-16-13</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner