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SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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SEP 15 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

September 15, 2005

Dear Interested Party:

On August 26, 2005, Xcel Energy (Xcel) submitted an application to the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for a construction permit to build a new electrical transmission line in South Dakota. Xcel is proposing to construct a new 345 kilovolt transmission line from the Split Rock Substation located near Brandon, South Dakota to Lakefield Junction, Minnesota. The entire transmission line is 86-miles in length; however, the portion of the transmission line in South Dakota is approximately 9.6 miles in length and comprises the western portion of the transmission line. The proposed site is described on the enclosed Notice of Public Hearing. A copy of the application is on file with the Minnehaha County Auditor. Filings in the docket, including the application, may be accessed on the Commission's website at www.puc.sd.gov.

The South Dakota Public Utilities Commission is holding a public input hearing regarding this docket on September 22, 2005, at 7:00 pm at Tailgators in Brandon, SD. You are encouraged to attend the public meeting to obtain information about the proposed project from Xcel and also to inform the Commission of any concerns you might have regarding the proposed transmission line.

We look forward to visiting with you at the meeting. If you have any questions regarding the meeting or the siting process please call 1-800-332-1782 and ask for Michele Farris or Karen Cremer.

Sincerely,

Michele M. Farris, P.E.
Utility Analyst

Enclosure

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
XCEL ENERGY TRANSMISSION CONSTRUCTION AND UPGRADE PROJECT
FROM EAST OF SIOUX FALLS TO MINNESOTA BORDER - DOCKET EL05-023

WHEN: Thursday, September 22, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. CDT
WHERE: Marquee Room, Tailgators, Splitrock Blvd. at I-90 Exit, Brandon, SD

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application filed by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) for a new 345 kilovolt Split Rock - Lakefield Junction transmission line and a substation upgrade east of Sioux Falls. Xcel is requesting a permit to construct a new 345 kV transmission line from its Split Rock substation located near the Angus Anson generating station east of Sioux Falls north .6-mile to the north side of I-90, then east on the north side of I-90 for 4.6 miles to Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) existing White-Sioux City 345 kV line and a new 345 kV line on the south side of I-90 from the WAPA White-Sioux City line east 4.5 miles to the Minnesota border. The project would also upgrade Xcel's existing Splitrock Substation east of Sioux Falls to accommodate the new 345 kV interconnection. The entirety of the new line construction and substation facilities to be upgraded are located in Minnehaha County east of Sioux Falls along or near I-90 from Exit 402 to the Minnesota line.

At the hearing, interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. The application is on file in the Minnehaha County Auditor's office and in the Commission's office in Pierre and the application and all other documents in the case may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Actions," "Commission Dockets," "2005 Electric Dockets," "EL05-023."

The parties to this proceeding are currently Xcel and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, any person residing in the area of the project, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before October 25, 2005. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on September 22.

For approval, Xcel must show that the proposed transmission upgrade project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such

terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds are appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; fax (605) 773-3809; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.