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**SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION**

Jim Wilcox, Manager,
Government & Regulatory Affairs
500 West Russell Street
P.O. Box 988
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0988
Telephone (605) 339-8350 fax 612/573-9083
internet - james.c.wilcox@xcelenergy.com

April 14, 2008

Ken McFarland, Administrator
Minnehaha County
415 N. Dakota Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Dear Ken:

As you may know, Xcel Energy is constructing a 345KV power line adjacent to Interstate 90 east of Sioux Falls.

SDCL 49-41B-38 requires that Xcel Energy provide an indemnity bond to insure that any damage beyond normal wear to public roads, highways or bridges would be adequately compensated.

Enclosed please find such a bond in favor of Minnehaha County.

If anyone has any questions, please call me at 339-8350

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'J Wilcox'.

Jim Wilcox

c. SD Public Utilities Commission
Reference Docket EL05-023

LICENSE OR
PERMIT BOND

Bond 190-006-361

LICENSE OR PERMIT BOND

KNOW ALL BY THESE PRESENTS, That we, NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY d/b/a XCEL ENERGY
414 Nicollet Mall, 4th Floor - Minneapolis, MN 55401

as Principal, and the LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY, a Massachusetts corporation,
as Surety, are held and firmly bound unto MINNEHAHA COUNTY - 415 N. Dakota Ave., Sioux Falls, SD 57104

, as Obligee,
in the sum of Fifty Thousand and 00/100 -----

----- Dollars (\$ 50,000.00)

for which sum, well and truly to be paid, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors, administrators, successors and assigns, jointly and severally, firmly by these presents.

Signed and sealed this 26th day of February, 2008.

THE CONDITION OF THIS OBLIGATION IS SUCH, That WHEREAS, the Principal has been or is about to be granted a license or permit to do business as Right of Way/Construction Permit - Stipulation E105-023 - To Build 9.6 Miles of the Split Rock to Lakefield Junction 345 kV Transmission Line and Add Facilities to the Split Rock Substation by the Obligee.

NOW, Therefore, if the Principal well and truly comply with applicable local ordinances, and conduct business in conformity therewith, then this obligation to be void; otherwise to remain in full force and effect.

PROVIDED, HOWEVER; 1. This bond shall continue in force:

Until _____, _____, or until the date of expiration of any Continuation Certificate executed by the Surety

OR

Until canceled as herein provided.

2 This bond may be canceled by the Surety by the sending of notice in writing to the Obligee, stating when, not less than thirty days thereafter, liability hereunder shall terminate as to subsequent acts or omissions of the Principal.



NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY d/b/a
XCEL ENERGY
Principal

By [Signature]
INSURANCE ADMINISTRATOR

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
By [Signature]
Susan M. Van Prooyen, Attorney-in-Fact

THIS POWER OF ATTORNEY IS NOT VALID UNLESS IT IS PRINTED ON RED BACKGROUND.

This Power of Attorney limits the acts of those named herein, and they have no authority to bind the Company except in the manner and to the extent herein stated.

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS
POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL PERSONS BY THESE PRESENTS: That Liberty Mutual Insurance Company (the "Company"), a Massachusetts stock insurance company, pursuant to and by authority of the By-law and Authorization hereinafter set forth, does hereby name, constitute and appoint **TIMOTHY J. WICKER, SUSAN M. VAN PROOYEN, ALL OF THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, STATE OF MINNESOTA**.....

each individually if there be more than one named, its true and lawful attorney-in-fact to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver, for and on its behalf as surety and as its act and deed, any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations in the penal sum not exceeding **TWENTY FIVE MILLION AND 00/100******* DOLLARS (\$ **25,000,000.00*******) each, and the execution of such undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations, in pursuance of these presents, shall be as binding upon the Company as if they had been duly signed by the president and attested by the secretary of the Company in their own proper persons.

That this power is made and executed pursuant to and by authority of the following By-law and Authorization:

ARTICLE XIII - Execution of Contracts: Section 5: Surety Bonds and Undertakings.
Any officer of the Company authorized for that purpose in writing by the chairman or the president, and subject to such limitations as the chairman or the president may prescribe, shall appoint such attorneys-in-fact, as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations. Such attorneys-in-fact, subject to the limitations set forth in their respective powers of attorney, shall have full power to bind the Company by their signature and execution of any such instruments and to attach thereto the seal of the Company. When so executed such instruments shall be as binding as if signed by the president and attested by the secretary.

By the following instrument the chairman or the president has authorized the officer or other official named therein to appoint attorneys-in-fact:

Pursuant to Article XIII, Section 5 of the By-Laws, Garnet W. Elliott, Assistant Secretary of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, is hereby authorized to appoint such attorneys-in-fact as may be necessary to act in behalf of the Company to make, execute, seal, acknowledge and deliver as surety any and all undertakings, bonds, recognizances and other surety obligations.

That the By-law and the Authorization set forth above are true copies thereof and are now in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Power of Attorney has been subscribed by an authorized officer or official of the Company and the corporate seal of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company has been affixed thereto in Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania this 7th day of May, 2007

LIBERTY MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

By Garnet W. Elliott
Garnet W. Elliott, Assistant Secretary



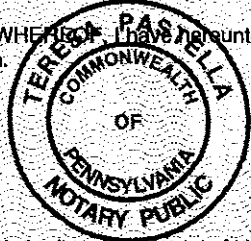
Not valid for mortgage, note, loan, letter of credit, bank deposit, currency rate, interest rate or residual value guarantees.

To confirm the validity of this Power of Attorney call 1-610-832-8240 between 9:00 am and 4:30 pm EST on any business day.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA ss
COUNTY OF MONTGOMERY

On this 7th day of May, 2007, before me, a Notary Public, personally came Garnet W. Elliott, to me known, and acknowledged that he is an Assistant Secretary of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company; that he knows the seal of said corporation; and that he executed the above Power of Attorney and affixed the corporate seal of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company thereto with the authority and at the direction of said corporation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my notarial seal at Plymouth Meeting, Pennsylvania, on the day and year first above written.



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
Notarial Seal
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public
Plymouth Twp., Montgomery County
My Commission Expires Mar. 28, 2009
Member, Pennsylvania Association of Notaries

By Teresa Pastella
Teresa Pastella, Notary Public

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Assistant Secretary of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company, do hereby certify that the original power of attorney of which the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy, is in full force and effect on the date of this certificate; and I do further certify that the officer or official who executed the said power of attorney is an Assistant Secretary specially authorized by the chairman or the president to appoint attorneys-in-fact as provided in Article XIII, Section 5 of the By-laws of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company.

This certificate and the above power of attorney may be signed by facsimile or mechanically reproduced signatures under and by authority of the following vote of the board of directors of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company at a meeting duly called and held on the 12th day of March, 1980:

VOTED that the facsimile or mechanically reproduced signature of any assistant secretary of the company, wherever appearing upon a certified copy of any power of attorney issued by the company in connection with surety bonds, shall be valid and binding upon the company with the same force and effect as though manually affixed.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed the corporate seal of the said company, this 26th day of February, 2008



By David M. Carey
David M. Carey, Assistant Secretary

ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY SURETY

STATE OF MINNESOTA

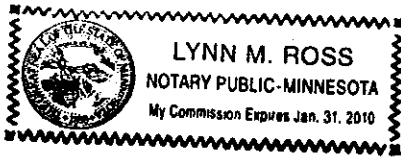
County of HENNEPIN

} ss.

On this 26th day of February, 2008, before me personally appeared SUSAN M. VAN PROOYEN, known to, me to be the Attorney-in-Fact of Liberty Mutual Insurance Company

_____, the corporation that executed the within instrument, and acknowledged to me that such corporation executed the same.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal, at my office in the aforesaid County, the day and year in this certificate first above written.



(Seal)

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn M. Ross".

Notary Public in the State of MINNESOTA
County of HENNEPIN