

December 11, 2013

Jodi Theisen  
Deuel County Zoning  
408 4<sup>th</sup> Street West  
PO Box 606  
Clear Lake, SD 57226

Jodi,

Enclosed please find a completed Special Exception for Essential Services Permit Application for the proposed CapX2020 345kV electric transmission line to be built from the new Big Stone South Substation in Grant County through Deuel County and south to the Brookings County Substation in Brookings County. Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy, (NSP) and Otter Tail Power Company, (OTP) are joint applicants for this application.

Beginning at the north end of Deuel County, the transmission line route starts at the north quarter corner of Section 6 in Antelope Valley Township and heads south until turning west in Section 6 of Glenwood Township. A Facility Permit was issued by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (SDPUC) to OTP on January 16, 2007 (Docket EL6-002) for this portion and the route was subsequently recertified on April 9, 2013 (Docket EL12-063). OTP acquired 150 – foot wide easements from landowners for this segment.

From this point south through Glenwood, Herrick, Norden and Scandanavia Townships, and further into Brookings County, the project is currently being permitted through the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. A Facility Permit Application was submitted by NSP and OTP to the SDPUC on June 3, 2013 (Docket EL-020). Options for 150 – foot wide easements for this segment have been acquired from all but five of the landowners, seven parcels total within Deuel County.

The map book included with this application shows the transmission line route across affected landowners' parcels in Deuel County. Some slight modifications to the alignment may be needed in areas where easement rights have not been acquired or if other circumstances unknown at this time arise. The applicants will inform the

county of any changes made to the alignment if different than what is submitted originally with this application.

The proposed transmission line will be built within a 150 – foot right-of-way using mainly single pole weathering steel structures approximately 110 -180 feet tall spanning 600-1200 feet and supported by concrete foundations ranging from 6 – 12 feet in diameter. In Section 13 of Glenwood Township, three 2 – pole structures with horizontal configuration will be used for the crossing under an existing 230kV transmission line as noted on page 5 of the southern portion parcel map book included with this application. All structures will support 2 shield wires (one for lightning protection and one for communication) and 3 phases consisting of 2 twisted pair subconductors.

For the SDPUC recertified northern portion of route, the new transmission line will be built with one 345kV circuit on single poles. The poles in this portion will be designed for a potential future second circuit as permitted by SDPUC with arms on both sides of the poles. Wires for the first circuit will be attached to arms on one side of the pole and if a second circuit is added in the future, they would be added to the arms on the other side of the pole. There is one location in Section 6 of Glenwood Township where the line angles to the west, where, if and when a second circuit is added in the future, a second pole would need to be added adjacent to the original pole due to the angle of the line.

Prior to construction activities, the applicants will identify staging yards and haul routes that will be used for construction within Deuel County. All affected Townships will be notified and road restoration agreements (if required) will be put in place to ensure Township roads are maintained during construction and restored upon completion. The applicants will obtain all necessary permits from the Deuel County Highway Department and from other Federal, State and local government agencies as required and will comply with all permit requirements and conditions.

Construction for the project is expected to begin in late 2015 or early 2016, pending issuance of all state and local permits as required with an anticipated completion by late 2017. The applicants will contact all affected landowners prior to accessing their properties to discuss access details and to address any other special considerations such as fences, livestock, crops, etc. Landowners will be compensated for any damages to crops or personal property that is caused by the transmission line construction. The applicants will also restore areas where the ground is disturbed by construction activities.


Included with this application, please find a route overview map, detailed map book showing the transmission line route and affected parcels with landowner names, signature pages from all landowners who have signed easements or option for easements, samples of the easement and option for easement forms used for

acquisition, and sample pictures and drawings of the types of transmission poles to be used.

The applicants request to have the required public hearings for this application scheduled in February or March, 2014 with permit issuance anticipated prior to April 1, 2014. At this time the applicants anticipate a construction start date by late 2015 or early 2016, however if the construction start date is delayed, the applicants also request that the permit language allow for an extended construction start date as needed.

Please review the application and all supplements and feel free to contact me if additional information is required. We look forward to working with Deuel County on this transmission line project.

Sincerely,



Chris Rogers  
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Enclosures