BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF ITS 2003 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND 2004 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN	))))))	**ORDER APPROVING 2003 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ANNUAL REPORT AND 2004 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLAN EL04-028**

On September 27, 2004, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received Xcel Energy's (Xcel) 2003 Economic Development Annual Report and proposed Economic Development Plan for 2004. The proposed plan was filed in accordance with the settlement agreements reached between NSP and Commission Staff, and approved by the Commission, in the company's most recent rate case filings, Dockets EL91-004 and EL92-016.

For 2004, Xcel's proposed economic development investment budget is $100,000. The actual expenditures for the 2003 Economic Development Plan were $100,000. Fifty percent of the 2004 budget would be recovered through rates, with the remaining 50% funded by shareholders. Staff and Xcel also agreed to file future economic reports during March.

At its regularly scheduled November 30, 2004, meeting, the Commission reviewed Xcel's 2003 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 2004. The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-34A, specifically, SDCL 49-34A-4 and 49-34A-6. After review of the report and plan, the Commission found that they are just and reasonable and voted to approve them. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel's 2003 Economic Development Annual Report and Economic Development Plan for 2004 are approved as filed. It is

FURTHER ORDERED, that future filings be submitted during March.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 10th day of December, 2004.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 12/13/04

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner