

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF</b>	)	<b>ORDER ASSESSING FILING</b>
<b>XCEL ENERGY FOR A CONSTRUCTION</b>	)	<b>FEE</b>
<b>PERMIT TO BUILD 9.6 MILES OF THE SPLIT</b>	)	
<b>ROCK TO LAKEFIELD JUNCTION 345 KV</b>	)	<b>EL05-023</b>
<b>TRANSMISSION LINE AND ADD FACILITIES</b>	)	
<b>TO THE SPLIT ROCK SUBSTATION</b>	)	

On August 26, 2005, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed an application 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 0.6-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. The line will comprise the western portion of an 86-mile 345 kV transmission line between Split Rock Substation and the Lakefield Junction Substation east of Lakefield, Minnesota.

On September 1, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 25, 2005, to interested individuals and entities.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs of the facility. However, the minimum total fee chargeable may not be less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

The Commission asserts jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-38, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

On September 13, 2005, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12, unanimously voted to assess Xcel a filing fee not to exceed \$19,750, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, the minimum fee allowed by law as requested by the Deputy Executive Director. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee of not to exceed \$19,750; and it is further

ORDERED, that Xcel shall make an initial deposit in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund in the amount of the minimum filing fee of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Deputy Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 21<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2005.

**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: Melaine Kolbo

Date: 9/22/05

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr  
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson  
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner