BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF XCEL ENERGY FOR A CONSTRUCTION PERMIT TO BUILD 9.6 MILES OF THE SPLIT ROCK TO LAKEFIELD JUNCTION 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE AND ADD FACILITIES TO THE SPLIT ROCK SUBSTATION	))))))	**ORDER GRANTING MOTION TO EXTEND FINAL APPROVAL DEADLINE** **EL05-023**

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.

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. On August 15, 2006, the Commission received an e-mail from Xcel stating that Xcel has had unanticipated problems with route approvals and stated that Xcel waives Commission compliance with the deadline in SDCL 49-41B-24 and requests that the Commission extend the time for resolution of this docket for a reasonable period of time to permit resolution of the routing issues presently being dealt with by Xcel.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of August 23, 2006, the Commission considered this matter. Commission Staff recommended that the additional period of time not be later than December 31, 2006. The Commission granted the request to waive the one year deadline pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-24 and granted the request for an additional period of time until December 31, 2006, for the Commission's final decision (Chairman Sahr abstained).

On December 11, 2006, the Commission received a Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline to July 1, 2007, from Xcel. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline to July 1, 2007, for the Commission's final decision. On June 4, 2007, the Commission received a Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline to December 31, 2007, from Xcel.

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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 26, 2007, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline to December 31, 2007, for the Commission's final decision. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline is granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd day of July, 2007.

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, electronically.

By: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 7/5/07

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Chairman

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner