

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL OF)
ITS 2011-2012 TRANSMISSION COST)
RECOVERY ELIGIBILITY AND RATE)
ADJUSTMENT)**

**ORDER APPROVING
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION**

EL12-035

On April 30, 2012, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Petition for Transmission Cost Recovery (Petition) from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval of its 2011-2012 transmission cost recovery (TCR) project eligibility and rate adjustment. The Petition is intended to replace the Company's petition filed in Docket EL10-014. Xcel is resubmitting its TCR Petition as a 2011-2012 consolidated filing because of cost allocation issues pertaining to regional transmission projects. On August 7, 2012, Xcel and Staff jointly filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, the Settlement Stipulation, and attachments.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically, 49-34A-6, 49-34A-8, 49-34A-8.2, 49-34A-10, 49-34A-11, and 49-34A-25 *et seq.*

The Joint Motion and Settlement Stipulation were duly noticed for Commission consideration and action at the Commission's regular meeting on August 14, 2012. The Commission heard from Xcel and Staff concerning the proposed Settlement Stipulation. Having thoroughly reviewed the filings in the docket, the Commission found that the terms and conditions proposed in the Settlement Stipulation were just, reasonable, and in the public interest and that good and sufficient cause was demonstrated to approve the Settlement Stipulation. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation is granted. The Settlement Stipulation is incorporated by reference into this Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17th day of August, 2012.

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| 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: <u>Joy Baum</u> |
| Date: <u>August 17, 2012</u> |
| (OFFICIAL SEAL) |

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson

CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen

KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner