

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY D/B/A XCEL ENERGY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A 10.6 MILE, 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE (CAPX2020) IN BROOKINGS WHITE COUNTY NEAR, SOUTH DAKOTA)

ORDER GRANTING REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF CONSTRUCTION BOND

EL10-016

On November 23, 2010, Great River Energy, a Minnesota Cooperative Corporation (Great River), and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) (Applicants), filed an application (Application) with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Brookings County - Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) Project. The Application is for the South Dakota portion of the Project consisting of a 10.6-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota and the South Dakota-Minnesota border and associated modification at the existing Brookings County Substation. On June 17, 2011, the Commission issued an Order Granting Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and Granting Permit to Construct Facilities authorizing the construction of the Project subject to the terms and conditions set forth in the Settlement Stipulation, which included the requirement that Applicants furnish an indemnity bond in the amount of \$500,000 pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-38 to secure the restoration and repair of damage to roads and other public infrastructure. On June 6, 2013, Applicants submitted the bond. On February 5, 2016, Applicants filed a letter requesting release of the bond. On February 12, 2016, the Commission considered this matter and deferred action. Brookings County, Lake Hendricks Township, Richland Township, and the South Dakota Department of Transportation have all signed bond releases.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-38.

At its regular meeting on February 26, 2016, the Commission again considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Applicant's request for release of construction bond and authorize the Executive Director or General Counsel to execute any necessary release documents to release Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America Bond No. 105816545. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Applicant's request for release of the construction bond is hereby granted and the Executive Director or Commission Counsel is authorized to execute any necessary release document to release Travelers Casualty and Surety Company of America Bond No. 105816545.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 2nd of March, 2016.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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 or by mail.</p> <p>By: <u>Karen E. Cremer</u></p> <p>Date: <u>3/02/2016</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Chris Nelson
CHRIS NELSON, Chairman

Kristie Fiegen
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner