

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)
 NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY DBA)
 XCEL ENERGY AND OTTER TAIL POWER)
 COMPANY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT THE)
 BIG STONE SOUTH TO BROOKINGS COUNTY 345)
 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION
FOR RELEASE OF BOND**

EL13-020

On June 3, 2013, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received an application from Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company (Applicants) for a permit to construct the southern portion of the Big Stone South to Brookings County Substation 345 kV transmission line in Deuel and Brookings counties and to make modifications to the existing Brookings County Substation. On February 7, 2014, Applicants filed a Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and a Settlement Stipulation. On February 20, 2014, the Commission issued an Order Granting Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and Granting Permit to Construct Facilities authorizing the construction of the project which included a requirement that Applicants furnish an indemnity bond in the amount of \$150,000 pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-38. On May 21, 2015, Applicants submitted the bond. On December 20, 2017, Applicants filed a Motion for Release of Bond stating that the construction was complete and the roads have been maintained and fixed as necessary to the satisfaction of the local governments. Haul Route Inspection Reports with signed bond releases for the impacted counties and townships were also filed.

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

At its regular meeting on January 16, 2018, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant Applicants' Motion for Release of Bond and authorize the executive director or general counsel to execute any necessary release documents to release Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Bond No. 190033662. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion for Release of Bond is hereby granted and the executive director or commission counsel is authorized to execute any necessary release document to release Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Bond No. 190033662.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 25th of January 2018.

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 or by mail.	
By:	<u>Karen E. Cremer</u>
Date:	<u>01/25/18</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Kristie Fiegen
 KRISTIE FIEGEN, Chairperson

Gary Hanson
 GARY HANSON, Commissioner

Chris Nelson
 CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner