

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST )</b>	<b>ORDER ASSESSING</b>
<b>BY OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY AND )</b>	<b>FILING FEE AND APPROVING</b>
<b>NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY )</b>	<b>TRANSFER IN PART OF</b>
<b>DBA XCEL ENERGY FOR APPROVAL TO )</b>	<b>ENERGY FACILITY PERMIT</b>
<b>TRANSFER PERMIT FOR 345KV )</b>	
<b>TRANSMISSION FACILITIES TO JOINT )</b>	<b>EL14-083</b>
<b>OWNERSHIP )</b>	

On September 17, 2014, Otter Tail Power Company (OTP) and Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed a Motion for Order Transferring Permit Ownership to Joint Ownership for 345 kV Transmission Facilities (Motion) with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Motion requests approval of a transfer of permit ownership of that portion of the permit covering the 345kV transmission facilities from OTP to OTP and Xcel as joint permittees. The permit was originally granted to OTP and other utilities in Docket EL06-002. In that docket, the Commission also ordered the assessment of a filing fee in the amount of \$102,500. In Docket EL12-045, the Commission ordered that ownership of the permit be transferred solely to OTP. The Commission accepted OTP's certification of the permit in Docket EL12-063. In the Motion, OTP and Xcel seek to transfer to joint ownership only the portion of the permit involving the 345kV transmission line from the Big Stone South Substation to the point of connection with the southern portion of the line, which was permitted in Docket EL13-020, and not the associated upgrades to the Big Stone South Substation and the 230 kV transmission lines connecting the Big Stone Plant and the substation, which will be solely owned and operated by OTP.

On September 18, 2014, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the Motion and the intervention deadline of October 3, 2014, to interested persons on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-41B, particularly 49-41B-12 and 49-41B-29.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on October 28, 2014, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission's staff requested that the Commission apply the filing fee ordered in Docket EL06-002 to this docket to account for actual expenses incurred in the processing of this request for transfer to joint ownership and approval of the transfer in part of the permit. The parties stated that they did not object to such assessment application and requested approval of the partial permit transfer. The Commission voted unanimously to apply the filing fee to this docket and to grant the request of OTP and Xcel to transfer the portion of the permit for the 345kV transmission line to OTP and Xcel as joint permittees.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the filing fee assessed in EL06-002 shall be applied to Docket EL14-083, up to the remaining balance, to reimburse actual expenses incurred by the Commission in the processing of this docket. It is further

ORDERED, that the transfer of ownership of that portion of the permit covering the 345kV transmission line from OTP to OTP and Xcel as joint permittees is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of October, 2014.

**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:

Date:

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson  
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Chris Nelson  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner

Kristie Fiegen  
KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner