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Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

RE: **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**
Docket EL05-023
Our file: 4251

Dear Patty:

Enclosed is a motion to further extend the final approval deadline in this docket. Progress has been made, but it is unlikely that we will obtain all final routing approvals prior to the current July 1 deadline. For this reason, we are filing the enclosed motion. Please file the enclosure.

It is my understanding after visiting with Anissa at your office that the service list consists of Karen Cremer and Bob Knadle. It is also my understanding that hard copies do not need to be sent to them, as they are automatically copied with the e-filing. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

BY: 

DAG:mw

Enclosure

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

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

COMES now Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy and moves the Commission to extend the current deadline for final approval of the project in this docket to December 31, 2007.

This motion is based upon the following considerations:

1. By its order dated September 11, 2006, the Commission granted Xcel Energy's request to waive the one-year deadline set forth in SDCL § 49-41B-24, and provided an additional period of time until December 31, 2006, for the Commission's final decision to be rendered in this matter. The Commission further extended the deadline to July 1, 2007, by its order of January 2, 2007. In both cases, the Commission's decision was predicated in part upon Xcel Energy's representation that it had encountered unanticipated problems with route approvals.

2. Xcel Energy can report that it has successfully resolved routing issues in the State of Minnesota. Additionally, the pole placement route in South Dakota has been approved as well. Xcel Energy continues to work with the South Dakota Department of Transportation concerning pole structure issues for the South Dakota route, and this process appears likely to extend beyond the current deadline.

3. Xcel Energy and Commission Staff believe that the pole structure issues and all route approvals can be obtained eventually. It would create unnecessary delay and additional expense to require Xcel Energy to refile this proceeding and commence the process anew. This transmission line is essential to move energy from newly-constructed South Dakota wind farms into

the energy grid. For this reason, Xcel Energy respectfully requests that the Commission grant the motion.

WHEREFORE Xcel Energy prays that the Commission grant its motion to extend the deadline for the Commission's final decision to December 31, 2007.

Dated this 4TH day of June, 2007.

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

BY: 

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