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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

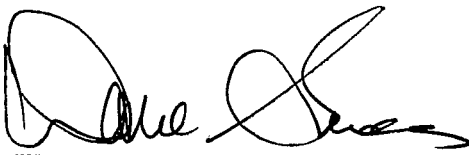
Dear Patty:

It is my understanding that the Commission is encouraging us to try the new electronic filing process consistent with Commission rules which have been newly adopted. Therefore, attached is a motion for the Commission to provide additional time for rendering its final decision in this docket. Please file the enclosure.

With a copy of this letter, I am sending copies of the enclosure to the service list. Thank you very much.

Yours truly,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

BY: 
DAG:mw

Enclosures

cc/enc: Service List

**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 July 1, 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's decision was predicated in part upon Xcel Energy's representation that it had encountered unanticipated problems with route approvals.

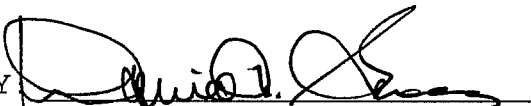
2. Xcel Energy continues to work with the Federal Highway Administration, the Minnesota Department of Transportation and the South Dakota Department of Transportation concerning route approvals. While progress has been made, the necessity of litigation in Minnesota to bring this matter to a conclusion has lengthened the time for resolution of all route issues beyond that originally anticipated by Xcel Energy.

3. Xcel Energy and Commission Staff believe that all route approvals can eventually be obtained. It would create unnecessary delay and additional expense to require Xcel Energy to refile this proceeding and commence the process anew. For this reason, Xcel 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 July 1, 2007.

Dated this 11th day of December, 2006.

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP

BY 
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

David A. Gerdes of May, Adam, Gerdes & Thompson LLP hereby certifies that on the 11th day of December, 2006, he mailed by United States mail, first class postage thereon prepaid, a true and correct copy of the foregoing in the above-captioned action to the following at their last known addresses, to-wit:

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