

**Watertown Public Opinion
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

COUNTY OF CODINGTON } ss

Monica K. Saathoff, being duly sworn says: That Watertown Public Opinion is, and during all the times hereafter mentioned was, a daily legal newspaper as defined in SDCL 17-2-2.1 through 17-2-2.4, as amended, published at Watertown, Codington County, South Dakota, by Watertown Public Opinion; that affiant is and during all of said times was an employee of the publisher of such newspaper and has personal knowledge of the facts stated in this affidavit; that the notice, order or advertisement, a printed copy of which is attached, was published in said newspaper upon:

Tuesday, the 13th day of December 2005,

that the full amount of the fee charged for publishing the same, including a \$5.00 affidavit fee, to-wit, the sum of \$210.75 insures solely to the benefit of the publisher of said newspaper; that no agreement or understanding for the division of the fee has been made with any person, and that no part of the fee has been agreed to be paid to any other person.

Monica K Saathoff

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of December, A.D. 2005.

(Seal) Loni S Anderson
Notary Public, South Dakota

My commission expires May 10, 2008

**Watertown Public Opinion
AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COM-
MISSION XCEL ENERGY TRANSMISSION
LINE PROJECT IN BROOKINGS COUNTY,
SOUTH DAKOTA DOCKET EL05-028**

WHEN: Wednesday, Dec. 21, 2005, at 7:00 pm CST

WHERE: McKnight Community Center, 300 West Main Street, White, SD

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public input hearing at the above time and place on an application filed by Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) for a Construction Permit to build the following facilities: (i) two new 0.4 mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines connecting the Western Area Power Administration White Substation located southeast of White, South Dakota, and a new Xcel Energy Brookings County Substation; (ii) a new 345 kV/115 kV Brookings County Substation located approximately 0.4 miles east of the White Substation; (iii) a new 9.65 mile 115 kV transmission line from the Brookings County Substation to the Minnesota/South Dakota border; and, (iv) improvements to the White Substation to accommodate the new 345 kV lines. The application comprises the western portion of the Buffalo Ridge - White transmission project which connects the White Substation to the Buffalo Ridge Substation southeast of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

At the hearing, interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. The application is on file in the Brookings County Auditor's office and in the Commission's office in Pierre and the application and all other documents in the case may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Actions," "Commission Dockets," "2005 Electric Dockets," "EL05-028."

The parties to this proceeding are currently Xcel and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, any person residing in the area of the project, each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the project area, or any interested person, may be granted formal party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 20:10:22:40 on or before January 31, 2006. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on December 21, 2005.

For approval, Xcel must show that the proposed transmission line project will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the view of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds are appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: ph (800) 332-1782; fax (605) 773-3809; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.

2.10.05