

November 10, 2006

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 East Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

**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**

**SDPUC DOCKET
NO. EL05-023**

AMENDMENT TO APPLICATION

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, d/b/a Xcel Energy, requests an amendment to certain portions of its Application for a facilities permit from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in Docket No. EL05-023. Since the filing of the application on August 26, 2005, the Company has made a change in one section of the alignment of the proposed 345 kilovolt (kV) line from the Split Rock Substation located west of Brandon, South Dakota to the Minnesota Border.

Project Route Modification

The original transmission line route proposed going directly through the Beaver Creek Rest Stop as shown on Exhibit C.1b of the application. This site is owned by the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) and is managed by the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Discussions with the MNDOT regarding the placement of the transmission line in this area have resulted in a move from the alignment through the rest stop to an alignment that will go around the rest stop. This new alignment is provided on a revised Exhibit C.1b which is included as part of this filing (Attachment #1). We are also submitting new plan and profile drawings of the entire project that also show this new alignment (Attachment #2)

The original application provided an overview of the overall potential environmental impacts of the project that cover the area in which the transmission line will now be located. The transmission line will be placed on private property around the Beaver Creek Rest stop, with the structures being placed five feet away from the MNDOT property boundary, on private easement.

South Dakota DOT

As the Commission Staff is aware, we have been working with both the SDDOT and MDOT regarding placement of this transmission line along Interstate 90. We have submitted a letter to the SD DOT (Attachment #3) discussing the project and how we have addressed the SDDOT concerns. We expect a response shortly and will provide a copy as soon as it is received.

Additional Structure Types

The majority of the route in South Dakota will continue to use the transmission structure designs originally proposed in the application and noted in previous data request responses. The section of the transmission line that passes around the Beaver Creek Rest Stop will have a different structure design as described in the SD DOT letter referred to in the previous section. This design is shown on Attachment #4 of this filing.

These items should address Staff's concerns regarding our proposed project. We do not expect any other route changes to occur once the SD DOT concurs with our current proposal.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 715-839-4661 or pamela.jo.rasmussen@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

Pamela Jo Rasmussen
Supervisor, Siting & Permitting

C: SD DOT
Project Team