

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY A)
MINNESOTA CORPORATION AND WHOLLY)
OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF XCEL ENERGY TO)
ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENTAL)
MEASURES COST RECOVERY TARIFF AND)
FOR APPROVAL OF 2007 AND 2008)
PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES)
TO BE INCLUDED IN RATES**

**JOINT MOTION FOR
APPROVAL OF
SETTLEMENT STIPULATION

EL07-026**

Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission Staff), collectively referred to as Parties, hereby file the above referenced Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties propose that the Commission adopt the Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

1. This Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation resolves all of the issues in Docket No. EL07-026.
3. The Settlement Stipulation represents the conclusion of the undersigned parties that it is in the best interests of the Parties and the general public to reach a negotiated settlement of specific issues in this docket and that the terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just, fair, and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

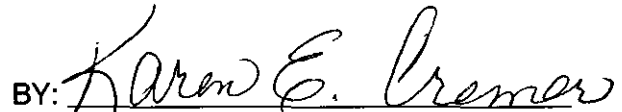
For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned parties jointly request the Commission to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, adopt the Settlement Stipulation without modification and approve the Environmental Cost Recovery Rider tariff.

Xcel Energy

SD Public Utilities Commission



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DATED: 12/16/08

DATED: 12/17/08