

Affidavit of Publication

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MAR 17 2008

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC
UTILITIES COMMISSION

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,

SS.

County of ~~Deuel~~ Brookings

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

WHAT: Xcel Energy Transmission Line Project,
Brookings County, EL08-001
WHEN: Monday, March 10, 2008, at 12:15 p.m.
WHERE: McKnight Community Center,
300 West Main Street, White, SD

Christopher J. Schumacher, being first duly sworn, on oath says that he is the publisher of the Tri-City Star, a weekly newspaper published in Toronto, said County of ~~Deuel~~ Brookings and has full and personal knowledge of all the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has a bona-fide circulation of at least two hundred copies weekly, and has been published within said county for fifty-one successive weeks next prior to the publication of the notice herein mentioned, and was and is printed wholly or in part in an office maintained at said place of publication; that the

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 Facility Permit to construct the following facilities: (i) a new 6.5 mile 115 kV transmission line from the Brookings County Substation near the city of White to the Minnesota/South Dakota border, and (ii) modifications to the Brookings County Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV line. The application comprises the western portion of the Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet project which connects the Brookings County Substation to the Yankee Substation northwest of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

SD Public Utilities
Comm.

At the hearing, Xcel will present a brief description of the project, following which interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5), 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 Action Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2008 Electric Dockets, EL08-001.

Legal Front # 42967, a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, is attached to this sheet, and is made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper at least once in each week for one successive weeks, on the day of each week on which said newspaper was regularly published to wit:

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 municipal, 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 March 31, 2008. Application forms for party status will be available at the public input hearing on March 10, 2008.

Mar 13, 2008; _____, 20____
_____, 20____; _____, 20____
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_____, 20____; _____, 20____

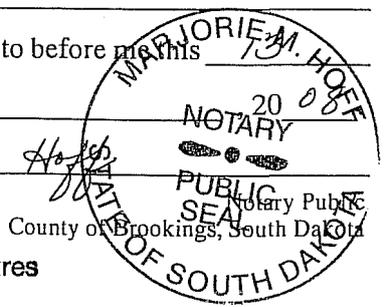
Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule one or more subsequent formal evidentiary hearings conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-2 to consider any issues raised by any intervening party, Commission Staff or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1 and 49-41B and ARSD 20-10-01 and 20-10-22. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

that the full amount of the fees for the publication of the annexed notice is \$ 80.00

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 views 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. The parties will have the right to appeal the final decision in this case to the appropriate Circuit Court by serving and filing notice of appeal of the decision in accordance with SDCL 1-26-31, within thirty (30) days after the date of service of the notice of decision in this case.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of _____

March
Maryorie M. Hoef
Notary Public
County of Brookings, South Dakota



My Commission Expires
August 18, 2009

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) 332-1788, fax (866) 757-6031, www.puc.sd.gov, 500 E. Capitol Ave, Pierre, SD 57501.