

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF )</b>	<b>ORDER GRANTING JOINT</b>
<b>GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND NORTHERN )</b>	<b>MOTION FOR APPROVAL</b>
<b>STATES POWER COMPANY D/B/A XCEL )</b>	<b>OF SETTLEMENT</b>
<b>ENERGY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A )</b>	<b>STIPULATION AND</b>
<b>10.6 MILE, 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE )</b>	<b>GRANTING PERMIT TO</b>
<b>(CAPX2020) IN BROOKINGS COUNTY NEAR )</b>	<b>CONSTRUCT FACILITIES</b>
<b>WHITE, SOUTH DAKOTA )</b>	
<b>)</b>	<b>EL10-016</b>

On November 23, 2010, Great River Energy, a Minnesota Cooperative Corporation (Great River), and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) (jointly Applicants or CapX2020), filed an application (Application) with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Brookings County - Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) Project (Project) consisting of 345 kV transmission line facilities and substation connections between the Brookings County Substation and the Hampton 345 kV Substation near Hampton, MN, southeast of the Twin Cities. The Project is being proposed by a group of utilities, the CapX2020 Transmission Initiative Utilities, who have joined together to identify and construct needed transmission facilities in the Upper Midwest. Great River and Xcel are part of CapX2020. The Application is for the South Dakota portion of the Project consisting of a 10.6-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota, and the South Dakota-Minnesota border and associated modification at the existing Brookings County Substation (Facility).

On November 25, 2010, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 24, 2011, to interested individuals and entities. On November 30, 2010, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status.

On January 6, 2011, the Commission held a Public Input Hearing in Brookings, South Dakota. On January 10, 2011, the Brookings County Commission filed an Application for Party Status. On January 18, 2011, the Commission granted Party Status to Brookings County.

On June 8, 2011, Applicant and Commission Staff filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and the Settlement Stipulation.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 14, 2011, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of the Settlement Stipulation. By approving the Settlement Stipulation, the Commission grants Applicant's application for a permit to construct a 10.6-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota, and the South Dakota-Minnesota border and associated modification at the existing Brookings County Substation subject to the Terms and Conditions listed in the Settlement Stipulation.

It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Settlement Stipulation entered into by Applicant and Commission Staff on June 8, 2011, shall be approved and shall be incorporated by reference into this Decision and Order the same as if it had been set forth in its entirety herein; and it is further

ORDERED, that Applicant is granted a permit to construct a 10.6-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota, and the South Dakota-Minnesota border and associated modification at the existing Brookings County Substation subject to the Terms and Conditions listed in the Settlement Stipulation.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2011.

<b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b>
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.
By: <u><i>Sean Ardahl</i></u>
Date: <u>6-17-11</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

*Steve Kolbeck*  
STEVE KOLBECK, Chairman

*Gary Hanson*  
GARY HANSON, Commissioner

*Chi Nelson*  
CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner