



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

May 29, 2024

—Via Electronic Filing—

Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: PRECONSTRUCTION NOTICE OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY D/B/A
XCEL ENERGY FOR THE BROOKINGS COUNTY – LYON COUNTY AND HELENA
– HAMPTON SECOND-CIRCUIT PROJECT
DOCKET NO. EL10-016

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Settlement Stipulation adopted by the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in the above-referenced docket on June 17, 2011, and recertified by Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel Energy or the Company) on April 9, 2024, Xcel Energy is providing the following information in compliance with the Settlement Stipulation's notice and preconstruction requirements. Specifically, we have identified Conditions 1, 4, 7, 15, 27, 29, and 31 as being relevant to pre-construction matters for the South Dakota portion of the Brookings County Second-Circuit Project (Project).

We note that the Company has undertaken limited preconstruction work, including activities in preparation for mobilization such as installing matting and other laydown preparations as well as performing work in the substations in preparation of construction. The Company has also engaged in extensive permitting and outreach activities with stakeholders.

In addition to providing this information, the Company is also requesting that the Commission truncate the 30-day staff notice period provided for in Condition 29. In light of the low impact nature of merely adding an additional circuit to an existing transmission line and the interest in utilizing an already scheduled outage, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission authorize the commencement of construction upon Staff's completion of their review of our compliance materials, which may be sooner than 30 days.

All attachments were uploaded to the secure file transfer protocol (SFTP).

Settlement Stipulation Condition 1. Obtain and Send the Commission All Necessary Permits.

The Company has obtained all necessary permits, including clearance from the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office; the wetland self-certification for Nationwide Permit 33; and a South Dakota Game, Fish; and Parks consultation and clearance letter related to threatened and endangered species. These certifications and clearances were uploaded to the SFTP.

Settlement Stipulation Condition 4. Landowner Notice.

Xcel Energy mailed written notice of construction to effected landowners on May 1, 2024. This notice letter can be found on the SFTP. This notice provided background information about the Project; informed landowners that, if their property is damaged as the result of construction, Xcel Energy would pay for repair or restoration; confirmed crews would exercise all reasonable efforts to minimize any impact to your property; and provided contact information for Xcel Energy if landowners have questions or concerns.

Given the limited impacts and scope of the Project, Xcel Energy believes that the provided notice is sufficient as providing additional notice information could confuse landowners and in light of the limited nature of the Project.

Settlement Stipulation Condition 7. Road Use Agreements.

Xcel Energy has obtained all needed road use authorizations.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation approved Xcel Energy's Application for a Utility Permit for Highway No. 30 on February 15, 2024. Brookings County approved Xcel Energy's application for right-of-way occupancy for County Road 36 on March 5, 2024. These authorizations were uploaded to the SFTP.

An Xcel Energy representative discussed road matters with Supervisor Joel Kock of Richland Township on March 4, 2024. Supervisor Joel Kock indicated that no special conditions or permits are required to use the township's roads.

Xcel Energy and its contractors will be responsible for necessary maintenance or repair to the roads.

Settlement Stipulation Condition 15. File Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP)

The Project does not require a SWPPP because ground disturbance will be less than one acre. Pursuant to applicable South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources guidance, Construction Stormwater Permits are needed when one or more acres of ground are disturbed. *See* Construction General Stormwater Permit § 2.1, Permit No.: SDR100000 (Nov. 1, 2023).

Settlement Stipulation Condition 27. Road Bond (\$500,000)

The Company secured a \$500,000 indemnity bond in favor of all townships, counties, and other governmental entities whose property is crossed by the Project. The bond can be found on the SFTP and has been provided to impacted governmental entities.

Settlement Stipulation Condition 29. Preconstruction filing to Staff

This letter, including the plan and profile documents uploaded to the SFTP, meets this requirement. As noted above, in light of the expedited construction schedule, the limited scope of work, the relatively non-impactful nature of the work, and sufficient landowner notice, the Company respectfully requests that the Commission waive the 30-day notice period required by Condition 29 of the Stipulation Agreement.

Settlement Stipulation Condition 31. Pre-construction Notice to Public Safety Agencies

The Company has prepared the necessary notices, which will be sent out this week. Enclosed with this letter are copies of those notices.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response to this request and stand ready to respond to any questions you may have. I can be reached via email at Steven.T.Kolbeck@xcelenergy.com or via phone at (605) 339-8350.

Sincerely,

/s/ Steven T. Kolbeck

STEVEN T. KOLBECK
PRINCIPAL MANAGER

Encls
c: Service List