

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

<p>IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR SWEETMAN CONST. CO. D/B/A KNIFE RIVER, TO HAVE XCEL ENERGY ASSIGNED AS ITS ELECTRIC PROVIDER IN THE SERVICE AREA OF SIOUX VALLEY ELECTRIC</p>	<p>EL-25-032</p> <p>SWEETMAN CONST. CO. D/B/A KNIFE RIVER'S ANSWERS TO STAFF'S SECOND SET OF DATA REQUESTS</p>
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COMES NOW, Sweetman Const. Co. d/b/a Knife River ("Knife River"), by and through its counsel of record, William M. Van Camp, and responds to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests:

2-1. Are there plans to decommission the existing sand plant, or will it remain fully operational for the foreseeable future?

Answer: The existing sand plant will be decommissioned when the sand source reserve is depleted.

2-2. Describe how water from Split Rock Creek is utilized to make the sand product for the currently existing sand plant.

Answer: "Make up" water is pumped from the creek to the sand plant into the "fresh water" ponds. Water is pulled from the "fresh water" ponds and used in the plant to wash the sand. The dirty water is discharged into a mud press plant and then into settling ponds where the dirt/clay settles out and the clean overflow returns to the "fresh water" pond. It is a closed loop system and reuses the water. Water from the creek is called "make up" water because it only needs to replace the small percentage of water loss to evaporation & production processes.

2-3. Will the new rock crushing plant use water from Split Rock Creek for any washing, dust control activities, etc? Is water from any other source going to be utilized at the new facility?

Answer: Yes. No.

2-4. Is the new water Permit Application No. 8975-3 from the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources obtained to support the new proposed rock crushing facility?

Answer: Yes.

2-5. Is water pumped via an electric pump from Split Rock Creek for the existing sand plant? Or how does Knife River get the water from the Diversion point to use in its existing sand plant?

Answer: Yes. Electric pump as described in 2.2.

2-6. Will water be pumped from Split Rock Creek for the rock crushing plant via the same facilities as the existing sand plant? Will new equipment or pumps be required in order to move water from the Diversion Point to the new rock crushing plant?

Answer: No. Yes.

2-7. Who provides electricity to the existing pump at Split Rock Creek, that supplies water to the sand plant?

Answer: Sioux Valley Energy.

Dated this 10th day of February, 2026.

**OLINGER, LOVALD, MCCAHCN
& VAN CAMP, P.C.**

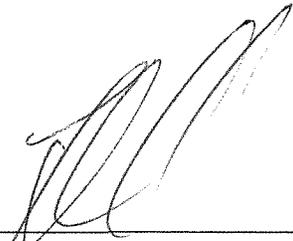


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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

William M. Van Camp, of Olinger, Lovald McCahren & Van Camp, P.C., hereby certifies that on the 10th day of February, 2026, he filed and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Sweetman Const. Co. d/b/a Knife River's Answers to Staff's Second Set of Data Requests in the above-captioned action via the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's electronic filing system on the following:

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