

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

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

EL-25-032

**SWEETMAN CONST. CO. D/B/A
KNIFE RIVER'S ANSWERS TO
SIOUX VALLEY-SOUTHWESTERN
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.,
EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER
COOPERATIVE, INC., AND
BASIN ELECTRIC POWER
COOPERATIVE'S JOINT DATA
REQUESTS TO SWEETMAN CONST.
CO. D/B/A KNIFE RIVER
(SECOND SET)**

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 Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., and Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Joint Data Requests to Sweetman Const. Co., d/b/a Knife River (Second Set):

2-1. Please produce a complete copy (including all corresponding attachments, maps, diagrams, and site plans) of Knife River's Conditional Use Permit Application, East Corson, Parcels 13848, 13942, 55302, 55303, 55304 and 55305 to Minnehaha County, Office of Planning & Zoning, dated June 26, 2025.

Answer: Objection. Irrelevant. Not likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Without waiving said objection, see, file marked as 2-1 Cup Application Corson Quarry; General Air Permit SD 605A534; Water Use Application Permit 8973-3.

2-2. Please produce a complete copy of any application regarding a Non-Point Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit sought by Knife River which is Minnehaha Conditional Use Permit #25-43.

Answer: Objection. Irrelevant. Not likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Without waiving said objection, no additional National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits were required as part of this Conditional Use Permit. See, Answer 2-1. The site was previously covered under the following discharge permits:

Permit Type	Permit Category	Permit #	Permitting Agency
General Permit Storm Water Discharges Associated with Industrial Activities	Stormwater	SDR00A265	SDDANR
General Permit for Temporary Discharge Activities	Dewatering	SDG071569	SDDANR

2-3. Please produce a complete copy of any application regarding any applicable federal or state permit which is related to Minnehaha Conditional Use Permit #25-43.

Answer: Objection. Irrelevant. Not likely to lead to the discovery of admissible evidence. Without waiving said objection, an application has been made to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) under the provisions of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources (SDDANR) water quality certification under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act, required prior to the USACE issuance of a 404 permit, have been obtained. See, Answer 2-1. Knife River is currently awaiting final approval and issuance of a Section 404 permit.

The following permits have been issued by the State of South Dakota:

Permit Type	Permit Category	Permit #	Permitting Agency
General Air Quality Permit for Nonmetallic Mineral Processing Plant	Air	SDG05A534	SDDANR
Water Diversion System and Beneficial Use of Water Permit	Water Use	8975-3	SDDANR

2-4. Please indicate whether it would be necessary to construct on-site electrical distribution system to enable Knife River to receive service from Xcel Energy.

Answer: Upon information and belief, Xcel Energy will be able to serve the electrical needs of Knife River's facility. The specifications, costs, and engineering requirements for that service are the responsibility of Xcel Energy.

2-5. If it is necessary to construct on-site electrical distribution to enable Knife River to receive service from Xcel Energy, please indicate whether Xcel Energy or Knife River is to bear the cost for such construction.

Answer: Upon information and belief, Knife River will not bear the costs for any such construction should it be necessary.

2-6. If it is necessary to construct on-site electrical distribution to enable Knife River to receive service from Xcel Energy, please indicate the estimated cost for such construction.

Answer: See, Answer 2-4.

2-7. If it is necessary to construct on-site electrical distribution system to enable Knife River to receive service, please indicate whether Xcel Energy or Knife River would be responsible for the maintenance of such on-site electrical distribution system.

Answer: Upon information and belief, Knife River will not bear the cost of any maintenance required for the system necessary to provide for its electrical service needs.

2-8. Please identify what equipment and/or infrastructure Knife River will be required to install at Knife River's cost to complete the on-site electrical distribution system, including the technical details and any engineering documentation of the capability of these new facilities.

Answer: See, Answer 2-4.

2-9. Please explain in detail the processing that happens at the current site, as described in your Petition as the "existing plant of Petitioner".

Answer: At the current natural sand plant, the raw material is mined from a glacial deposit. After the overburden is stripped, the deposit, which the vein varies in depth from 10' to 50', is loaded into a hopper feeding a conveyor that transports the raw feed, often containing clay, silt, organic matter, and oversize particles. Large rounded stones and other oversize particles are removed using a screening process. The oversize stones are then run through a log washer to break off any clay lumps or surface contaminates. The fine material (sand) enters a classifying tank which can produce multiple grades of sand by controlling the settling rates. Upon discharging from the classifying tank, the sand retains excess moisture which requires a process using a dewatering screw to reduce moisture, so the finished product is stackable. Another important component is the water recycling and management system. The water used to wash the sand is processed through a "mud plant" which used flocculants and a belt press system to remove the clay. The clay is hauled back and deposited near where the original sand deposit was mined. This cleans up the water enough to be recycled in the sand washing system. Final products are washed concrete sand and a small percentage of round, natural, multi-colored decorative rock.

2-10. Please explain in detail the processing that will happen at the new "Rock Crushing Plant" as described in your Petition.

Answer: At a quarry rock crushing plant, the raw material is a metamorphic quartzite deposit. After the overburden is stripped, the deposit is over 1,000' deep. Retraction begins with drilling blast holes into the rock face and then detonating controlled explosives to fracture the rock into manageable pieces. The shot rock is then loaded into a jaw crusher which downsizes the product into minus 10" material. This material is processed over vibrating screens. The passing material is used in high-spec applications like asphalt concrete. The oversize material is then processed by a cone crusher, which is ideal for producing uniform, cubical aggregates. The

material from the cone crusher is again screened into a variety of final sized products and stockpiled separately for market.

2-11. Will the two plants be connected with equipment, conveyors, or by any other means, and/or be able to provide complementary services to each other?

Answer: The two plants are totally independent of each other.

2-12. Will the two plants be connected electrically? If so, describe in detail how they will be connected electrically and provide any documents/plans for the connection.

Answer: No. See, Answer 2-11.

2-13. What are the approximate boundaries of the new “Rock Crushing Plant” in acres or feet, and provide a detailed site plan for the Rock Crushing Plant.

Answer: See attached “Corson Plants and Deposits Map”.

2-14. Please state and identify the legal description of the real property where the Rock Crushing Plant will be located.

Answer: See attached “Corson Plants and Deposits Map”.

2-15. Please state and identify the legal description of the real property where the existing plant is located.

Answer: See attached “Corson Plants and Deposits Map”.

2-16. Please state whether you expect Xcel to serve any facilities other than the Rock Crushing Plant on or near the real property described in answer to 2-14 and provide all working papers utilized to make those projections.

Answer: There are no other facilities planned in this area therefore Knife River does not expect Xcel to serve anything else.

Dated this 6th day of January, 2026.

**OLINGER, LOVALD, MCCAHREN
& 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 6th day of January, 2026, he filed and served a true and correct copy of the foregoing Sweetman Const. Co. d/b/a Knife River's Answers to Sioux Valley-Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc., and Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Joint Data Requests to Sweetman Const. Co. d/b/a Knife River (Second Set) upon the following by electronic mail:

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