

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

SD PUC DOCKET EL25-032

REBUTTAL TESTIMONY OF CLARK MEYER, GENERAL MANAGER, SWEETMAN
CONST. CO. D/B/A KNIFE RIVER

March 2, 2026

1 **Q: Have you reviewed all pre-filed testimony of the intervenors and the Commission**
2 **Staff in this docket?**

3 A: Yes.

4 **Q: Do you believe anything in this testimony would give the Commission reason to not**
5 **allow you to be served by Xcel Energy as you have requested. If not, why not?**

6 A: I do not believe grounds exist, under the statutory guidelines the Commission must
7 examine, to deny our request.

8 **Q: What of the claim of the intervenors that Knife River is not a new customer?**

9 A: First, the intervenors suggest because of references in our Conditional Use Permit to the
10 new rock crushing facility (“Facility”) being an “expansion of our existing hard rock quarry” that
11 the Facility is, evidently an extension of our existing infrastructure and operation. As my pre-
12 filed testimony laid out, the proposed Facility is new. It is entirely separate from the existing
13 sand washing operation located nearby. The existing hard rock quarry, which is being referred to
14 by the intervenors, was a portable crushing plant moved on to the quarry site and producing a
15 limited amount of quartzite products. These portable operations operate with a portable diesel-
16 powered generator (Genset), so no outside power provider was needed. The fact we needed a
17 Genset to operate the rock crushing operation further proves this is a new and separate operation.
18 The Facility is being built on bare ground, property with no current utility infrastructure. The
19 claim that it “shares the same overall quarry footprint, mining plan, and reclamation plan” is
20 simply not true. The quartzite mineral deposits are located over a mile (approx. 7,300’) from the
21 natural sand deposits.

22 **Q: It is claimed that the existing operation and the planned Facility have the same 911**
23 **address.**

24 A: This is true. This 911 address is also used for a ready-mix plant. All of these facilities are
25 accessed from SD Hwy 11. There are a couple reasons for this. First of all, the SD DOT limits
26 the number of egresses to this busy road. Secondly, this driveway passes underneath a bridge
27 which is part of the BNSF railway mainline track, which is only wide enough for a single road.
28 Shortly after the bridge, the road divides with each branch going to its respective plant.

29 **Q: Can you respond, generally, to the Claims of Mark Hoffman in his pre-filed**
30 **testimony for East River Electric that the permits for both the existing operation and new**
31 **Facility are shared?**

32 A: Mr. Hoffman claims we use the same access and haul routes. I addressed that in the 911
33 address answer above. He also claims it uses the same internal material handling system. This is
34 simply not true. He references our water permit which was amended to request additional water.
35 This additional capacity, which is needed for the new plant operation, will be secured by
36 installing a new water pump and piping system. We applied for and received a new air quality
37 permit # SDG05A534 from the SD DANR on August 12, 2025 for the new operation.

38 In no way is this an incremental build out. The Facility is a stand alone operation that
39 will long outlive the existing sand plant.

40 **Q: What about the claim you don't have a legally contracted demand load of two**
41 **thousand kilowatts:**

42 A: As explained by Xcel in its pre-filed testimony, until such time as the Commission
43 permits the Facility to be serviced by Xcel they are unable to enter into a formal agreement with
44 Knife River. Once the Commission approves our petition, that agreement can be finalized and
45 our minimum demand load will be contracted well in excess of two thousand kilowatts.

46 **Q: What about the claim by Mr. Hoffman that no completed plan has been submitted**
47 **regarding the design of the plant.**

48 A: That should be of no matter in this proceeding.

49 **Q: What about referenced discrepancy in your discovery responses to those of Xcel on**
50 **the on-site distribution needs for the Facility.**

51 A: It has been become apparent in this process and in discussions with Xcel that Knife River
52 will be responsible for the on-site distribution needs for the Facility. It will be similar to the step
53 down transformers and distribution that we currently operate at our Madison St quarry. Our
54 discovery responses on this were in error.

55 **Q: Do you have an opinion on the claims that East River, Sioux Valley and Basin are**
56 **making that allowing Xcel to service the electrical needs of the Facility would be an**
57 **unnecessary duplication of facilities and would not support efficient and economical system**
58 **development.**

59 A: Yes, I do. It seems that the argument is based on a lineal distance in some regard of the
60 build out necessary to serve the Facility. Admittedly Sioux Valley cannot serve the Facility now.
61 The Coops would suggest to the Commission that Knife River should pay in excess of five
62 million dollars (\$5,000,000.00) and that would serve a more economical system development. I

63 simply have to differ. Both Xcel and the Coops have the ability to analyze, independently, the
64 Facility and its electrical needs versus their current network capabilities. Both evidently want to
65 service the Facility. In their own best interest, I would suggest and assume.

66 **Q: Does this conclude your rebuttal testimony?**

67 A: Yes, it does.

68

69 Dated this 2nd day of March, 2026.

70

71 \s\ Clark Meyer

72 Clark Meyer, General Manabger, Sweetman Const. Co d/b/a Knife River