



500 West Russell Street
Sioux Falls, SD 57104

February 17, 2026

—Via Electronic Filing—

Ms. Leah Mohr, Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
Capitol Building, 1st Floor
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-5070

RE: INTERVENOR TESTIMONY
KNIFE RIVER, TO HAVE XCEL ENERGY ASSIGNED AS ITS ELECTRIC PROVIDER
IN THE SERVICE AREA OF SIOUX VALLEY ELECTRIC
DOCKET NO. EL25-032

Dear Ms. Mohr:

Northern States Power Company, doing business as Xcel Energy (the Company), submits the enclosed INTERVENOR TESTIMONY in the above-referenced matter. The Company submits INTERVENOR TESTIMONY, as applicable, for the following witnesses:

- *Steve T. Kolbeck*
- *Bradley L. Sylliaason*

In accordance with ARSD § 20:10:01:39 through 42, Xcel Energy respectfully requests confidential treatment of certain information contained in this filing. In compliance with ARSD § 20:10:01:41, we have clearly identified and redacted each piece of confidential information and submitted a separate unredacted copy in a sealed envelope along with this filing.

(1) An identification of the document and the general subject matter of the materials or the portions of the document for which confidentiality is being requested:

We request the identified portions of Steve Kolbeck's Intervenor Testimony be treated as confidential.

(2) The length of time for which confidentiality is being requested and a request for handling at the end of that time. This does not preclude a later request to extend the period of confidential treatment:

The Company requests the redacted information be treated as confidential forever.

(3) The name, address, and phone number of a person to be contacted regarding confidentiality request:

Riley Conlin
Principal Attorney
Xcel Energy Services Inc.
414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55401
(612) 216-9309
riley.conlin@xcelenergy.com

(4) The statutory or common law grounds and any administrative rules under which confidentiality is requested. Failure to include all possible grounds for confidential treatment does not preclude the party from raising additional grounds in the future:

We request confidential treatment of the identified information on the grounds that Knife River considers the redacted information about its expected load to be trade secret information, the disclosure of which would result in material damage to the Company's financial or competitive position. The claim for confidential treatment is based on ARSD § 20:10:01:39(4) and (5), and SDCL § 1-27-30. The information contained within the referenced documents meets the definition of "trade secret" under SDCL § 37-29-1(4)(1), the South Dakota Uniform Trade Secrets Act, which is defined as information that "Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and ... is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy."

We also request confidential treatment on the grounds that Xcel Energy considers the redacted information about its expected costs to build the new infrastructure and the rebuilding of some existing distribution assets for Knife River's new location to be confidential, trade secret, and/or proprietary business information, the disclosure of which would result in material damage to Xcel Energy's financial position. *See* ARSD § 20:10:01:39(4) and (5), SDCL §§ 1-27-28, 1-27-30, and 15-6-26(c)(7). The information meets the definition of "trade secret" under and SDCL § 1-27-28 and

SDCL § 37-29-1(4)(1), the South Dakota Uniform Trade Secrets Act, which is defined as information that “Derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to, and not being readily ascertainable by proper means by, other persons who can obtain economic value from its disclosure or use, and ... is the subject of efforts that are reasonable under the circumstances to maintain its secrecy.” The information also meets the definition of “proprietary information” under SDCL § 1-27-28, which is defined as “information on pricing, costs, revenue, taxes, market share, customers, and personnel held by private entities and used for that private entity’s business purposes.”

(5) The factual basis that qualifies the information for confidentiality under the authority cited:

The noted information about Knife River’s expected load at its new rock crushing plant qualifies for confidential treatment because it is trade secret information regarding Knife River’s expected load at the new location for which it seeks to have Xcel Energy assigned as its electric provider.

The noted information about the approximate cost for the Company to build the new infrastructure and the rebuilding of some existing distribution assets for Knife River’s new location is considered confidential commercial information, which the Company does not disclose to the public, as it includes internal financial information. Disclosure of such information could harm the Company’s ability to obtain service at the lowest available cost because knowledge of the Company’s costs could affect future commercial contract negotiations.

Please contact Lynnette Sweet at (612) 321-3159 or lynnette.m.sweet@xcelenergy.com or me at (605) 339-8350 or steven.t.kolbeck@xcelenergy.com if you have any questions regarding this filing.

Sincerely,

/s/

STEVE KOLBECK
DIRECTOR STATE AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS RELATIONS

ENCLOSURES
cc: Service List