



Gary Hanson, Chairman
Chris Nelson, Vice Chairman
Kristie Fiegen, Commissioner

South Dakota

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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December 15, 2020

Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
SD Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

RE: Request for New Docket

Ms. Van Gerpen:

Enclosed please find the following documents:

- Request for Imposition of Penalty
- Exhibit 1, Summary of Deficiencies

The South Dakota Pipeline Safety Staff recently released a report to Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) covering the results an inspection conducted on October 2-November 30, 2020, which includes a violation of 49 CFR §192.631(h) and 49 CFR §192.631(h)(6). Each of these carries a maximum possible penalty of \$2 million. Staff respectfully requests the Commission assess a penalty of \$1,138 for the violation of 49 CFR §192.631(h) and a penalty of \$938 for the violation of 49 CFR §192.631(h)(6).

The Commission's Pipeline Safety Program Manager, Mary Zanter, has been in contact with Xcel to work through this matter amicably. It is Staff's understanding the Xcel does not contest this matter. However, SDCL 49-34B-12 requires the imposition of a penalty to come from the Commission, therefore, Staff requests a docket nonetheless be opened.

We look forward to continuing to work with Xcel to achieve our common goal of pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

Kristen N. Edwards
Staff Attorney