

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY COMMISSION) PIPELINE SAFETY STAFF FOR APPROVAL OF AN) AGREED UPON PENALTY FOR PIPELINE SAFETY) VIOLATIONS BY NORTHERN STATES POWER) COMPANY DBA XCEL ENERGY)	ORDER ASSESSING CIVIL PENALTY PS20-001
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On December 15, 2020, the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a Request for Imposition of Penalty from the South Dakota Pipeline Safety Staff (Staff) pertaining to Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel). The penalty was the result of pipeline safety violations noted by Staff in recent inspections of Xcel's South Dakota facilities. The filing included a Summary of Deficiencies (Exhibit 1). Prior to filing, Staff and Xcel had come to an agreement on Staff's allegations of violations, as well as on an appropriate penalty amount. Staff requested that the Commission impose the penalty that was agreed upon between Staff and Xcel.

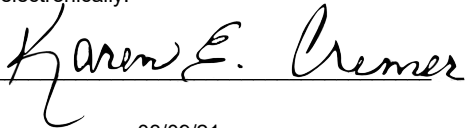
On December 17, 2020, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing to interested individuals and entities on the Commission's PUC Weekly Filings electronic listserv. The notice stated that any person wishing to comment had until January 14, 2021, to do so. No comments were filed. On February 18, 2021, Xcel made a payment of \$2,076.00 pursuant to the agreement reached with Staff. On February 26, 2021, Staff filed an updated Summary of Deficiencies.

The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34B, specifically, SDCL 9-34B-12, and ARSD 20:10:37, specifically 20:10:37:08.


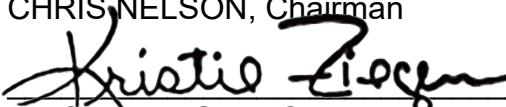
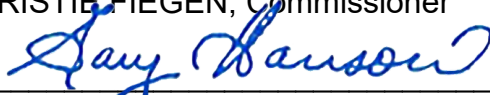
At its regularly scheduled meeting on March 5, 2021, the Commission considered this matter. Finding that Xcel committed the pipeline safety violations as described by Staff, the Commission voted unanimously to assess a penalty against Xcel in the amount of \$2,076.00. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel shall be assessed and shall pay a penalty for violations of 47 CFR 192.723(b)(1), 49 CFR §192.631(h), and 49 CFR §192.631(h)(6) in the amount of \$2,076.00.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 9th day of March 2021.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE	
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, electronically.	
By:	
Date:	03/09/21
(OFFICIAL SEAL)	

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

 _____ CHRIS NELSON, Chairman
 _____ KRISTIE FIEGEN, Commissioner
 _____ GARY HANSON, Commissioner