

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

<b>IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPLAINT FILED )</b>	<b>ORDER FOR AND NOTICE</b>
<b>BY DALE RIEDLINGER, SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH )</b>	<b>OF HEARING</b>
<b>DAKOTA, AGAINST XCEL ENERGY )</b>	
<b>REGARDING POOR MAINTENANCE SERVICE )</b>	<b>CE01-002</b>
<b>AND THE BURYING OF OVERHEAD )</b>	
<b>ELECTRICAL LINES )</b>	

On August 20, 2001, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a complaint filed by Dale Riedlinger, Sioux Falls, South Dakota (Complainant), against Xcel Energy (Xcel). The Complainant stated that Xcel did a very poor job of trimming his tree located near an overhead electric line. The Complainant requested that Xcel bury the electric line at no cost or a reasonable cost.

On August 20, 2001, the complaint was faxed to Xcel. Pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:09, Xcel was notified that it must satisfy the complaint or file an answer in writing with the Commission by September 10, 2001. On September 10, 2001, the Commission received a letter response from Xcel.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-34A, including 49-34A-3, 49-34A-26, 49-34A-27, and 49-34A-58.

A hearing shall be held on October 10, 2001, in Room 412 of the State Capitol Building, 500 E. Capitol, Pierre, South Dakota, immediately following the hearing for Docket CT01-029, which is scheduled to begin at 8:30 A.M. All persons testifying will be subject to cross-examination by the parties.

The issue at the hearing is whether Xcel shall be required to bury the electric line at no cost or a reasonable cost, or whether some other relief would be appropriate.

The hearing shall be an adversary proceeding conducted pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26. All parties have the right to be present and to be represented by an attorney. These rights and other due process rights shall be forfeited if not exercised at the hearing. If you or your representative fail to appear at the time and place set for the hearing, the Final Decision will be based solely on the testimony and evidence provided, if any, during the hearing or a Final Decision may be issued by default pursuant to SDCL 1-26-20. After the hearing, the Commission will consider all evidence and testimony that was presented at the hearing. The Commission will then enter Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law, and a Final Decision regarding this matter. As a result of the hearing, the Commission shall determine whether Xcel shall be required to bury the electric line at no cost or a reasonable cost, or whether some other relief would be appropriate. The Commission's Final Decision may be appealed by the parties to the state Circuit Court and the state Supreme Court as provided by law. It is therefore

ORDERED, that a hearing shall be held at the time and place specified above on the issue of whether Xcel shall be required to bury the electric line at no cost or a reasonable cost, or whether some other relief would be appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2001.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</b></p> <p>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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.</p> <p>By: <u>Hilaine Kalbs</u></p> <p>Date: <u>9/24/01</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>
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BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

James A. Burg  
JAMES A. BURG, Chairman

Pam Nelson  
PAM NELSON, Commissioner