

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE JOINT REQUEST)	ORDER GRANTING
FOR AN ELECTRIC SERVICE RIGHTS)	APPROVAL OF AN
EXCEPTION BETWEEN XCEL ENERGY AND)	EXCEPTION TO THE
CENTRAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.)	ASSIGNED ELECTRIC
)	SERVICE TERRITORY
)	EL03-001

On January 8, 2003, Xcel Energy and Central Electric Cooperative, Inc. filed a "Joint Request for an Electric Service Territory Boundary Modification." This agreement seeks an exception to the existing service territory near Carthage, South Dakota. The area to be transferred from Central Electric to Xcel Energy is described as the wind tower and its associated facilities located approximately one mile West of Carthage and 159 feet North of 222nd Avenue residing in the SW 1/4 of Section 12 of Red Stone Township, T108N, R58W in Miner County, South Dakota, together with a line to connect with Xcel's system.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 20, 2003, the Commission considered the matter. Jim Wilcox, representative of Xcel, stated that Xcel agreed to make this exchange with the understanding that such action did not establish a precedent for future wind development or territory exceptions. Commission Staff recommended approval of the joint request.

The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-34A, specifically 49-34A-42 and 49-34A-55. Further, the Commission finds that an exception to the assigned service territory is in the public interest and the request shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the request seeking approval of an exception to the assignment of service territory is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 7th day of March, 2003.

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, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.
By: <u><i>Delaine Kolbo</i></u>
Date: <u>3/10/03</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr

ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

James A. Burg

JAMES A. BURG, Commissioner