

**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
)	EL03-010

On March 6, 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 Artesian, South Dakota. The area to be transferred from Central Electric to Xcel Energy is described as the telephone "pedestal" and its associated facilities located just east of 411th Avenue and on the south side of 233rd Street (SD Highway 34) approximately 3 miles west of Artesian, South Dakota, residing in the NW 1/4 of Section 12 of Union Township, T106N, R60W in Sanborn County, South Dakota, together with a line to connect with Xcel's system.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 1, 2003, the Commission considered the matter. 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 8th day of April, 2003.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</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>Melaine Kolbo</u></p> <p>Date: <u>4/9/03</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Chairman

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Commissioner