

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING
EAST RIVER ELECTRIC POWER)	INTERVENTION
COOPERATIVE, INC. FOR A TRANSMISSION)	
UPGRADE TO THE SIOUX FALLS AREA 115)	EL04-009
KV TRANSMISSION PROJECT)	

On February 27, 2004, East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. (East River) submitted to the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) an application for its proposed Sioux Falls Area 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission upgrade project. The application states that the proposed project would upgrade approximately 36 miles of an existing 69 kV transmission line and 7 existing 69 kV distribution substations to 115 kV to enable East River to continue to adequately and reliably serve the growing demand for electric service of its member distribution systems in the Sioux Falls area. The line and substation facilities to be upgraded are located in Lincoln and Minnehaha Counties, beginning at WAPA's Sioux Falls Substation on Rice Street and 478 Ave. (east of Great Bear), extending east to the West Brandon Substation on Holly Blvd. west of Brandon, then north and east to the Brandon and Corson Substations on Splitrock Blvd. on the north side of Brandon and east of Corson, respectively, then east on Redwood Blvd. and south on Chestnut Ave. to the Rowena Substation north of Rowena, then south and east to the Splitrock Substation on Highway 42 east of Sioux Falls, then south to the Harrisburg Substation west of Highway 11 (one mile south of the Harrisburg corner), then east to the Tea Substation two miles south of Tea. On March 19, 2004, Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel) filed a Motion to Intervene, which motion included a request to receive all filings in the docket.

On March 4, 2004, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of March 19, 2004, to interested individuals and entities. On March 19, 2004, the Commission received a Motion to Intervene from Xcel Energy, Inc. (Xcel).

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B-4, 49-41B-11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-25, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-38, and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

On April 6, 2004, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission found that the Motion to Intervene was timely filed and demonstrated good cause to grant intervention. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Intervene of Xcel is hereby granted.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of April, 2004.

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: Melaine Kolbo

Date: 4/20/04

(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