

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER ASSESSING FILING
XCEL ENERGY FOR A FACILITIES PERMIT TO)	FEE
BUILD 9.65 MILES OF THE BUFFALO RIDGE)	
TO BROOKINGS COUNTY 115 KV)	EL05-028
TRANSMISSION LINE, TWO 0.4 MILE)	
BROOKINGS COUNTY TO WHITE 345 KV)	
TRANSMISSION LINES, THE BROOKINGS)	
COUNTY SUBSTATION AND TO ADD)	
FACILITIES TO THE WHITE SUBSTATION)	

On December 2, 2005, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed an application for a Construction Permit to build the following facilities: (i) two new 0.4 mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines connecting the Western Area Power Administration White Substation located southeast of White, South Dakota, and a new Xcel Energy Brookings County Substation; (ii) a new 345 kV/115 kV Brookings County Substation located approximately 0.4 miles east of the White Substation; (iii) a new 9.65 mile 115 kV transmission line from the Brookings County Substation to the Minnesota/South Dakota border; and, (iv) improvements to the White Substation to accommodate the new 345 kV lines. The application comprises the western portion of the Buffalo Ridge - White transmission project which connects the White Substation to the Buffalo Ridge Substation southeast of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

On December 8, 2005, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 31, 2006, to interested individuals and entities.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorizes the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs of the facility. However, the minimum total fee chargeable may not be less than eight thousand dollars. The fee shall be deposited in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

The Commission asserts 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 December 20, 2005, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12, unanimously voted to assess Xcel a filing fee not to exceed \$47,600, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, the minimum fee allowed by law as requested by the Executive Director. It is therefore

ORDERED, that Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee of not to exceed \$47,600; and it is further

ORDERED, that Xcel shall make an initial deposit in the SDPUC regulatory assessment fee fund in the amount of the minimum filing fee of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of December, 2005.

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: Delaine Kolbo

Date: 12/29/05

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Robert K. Sahr
ROBERT K. SAHR, Commissioner

Dustin M. Johnson
DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner *dk*