

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF)
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY)
D/B/A XCEL ENERGY TO ESTABLISH AN)
ENVIRONMENTAL MEASURES COST)
RECOVERY TARIFF AND FOR APPROVAL OF)
2007 AND 2008 PLANNED ENVIRONMENTAL)
MEASURES TO BE INCLUDED IN RATES)

**ORDER APPROVING
CONTRACT**

EL07-026

On September 7, 2007, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel) filed a petition with the Commission for approval of a tariff establishing an Environmental Cost Recovery Rider (ECR Rider) pursuant to SDCL 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100. The company also seeks approval to implement the tariff by including the allocated jurisdictional costs in the ECR Rider for environmental expenditures that are planned to be made in 2007 and 2008.

On September 12, 2007, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of October 12, 2007, to interested individuals and entities. No petitions to intervene or comments were filed. On February 19, 2008, the Commission received a proposed Contract between Chesapeake Regulatory Consultants, Inc. and the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission Staff. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26 and 49-34A.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of February 26, 2008, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission voted unanimously to approve the proposed Contract. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Contract is approved.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 18th day of March 2008.

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, electronically.
By: <u><i>Amisa Gandisher</i></u>
Date: <u>3/18/08</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

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