

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	ORDER GRANTING MOTION
XCEL ENERGY FOR A PERMIT TO)	TO EXTEND FINAL
CONSTRUCT 6.5 MILES OF 115 KV)	APPROVAL DEADLINE
TRANSMISSION LINE AND ASSOCIATED)	
MODIFICATIONS TO THE BROOKINGS)	EL08-001
SUBSTATION)	

On January 31, 2008, Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation d/b/a Xcel Energy, submitted an application for a Construction Permit to build the following: 1. A new 6.5 mile 115 kV transmission line from the Brookings County Substation to the Minnesota/South Dakota border; and 2. Modifications to the Brookings County Substation to accommodate the new 115 kV line. The application comprises the western portion of the Buffalo Ridge Incremental Generation Outlet project which connects the Brookings County Substation to the Yankee Substation northwest of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

On February 6, 2008, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of April 1, 2008, to interested individuals and entities.

On February 26, 2008, at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Commission, pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12, unanimously voted to assess Xcel a filing fee not to exceed \$24,625, with an initial deposit of \$8,000. On March 31, 2008, the Commission received an Application for Party Status from the Brookings County Commission. At its regularly scheduled meeting of April 8, 2008, the Commission granted party status to the Brookings County Commission. On July 8, 2008, the Commission received a Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline to October 31, 2008, from Xcel. On July 24, 2008, the Commission received a letter in support of the extension from the Brookings County Commission.

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.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of July 29, 2008, the Commission considered the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline. Commission Staff recommended granting approval until October 31, 2008. The Commission unanimously voted to grant the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Motion to Extend Final Approval Deadline is granted until October 31, 2008.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 6th day of August, 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: Arlaine Kolbo

Date: 8/7/08

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

Gary Hanson
GARY HANSON, Chairman

Steve Kolbeck
STEVE KOLBECK, Commissioner

Dustin M Johnson
DUSTIN M JOHNSON, Commissioner