

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF) GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND NORTHERN) STATES POWER COMPANY D/B/A XCEL) ENERGY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A) 10.6 MILE, 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE) (CAPX2020) IN BROOKINGS COUNTY NEAR) WHITE, SOUTH DAKOTA))	NOTICE OF APPLICATION; ORDER FOR AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT HEARING; NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO APPLY FOR PARTY STATUS EL10-016
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On November 23, 2010, Great River Energy, a Minnesota cooperative corporation (Great River), and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation, d/b/a Xcel Energy (Xcel), (jointly, the Applicants or CapX2020), filed an application (Application) with the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) for the Brookings County – Hampton 345 kilovolt (kV) Project (Project) consisting of 345 kV transmission line facilities and substation connections between the Brookings County Substation and the Hampton 345 kV Substation near Hampton, MN, southeast of the Twin Cities. The Project is being proposed by a group of utilities, the CapX2020 Transmission Initiative utilities, who have joined together to identify and construct needed transmission facilities in the Upper Midwest. Great River and Xcel are part of CapX2020. The Application is for the South Dakota portion of the Project consisting of a 10.6-mile 345 kV transmission line between the Brookings County Substation near White, South Dakota, and the South Dakota/Minnesota border and associated modifications at the existing Brookings County Substation (Facility). The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16, **the Commission will hold a public hearing on the Application on Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. at the Swiftel Center, Daktronics Banquet Rm. A, 824 32nd Ave, Brookings, South Dakota (east of I-29 on 6th St. (Hwy 14) at Exit 132).** The purpose of this public input hearing will be to hear public comment regarding the CapX2020 Application and the Facility. At the hearing, Applicants will present a brief description of the Facility, following which interested persons may appear and present their views, comments and questions regarding the Application. A copy of the Application is on file with the Brookings County Auditor pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15(5) and the Commission's office in Pierre, and the Application and all other documents in the case, including detailed maps of the Facility, may be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under Commission Actions, Commission Dockets, Electric Dockets, 2010 Electric Dockets, EL10-016.

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, the parties to this proceeding are currently the Applicants and the Commission. Any person residing in the area of the Facility; each municipality, county, and governmental agency in the area where the Facility is proposed to be sited; any non-profit organization, formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty, to protect the environment, personal health or other biological values, to preserve historical sites, to promote consumer interests, to represent commercial and industrial groups, or to promote the orderly development of the area in which the Facility is to be sited; or any interested person, may be granted party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission. Applications for party status will be available at the public input hearing or may be obtained from the Commission's web site or by contacting the Commission. Applications for party status must be received by the Commission on or before January 24, 2011.

Following the public input hearing, the Commission may schedule one or more subsequent formal evidentiary hearings conforming to SDCL Chapter 1-26 to consider any issues raised by any

intervening party, Commission Staff or the Commission itself. At such formal hearing, all parties will have the opportunity to appear, present evidence and cross-examine the other parties' witnesses and exercise all other rights afforded by SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1 and 49-41B and ARSD 20:10:01 and 20:10:22, including rights of appeal to the courts. Absent a contested issue, the Commission will schedule the matter for decision at a regular or special meeting of the Commission.

For approval, the Applicants must show that the proposed transmission Facility will comply with all applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment nor to the social and economic condition of inhabitants or expected inhabitants in the siting area, will not substantially impair the health, safety or welfare of the inhabitants, and will not unduly interfere with the orderly development of the region with due consideration having been given to the views of governing bodies of affected local units of government. Based upon these factors, the Commission will decide whether the permit should be granted, denied or granted upon such terms, conditions or modifications of the construction, operation or maintenance as the Commission finds appropriate. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Commission will hold a public input hearing Thursday, January 6, 2011, at 6:30 p.m., at the Swiftel Center, Daktronics Banquet Rm. A, 824 32nd Ave, Brookings, South Dakota; and it is further

ORDERED, that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17 and ARSD 20:10:22:40, applications for party status must be filed on or before January 6, 2011, and that pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17.1, a party who wishes to receive personal service of all material filed in this matter shall make a specific request to the Commission for personal service, which may be included in the application for party status.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Public Utilities Commission at 1-800-332-1782 at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 30th day of November, 2010.

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: <u>[Signature]</u>
Date: <u>11/30/10</u>
(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature: Steve Kolbeck]

STEVE KOLBECK, Chairman

[Signature: Gary Hanson]

GARY HANSON, Commissioner

[Signature: Dustin M. Johnson]

DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner