

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

**IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY
DBA XCEL ENERGY REGARDING THE 2011
ENVIRONMENTAL COST RECOVERY RIDER
AND 2010 ECR TRACKER REPORT**

) **ORDER APPROVING JOINT
) MOTION FOR APPROVAL
) OF SETTLEMENT
) STIPULATION AND
) APPROVING TARIFFS**

) **EL10-012**

On September 3, 2010, the Public Utilities Commission (Commission) received a petition from Northern States Power Company dba Xcel Energy (Xcel) for approval of a revised Environmental Cost Recovery Rider Adjustment Factor for 2011 and approval of the tracker report for approved environmental expenditures and revenues received since the implementation of a first adjustment factor that became effective on February 1, 2009. The Company proposes a January 1, 2011, effective date. On September 9, 2010, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of September 24, 2010, to interested individuals and entities. SDCL 49-1A-8 authorizes the Commission to require a deposit of up to fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission's (SDPUC) regulatory assessment fee fund to defray Commission expenses incurred from the time of the filing incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 1-26, 49-1A, 49-34A, and ARSD 20:10:01:15:02 and 20:10:01:15:03. At its regularly scheduled meeting of November 9, 2010, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission found that pursuant to SDCL 49-1A-8, Xcel shall be assessed a filing fee as requested by Commission Staff up to the statutory limit of \$50,000.

On June 22, 2011, the Commission received a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, Settlement Stipulation, and Staff Memorandum Supporting Settlement Stipulation.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of June 28, 2011, the Commission considered this matter. The Commission has jurisdiction in this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapters 1-26, 49-1A, and 49-34A, particularly SDCL 49-34A-97 through 49-34A-100. Commission Staff recommended approval. The Commission found and concluded that the Settlement Stipulation and attached tariff sheet meet the standards for approval set forth in SDCL 49-34A-98 and voted unanimously to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation and approve the Settlement Stipulation, including the attached revised tariff sheet, Section No. 5, 2nd Revised Sheet No. 72, Cancelling 1st Revised Sheet No. 72. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Joint Motion for Approval of the Settlement Stipulation is granted and the Settlement Stipulation approved, including the aforementioned tariff sheet, effective July 1, 2011.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 19th day of July, 2011.

<p>CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE</p> <p>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.</p> <p>By: <u><i>[Signature]</i></u></p> <p>Date: <u>7-19-11</u></p> <p align="center">(OFFICIAL SEAL)</p>

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:

[Signature: Gary Hanson]
GARY HANSON, Chairman

[Signature: Chris Nelson]
CHRIS NELSON, Vice Chairman