

**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)**

**ORDER GRANTING
APPLICATION FOR PARTY
STATUS**

EL10-016

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 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 modification at the existing Brookings County Substation (Facility).

On November 25, 2010, the Commission electronically transmitted notice of the filing and the intervention deadline of January 24, 2011, to interested individuals and entities. On November 30, 2010, the Commission issued a Notice of Application; Order for and Notice of Public Input Hearing; Notice of Opportunity to Apply for Party Status.

At its regularly scheduled meeting of January 18, 2011, the Commission reviewed an application for party status received from the Brookings County Commission on January 10, 2011. The Commission finds that it has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-17, and further finds that the Brookings County Commission's application for party status shall be granted. It is therefore

ORDERED, that the Brookings County Commission shall, hereafter, be considered a party in this matter.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 28th day of January, 2011.

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: 

Date: 1/28/2011

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

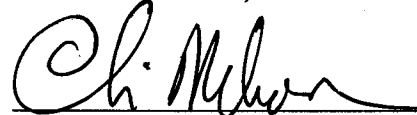
BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



STEVE KOLBECK, Chairman



GARY HANSON, Commissioner



CHRIS NELSON, Commissioner