

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA,

ss.

County of Brookings

Christopher J. Schumacher, being first duly sworn, on oath says that he is the publisher of the Elton Record, a weekly newspaper published in Elton, said County of Brookings, and has full personal knowledge of all the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has a bona-fide circulation of at least two hundred copies weekly, and has been published within said county for fifty-one successive weeks next prior to the publication of the notice herein mentioned, and was and is printed wholly or in part in an office maintained at said place of publication; that the

SD Public
Utilities
Commission

Legal 3132E, a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which the same was published, it attached to this sheet, and is made a part of this affidavit, was published in said newspaper at least once in each week for one successive weeks, on the day of each week on which said newspaper was regularly published to wit:

Dec 15, 2005; _____, 20____
_____, 20____; _____, 20____
_____, 20____; _____, 20____
_____, 20____; _____, 20____
_____, 20____; _____, 20____

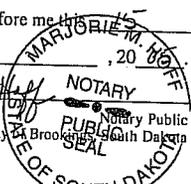
that the full amount of the fees for the publication of the annexed notice is \$ 31.08

C. Schumacher

Subscribed and sworn to before me this _____ day of December, 2005

Marjorie M. Jeff NOTARY PUBLIC

My Commission Expires August 18, 2009



RECEIVED

DEC 19 2005

SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

No 3132 T-1x Dec. 15
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SOUTH DAKOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
XCEL ENERGY TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT
BROOKINGS COUNTY, SOUTH DAKOTA
DOCKET # ELOS 028

WHEN: Wednesday, December 21, 2005 at 7:00 PM CST
WHERE: UCA - McKnight Community Center, 300 West Main Street, White, SD 57572

Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-15 and 49-41B-16 the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing at the above time and place on an application filed by Northern States Power Company - Minnesota Corporation (NSP) for a Construction Permit to build the following facilities: (i) two new 0.4-mile 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines connecting the Western Area Power Administration White Substation located southeast of White, South Dakota, and a new Xcel Energy Brookings County Substation; (ii) a new 3.45 KV/115 KV Brookings County Substation located approximately 0.7 miles east of the White Substation; (iii) a new 9.65 mile 115 KV transmission line from the Brookings County Substation to the Minnesota/South Dakota border; and (iv) improvements to the White Substation to accommodate the new 345 KV lines. The application comprises the western portion of the Buffalo Ridge White transmission project which connects the White Substation to the Buffalo Ridge Substation south of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

At the hearing, interested persons may appear and present their questions, views and comments regarding the application. The application on file in the Brookings County Auditor's office and in the Commission's office in Pierre, and the application and all other documents in the case may also be accessed on the Commission's web site at www.puc.sd.gov under "Commission Actions - Commission Dockets - 2005 - Electric Dockets - ELOS 028".

The parties to this proceeding are currently Xcel and the Commission. Pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-17, any person residing in the area of the project, each municipality, county and governmental agency in the project area, any non-profit organization formed in whole or in part to promote conservation or natural beauty to protect their 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 project area, or any interested person may be granted formal party status in this proceeding by making written application to the Commission as provided in ARSD 201-022-40 on or before January 31, 2006. Application forms for party status will be available at the public hearing on December 21, 2005.

For approval, Xcel must show that the proposed transmission line project will comply with applicable laws and rules, will not pose a threat of serious injury to the environment and to the social and economic condition of the habitat or expected inhabitants in the project 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 are appropriate.

Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, this hearing is being held in a physically accessible location. Please contact the Commission at least 48 hours prior to the hearing if you have special needs so arrangements can be made to accommodate you. The Commission's contact information is: (800) 832-1782; fax: (605) 773-3609; www.puc.sd.gov; 500 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, SD 57501.