

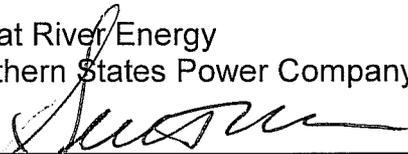
**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA**

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 ) (CAPX) IN BROOKINGS COUNTY NEAR ) WHITE , SOUTH DAKOTA )	JOINT MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT STIPULATION  EL10-016
---	---

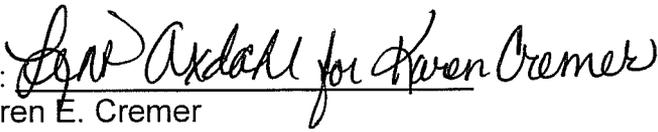
Great River Energy, Northern States Power Company d/b/a Xcel Energy, and the Staff of the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission, collectively referred to as Parties, hereby file the above referenced Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission (Commission). The Parties request that the Commission adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation as the settlement and resolution of all the issues in this proceeding. In support of this Motion, the Parties submit as follows:

1. This Motion is made pursuant to ARSD 20:10:01:19.
2. The Settlement Stipulation resolves all of the issues in Docket EL10-016.
3. The Settlement Stipulation represents the conclusion of the undersigned Parties that it is in the best interests of the Parties and the general public to reach a negotiated settlement of specific issues in this docket and that the terms of the Settlement Stipulation agreed upon are just, fair, and reasonable, and consistent with South Dakota law.

For the foregoing reasons, the undersigned Parties jointly request the Commission to grant the Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Stipulation, adopt the attached Settlement Stipulation without modification and approve the permit to construct.

Great River Energy  
Northern States Power Company  
BY:   
Brett Koenecke  
Counsel for the Applicants  
May, Adam, Gerdes and Thompson, LLP  
503 S Pierre St.  
Pierre SD 57501

DATED: 6/7/11

SD Public Utilities Commission  
BY:   
Karen E. Cremer  
Staff Attorney  
SD Public Utilities Commission  
500 E. Capitol Avenue  
Pierre, SD 57501

DATED: 6-7-11