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Ms. Patricia Van Gerpen
Executive Director
South Dakota Public Utilities Commission
500 E. Capitol Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501

**RE: EL13-020 - In the Matter of the Application of Xcel Energy and Otter Tail Power Company for a Permit to Construct The Big Stone South to Brookings County 345 kV Transmission Line
Our File: 6500**

Dear Ms. Van Gerpen:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota Corporation ("Xcel Energy") and Otter Tail Power Company ("Otter Tail Power"), jointly the "Applicants", submit the attached updated route map and provide a current status on easement acquisition. During the pendency of this docket, applicants have identified several route changes which would be desirable and those new maps are filed here with.

Route Updates

A complete set of route maps is attached. The route that was presented in the May, 2013 permit application is shown on the maps as an orange line. The updated alignment and proposed structure locations are shown on the blue line. The following table summarizes proposed changes in the alignment.

Structures	Description	Reason for change	Map Sheet Number
139-140	Moves Structure 140 approximately 100 feet to the west.	Optimize design	1
288-291	Moves structures 289, 290 and 291 approximately 100 feet east	Avoid proximity to wood debris burning activity at the Astoria/Toronto landfill parcel	34 and 35

327-338	Moves structures to follow property boundaries instead of crossing through parcels	Landowner request	43-45
353-356	Moves structures to edge of tilled fields	Landowner request	48-49

Easement Acquisition Status

Applicants continue to work with landowners to obtain easement option agreements. To date, Applicants have option agreements in place for 93% (156 of 168) of all parcels.

Very truly yours,

MAY, ADAM, GERDES & THOMPSON LLP



BRETT KOENECKE

BK/sjs

Enclosure

cc: Service List