

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

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF)	
GREAT RIVER ENERGY AND NORTHERN)	ORDER ASSESSING FILING
STATES POWER COMPANY D/B/A XCEL)	FEE
ENERGY FOR A PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A)	
10.6 MILE, 345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE)	EL10-016
(CAPX2020) IN BROOKINGS COUNTY NEAR)	
WHITE, SOUTH DAKOTA)	

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.

SDCL 49-41B-12 authorized the Commission to assess a maximum fee not to exceed one-quarter of one percent of the first one hundred million dollars of estimated construction costs of the facility, plus one-twentieth of one percent of the estimated construction costs in excess of one hundred million dollars. The fee shall be deposited in the Commission's regulatory assessment fund fee to defray Commission expenses incident to analyzing and ruling upon this type of filing.

The Commission has jurisdiction over this matter pursuant to SDCL Chapter 49-41B, specifically 49-41B-1, 49-41B-2, 49-41B-2.1, 49-41B4, 49-41B11, 49-41B-12, 49-41B-13, 49-41B-14, 49-41B-15, 49-41B-16, 49-41B-17, 49-41B-17.1, 49-41B-19, 49-41B-21, 49-41B-22, 49-41B-24, 49-41B-26, 49-41B-33, 49-41B-35, 49-41B-36, 49-41B-38 and ARSD Chapter 20:10:22.

At its regularly scheduled meeting on December 7, 2010, the Commission pursuant to SDCL 49-41B-12, unanimously voted to assess Applicants a filing fee not to exceed \$64,000, with an initial deposit of \$8,000, the minimum fee allowed by law as requested by the Executive Director. It is therefore

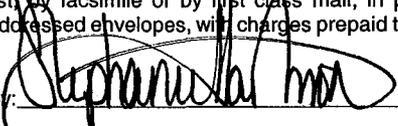
ORDERED, that Applicants shall be assessed a filing fee not to exceed \$64,000; and it is further

ORDERED, that Applicants shall make an initial deposit in the Commission's regulatory assessment fee fund in the amount of the minimum filing fee of \$8,000 and shall from time to time make such additional deposits up to the total amount of the assessment as requested by the Executive Director.

Dated at Pierre, South Dakota, this 16th day of December, 2010.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

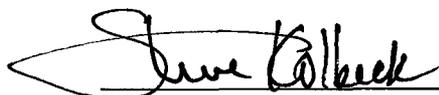
The undersigned hereby certifies that this document has been served today upon all parties of record in this docket, as listed on the docket service list, by facsimile or by first class mail, in properly addressed envelopes, with charges prepaid thereon.

By: 

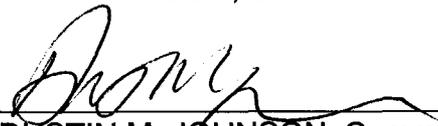
Date: 12/16/10

(OFFICIAL SEAL)

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


STEVE KOLBECK, Chairman


GARY HANSON, Commissioner


DUSTIN M. JOHNSON, Commissioner