

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Fossil Energy
[Docket No. PP-45-1]

AMENDMENT TO
PRESIDENTIAL PERMIT PP-45
ISSUED TO

NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY

BACKGROUND

On March 10, 1993, Northern States Power Company (NSP) applied to the Department of Energy (DOE) to amend the Presidential permit issued in September 1969.¹ The facilities previously authorized by this permit (DOE Docket PP-45) consist of one three-phase, 60 cycle, 230,000 volt (230-kV) overhead transmission line which crosses the U.S.-Canadian international border from the State of North Dakota to the Province of Manitoba at a point approximately two miles west of the Red River. This facility is known as the Drayton-Letellier transmission line.

In its application, NSP requested authority to expand the existing Prairie Substation located near Grand Forks, North Dakota, (located at NW 1/4 of Section 7, T151N,R50W in Grand Forks County, North Dakota) by installing ten, 40 MVAR (million volt-amperes reactive), 115-kV shunt capacitor banks and replacing two existing 230-kV transformers. NSP claims that the shunt capacitors are required to maintain adequate voltage in the

¹ The original Presidential permit was issued by the Federal Power Commission in Docket E-7481. In 1977 the authority to grant Presidential permits was delegated to the Secretary of Energy by Executive Order 12038.

Grand Forks, North Dakota, area during system transients and for loss of any 230-kV transmission lines serving the area.

NSP filed this request for amendment of the Presidential permit in connection with a related application to amend the electricity export authorization in Docket EA-63. NSP claims that the enhancement of the physical facilities authorized by Presidential Permit PP-45 are required in order to reliably achieve the increased level of exports requested in the companion application.

Notice of the application was placed in the Federal Register on June 1, 1993, (58 FR 31193) stating that any person desiring to be heard or to make any protest with reference to the application should file with the DOE a petition to intervene or protest in accordance with the Rules of Practice and Procedure (18 CFR 385.211, 385.214) on or before July 1, 1993. No comments, protests, or petitions to intervene were received.

The DOE has assessed the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed amendment and has determined that this action is among those classes of actions not normally requiring preparation of an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement and, therefore, is eligible for

categorical exclusion under Appendix B to Subpart D, paragraph B4.11 of the DOE regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. A memorandum dated September 22, 1993, documenting the use of this categorical exclusion has been placed in Docket PP-45-1.

After a review of the information in the Docket, the DOE determined that the proposed project would not adversely impact the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system. A staff analysis dated December 10, 1993, in support of this determination has been placed in Docket PP-45-1.

The Secretary of State by letter dated February 18, 1994, and the Secretary of Defense by letter dated January 12, 1994, favorably recommended that the request for amendment be granted as hereinafter provided.

FINDINGS

After a review of the Docket, the Director, Office of Coal & Electricity, Office of Fuels Programs finds that:

1. The period for public comment was sufficient and appropriate;
2. The proposed action would have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment within the meaning of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

3. The proposed action would not adversely impact the reliability of the U.S. electric power supply system; and,
4. The Secretaries of State and Defense favorably recommend granting the proposed amendment.

ORDER

Pursuant to Executive Order 10485, as amended, the Presidential permit contained in DOE Docket PP-45 and issued by the Federal Power Commission on September 16, 1969, is hereby amended as follows:

A. Article 2 is amended to read:

The facilities covered by and subject to this permit shall include one three-phase, 60 cycle, 230,000-volt electric transmission line crossing the U.S.-Canadian international border from the State of North Dakota to the Province of Manitoba at a point approximately two miles west of the Red River.

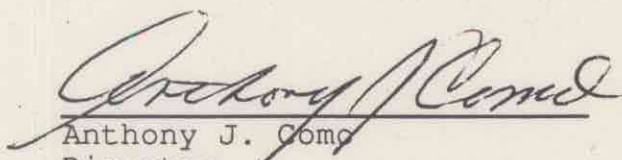
The authorization granted by this permit also shall include the installation of ten, 40-MVAR, 115-kV shunt capacitor banks and the replacement of two existing 230-kV transformers at the existing Prairie Substation near Grand Forks, North Dakota, (located at the NW 1/4 of Section 7, T151N, R50W in Grand Forks County, North Dakota).

B. Article 12 is hereby added to Presidential Permit PP-45 to read as follows:

Article 12:

The facilities described in Article 2 shall be designed and operated in accordance with the applicable criteria established by the Mid-Continent Area Power Pool and consistent with that of the North American Electric Reliability Council. Furthermore, the facilities authorized herein shall be operated in such a manner that the maximum rate of transmission in the import mode shall not exceed 1900 MW in the aggregate for the facilities authorized by this permit, Presidential Permit PP-61, and Presidential Permit PP-63. This limit shall be raised to 2000 MW during the summer off-peak load period only when exports from North Dakota to Manitoba do not exceed 600 MW.

Issued in Washington, D.C., February 24, 1994.


Anthony J. Coma
Director
Office of Coal & Electricity
Office of Fuels Programs
Office of Fossil Energy