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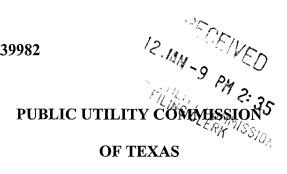
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SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY APPLICATION TO AMEND A CERTIFICATE OF CONVENIENCE AND NECESSITY FOR A PROPOSED 230 KV TRANSMISSION LINE WITHIN SWISHER AND CASTRO COUNTIES, TEXAS



SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY'S AFFIDAVIT ATTESTING TO THE PROVISION OF THE APPLICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND ROUTING STUDY TO THE TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

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AFFIDAVIT OF SUSAN L. BRYMER

STATE OF TEXAS § SCOUNTY OF TRAVIS §

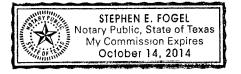
BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, on this day personally appeared Susan L. Brymer, who being by me first duly sworn, on oath, deposed and said the following:

- 1. My name is Susan L. Brymer. I am employed by Xcel Energy Services ("Xcel Energy") as Regulatory Case Specialist. I am authorized to make this affidavit and I have personal knowledge of the facts stated herein.
- 2. On December 20, 2011, Southwestern Public Service Company ("SPS") filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas an application for a certificate of convenience and necessity ("CCN") for the proposed project. The application has been assigned Docket No. 39982.
- 3. On December 20, 2011, SPS sent notice to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department of this CCN filing. This consisted of a letter giving an overview of the project along with a copy of SPS's application which included the environmental assessment and routing study. A copy of the letter is attached to this filing for the above-mentioned date as Exhibit A.

SUSAN L. BRYMF

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, a Notary Public, in and for the State of Texas, this 9th day of January 2012.

Notary Public in and for the State of Texas



My Commission Expires: 14 October 2014

Exhibit A Page 1 of 2



Siting and Land Rights

P.O. Box 1261 Amarillo, TX 79105-1261 Telephone: 806-378-2132 Facsimile: 806-378-2724

December 20, 2011

Kathy Boydston Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program Wildlife Division Texas Parks and Wildlife Department 4200 Smith School Road Austin, Texas 78744

Dear Ms. Boydston:

Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS) has filed an application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) to amend its Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) in order to construct a new 230 kV transmission line in Swisher and Castro Counties, Texas (Southwestern Public Service Company's Application to Amend a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity (CCN) for a Proposed 230 kV Transmission Line within Swisher and Castro Counties, Texas) – Docket No. 39982. SPS is requesting the approval of the Commission for this project. Pursuant to P.U.C. SUBST. R. 25.101(b)(3)(C), an uncontested transmission line application may be approved administratively within 80 days from the date the application is filed. This transmission line is needed for reliability purposes.

The proposed Newhart Substation to Swisher County Substation project will consist of a new substation (Newhart Substation), located in Castro County, and a new 230 kV transmission line that will extend from the Newhart Substation to the existing Swisher County Substation, located in Swisher County. The proposed 230/115 kV – 252 MVA Newhart Substation will be served by tapping the existing SPS 230 kV Circuit K-41, which is a north/south 230 kV line from the Potter County Substation near Amarillo, Texas to Plant X near Earth, Texas. The Newhart Substation will consist of a 230 kV four-terminal ring bus configuration expandable to a breaker and a half and a 115 kV four-terminal ring bus configuration expandable to a breaker and a half. The existing 230/115 kV Swisher County Substation consists of a two-breaker 230 kV straight bus configuration and will be converted to a four-terminal breaker and a half bus configuration with accommodations for future terminals.

Depending on the route chosen the total cost of the project, including the transmission line and Swisher County Substation costs, is estimated to be between approximately \$18.6 million and \$20.9 million.

Enclosed for your review is a copy of the application, which includes the Environmental Assessment of the proposed project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please call James Bagley at 806-378-2868.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Sparks

Robert B. Sparks, Supervisor Siting and Land Rights

Enclosure

Certificate of Service

I certify that on the 9th day of January 2012, this instrument was filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas and a true and correct copy of it was served on the parties by hand delivery, regular First Class mail, Federal Express, certified mail, or facsimile transmission.

Musan Brymer