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**VIA ELECTRONIC FILING AND
FEDERAL EXPRESS**

May 8, 2007

Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco, Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capital Building, Dept. 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

Re: *Application of Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc. for Authority to Increase Rates for Natural Gas Service In North Dakota*
Case No. PU-06-525
REQUEST FOR A CHANGE IN PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE

Dear Ms. Jeffcoat-Sacco:

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the discussions held this morning between Advocacy Staff and Northern States Power Company ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company"), a Minnesota corporation and wholly owned subsidiary of Xcel Energy Inc. During those discussions, it was agreed that the procedural schedule for the above-entitled docket should be changed to allow the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the "Commission") the opportunity to first consider the proposed Settlement Agreement with the potential of avoiding the additional costs and burdens associated with a contested proceeding. The Company's request is also based on the need for adequate time to respond to recently filed Staff testimony, should such a response become necessary.

In order to accommodate those goals, it is also necessary to accommodate the Commission's schedule, which does not permit the evidentiary hearing in this matter to occur before mid July. That, in turn, requires an extension of the statutory six-month suspension period.

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Consequently, if the Commission does not accept the Settlement Agreement, Xcel Energy expressly waives the six-month limitation on suspending rates contained in NDCC § 49-05-06, and the Company agrees to keep interim rates in effect until such time as they are replaced with final rates approved by the Commission.

If the Commission does not accept the Settlement Agreement, the Company requests that the procedural schedule be amended to require the Company to file Rebuttal Testimony on June 29, 2007, and that the evidentiary hearing occur either on: July 16 and 17; July 19 and 20, or July 23 and 24, or as otherwise convenient for the Commission.

Please contact me with any questions.

Very truly yours,



Megan J Hertzler
Assistant General Counsel

cc: David Sederquist
Michael Bradley