



Matthew P. Loftus
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September 21, 2010

Darrell Nitschke
Executive Secretary
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept. 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 58505-0480

**Re: Northern State Power Company
Gas Safety, Fargo, N.D. Inspection
Case No. GS-08-765**

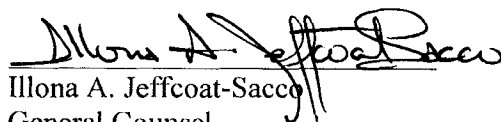
Dear Mr. Nitschke:

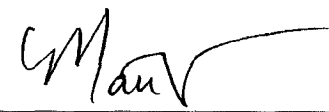
The Commission has tentatively scheduled a hearing for October 12, 2010 in the referenced case. Commission Advocacy Staff and Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (Xcel Energy), respectfully request that the Commission remove the hearing from its calendar to allow us to continue to negotiate a settlement agreement in this matter.

On August 12, 2010, Advocacy Staff issued an amended Notice of Probable Violation in this case. Since that time, Advocacy Staff and Xcel Energy have been working towards settling this matter. We do not believe settlement discussions will be completed by October 12. Xcel Energy did not request a hearing, so none is required. If the Commission chooses to hold a hearing, we suggest a date later in the year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,


Illona A. Jeffcoat-Sacco
General Counsel
Counsel to the Commission Advocacy Staff


Matthew Loftus
Assistant General Counsel
Xcel Energy Services Inc.
as agent for
Northern States Power Company,
a Minnesota corporation