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December 3, 2008

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
North Dakota Public Service Commission
State Capitol Building, Dept 408
600 East Boulevard
Bismarck, ND 59505-0480

- VIA E-MAIL & U.S. MAIL -

**Re: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A
MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AN ADVANCED DETERMINATION
OF PRUDENCE FOR THE 201 MW NOBLES WIND PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company"), is pleased to offer this Application for an Advanced Determination of Prudence for our proposed 201 megawatt ("MW") wind project to be located on the Buffalo Ridge in Southwestern Minnesota and called the Nobles Wind Project. We anticipate engineering, procurement and some construction of the Nobles Wind Project to begin in 2009 with commercial operation targeted for December 2010.

We have partnered with enXco Development Corp. ("enXco") to site, develop and construct the facility. enXco will transfer ownership of the project to the Company in a progressive manner. As developer, enXco will obtain the necessary permits and approvals to site and construct the project.

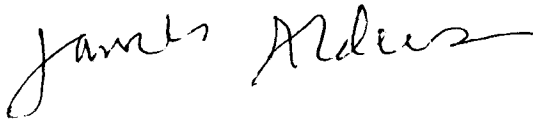
The project will consist of 134 General Electric 1.5 MW wind turbines and structures, a 34.5 kV electrical gathering system and collector substation.

We believe the Nobles Wind Project is necessary to meet our states' renewable energy policies and to serve the energy needs of our customers as part of an integrated and diversified portfolio of resources. As a result, we believe the project meets the standard for the Commission to make an advance determination of prudence and reasonableness. In the enclosed application, we provide analyses that confirm the project is a cost effective undertaking that will help meet renewable policies and provide a hedge against fuel price increases in the future.

Darrell Nitschke, Executive Director
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We look forward to working with the Commission in the review of this filing and respectfully request that the Commission make a determination that the Nobles Wind Project meets the Advance Determination of Prudence requirement of NDCC Section 49-05-16.

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Alders". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

JAMES R. ALDERS
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION

Enclosures