



RECEIVED

DEC 03 2008

414 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55401-1993

PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

December 3, 2008

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

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

**Re: APPLICATION OF NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A
MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION IN
THE MATTER OF THE COMPANY'S APPLICATION FOR AN ADVANCED
DETERMINATION OF PRUDENCE FOR THE 201 MW NOBLES WIND
PROJECT**

Dear Mr. Nitschke:

Enclosed in the above referenced matter is an original and seven (7) copies of Northern States Power Company's, a Minnesota corporation ("Xcel Energy" or the "Company"), Application for Trade Secret Protection in the Matter of the Company's 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 called the Nobles Wind Project.

The filing contains cost information, contract terms and internal modeling results as discussed in our attached application. We believe that disclosure of this information will provide economic value to potential vendors, contractors and suppliers and as a result could result in higher costs for our customers if this information is disclosed.

As a result, we believe it is important that our request for trade secret protection be granted in order that we can minimize costs to our customers. We look forward to working with the Commission to answer any questions they may have in granting this determination. Thank you in advance for your review of this filing.

Sincerely,

James R. Alders
Director, Regulatory Administration

Enclosures
cc: Service List

2 **PU-08-907** Filed: 12/3/2008 Pages: 6
**Application for Trade Secret Protection - 201 Mw
Nobles Wind Project**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF
NORTHERN STATES POWER COMPANY, A
MINNESOTA CORPORATION, FOR AN
ADVANCE DETERMINATION OF
PRUDENCE FOR THE 201 MW NOBLES
WIND PROJECT

CASE NO. PU-_____

APPLICATION FOR TRADE SECRET PROTECTION

Northern States Power Company, a Minnesota corporation (“Xcel Energy” or the “Company”) respectfully moves the North Dakota Public Service Commission (the “Commission”) for entry of a trade secret protective order pursuant to § 69-02-09-01 of the North Dakota Administrative Code. The purpose of the requested protective order is to protect against public disclosure of trade secret information filed in the above-referenced application as defined by N.D.C.C. § 47-25.1-01(4).

1. A general description of the nature of the information sought to be protected.

Cost information, contract terms and internal modeling results regarding the Nobles Project as marked in our Application for Advance Determination of Prudence in the above referenced docket.

2. Explanation of why the information derives independent economic value, actual or potential, from not being generally known to other persons.

The information could have economic value to potential vendors, contractors and suppliers who may desire to bid projects to the Company in the future. Further, our competitors may use such information against our interests in the future.

3. An explanation why the information is not readily ascertainable by proper means by other persons.

Xcel Energy has maintained the confidentiality of this information. The information is not disclosed to the public or to persons other than employees or authorized agents who need to know the information to fulfill their responsibilities in connection with the Nobles Project or to third persons pursuant to agreement to maintain the confidentiality of the information.

The Company has requested that this information be treated as trade secret in all of its regulatory filings and other sharing of this information with governmental entities.

4. A general description of the persons or entities that would obtain economic value from disclosure or use of the information.

Wind developers, entities from which we purchase power, and other utilities would obtain economic value from disclosure of this information.

5. A specific description of known competitors and competitor's goods and services that is pertinent to the tariff or rate filing.

See response to No. 4.

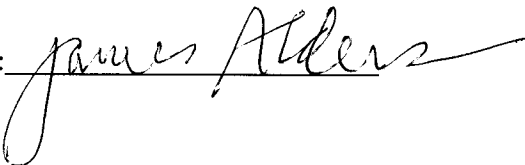
6. A description of the efforts used to maintain the secrecy of the information.

See response to No. 3.

In accordance with Section 69-02-09-02 of the North Dakota Administrative Code, one copy of the trade secret material is provided in the enclosed sealed envelope which is labeled: **TRADE SECRET – PRIVATE.**

Respectfully submitted this 3rd day of December, 2008

Northern States Power Company,
a Minnesota corporation

By: 

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE


I, Carole A. Wallace, hereby certify that I have this day served copies or summaries of the foregoing document on the attached list of persons by delivery by hand or by causing it to be placed in the U.S. Mail at Minneapolis, Minnesota.

CASE NO. PU _____
MERRICOURT & NOBLES WIND PROJECTS

Distributed to:

- In Re: Xcel Energy's Initial Distribution List as of 12-3-2008 for the Merricourt and Nobles Wind Project Applications

Dated this 3rd day of December, 2008



Carole A. Wallace

Xcel Energy CON for Merricourt Wind Project
Application

PC _____

Initial Distribution List: 12-3-2008

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

Shane Goettle
Director
Dept. of Commerce
PO Box 2057
Bismarck, ND 58202-2057

Douglas A. Bahr
Office of Attorney General
Civil Litigation Dept.
500 North 9th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-4509

Ron Rauschenberger
Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
600 East Blvd Ave
Bismarck, ND 58505

Sandi Tabor, Director
Transmission Authority
1016 E Owens Ave
PO Box 2277 Suite 200
Bismarck, ND 58502

David Sederquist
Xcel Energy Inc.
2302 Great Northern Drive
Fargo, ND 58102

Marcy Dickerson, Director
Property and Utility Taxes
Office of State Tax Commissioner
600 East Boulevard Avenue, Dept. 127
Bismarck, ND 58505-0599

Karen Collins
Montana-Dakota Utilities Company
400 North 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58502-1457

Don Ball
Montana-Dakota Utilities Company
400 North 4th Street
Bismarck, ND 58502-1457

Harlan Fugelsten
ND Assn. Rural Electric Cooperatives
P.O. Box 727
Mandan, ND 58554-0727

Janet Gonzales
Minnesota PUC
121 East 7th Place, Suite 350
St. Paul, MN 55101-1457

Christopher B Clark
Asst General Counsel
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall - 5th Fl
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

SaGonna Thompson
Records Analyst
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall - 7th Flr
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

Brian Zelenak
Manager, Regulatory Administration
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall - Fl 7
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993

Sara J. Cardwell
Manager, Regulatory Administration
Xcel Energy
414 Nicollet Mall - Fl 7
Minneapolis, MN 55401-1993